



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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 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.

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

Mr. McCallum.

Mr. McCallum's Reply

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM; Mr. Speaker, honourable Members, this session represents my first opportunity to speak to Members as the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I know there have been a great number of people who have offered condolences to me, perhaps even questioned my sanity in assuming this portfolio. There have been many times when various departments have been a political football, and this department has often been referred to as a "whipping boy" of the government, and there are of course a number of Members here who have assisted and sometimes even led that kind of flogging. I have accepted this particular portfolio knowing full well that the current deep recession across the country will do nothing to lessen the force behind the blows.

I am very much concerned with the problems we face in developing the territorial economy, yet I am excited about the prospects. Mr. Speaker, within this reply, however short it may be, I propose to not only deal with issues for which I am responsible to the Members of this House, but to deal with certain particular issues, obviously, that face and are of a concern within, my own constituency. If I may be allowed -- as one of the old men who are teetering on the brink of a heart attack -- and am allowed the privilege of being old without going senile, I may ramble a little bit. I should want to indicate to Members that there are not only concerns that face constituents of my constituency, but face constituents across the Territories -- not the least of which would be any kind of economic development that has some kind of effect, interprovincial, provincial-territorial.

Proposed Slave River Dam

I obviously refer to the proposed hydro development along the Slave River, which is of the utmost concern, not only to people in my constituency, but people in other constituencies. My good friend, the Member for Great Slave East, Mr. Sayine from Resolution, obviously has a concern. The concerns will be felt not only between both our communities, but obviously within the community of Pine Point that Mr. McLaughlin represents, and Hay River which Mr. Stewart represents, not to say that there will not be effects further downstream. This is a particular project, as I am sure Members will know because I have talked about it on numerous occasions, that offers some kind of hope that we in the Territories will be involved, and can be directly involved with a megaproject, because it directly affects people along the Slave River, along Great Slave Lake, and further down the Mackenzie.

There has been a great deal said about this particular project. With the recent election results in Alberta, I am sure that the Alberta government will now proceed with this. Alberta does not want to be part of a western Canada power grid and buy hydro power from other prairie provinces when it has the capability within its own provincial boundaries to develop approximately 2000-plus megawatts of power. We have the opportunity in the Northwest Territories to get in on the ground floor, and to ensure that we get something for the people of the Territories. I am not just talking about people in the Slave River area, I am talking about people not just in the western part but across the Territories, because if there is an opportunity to get cheaper power in our area then obviously there would be an opportunity to get cheaper power in other parts of the Territories as well.

There has been a great deal said by various forms of the media about the pros and cons of this development, and it seems that what has been coming to the fore, more and more, is the damage to the environment. I am sure that my friend Mr. Sayine will encourage me, and will ratify what I say in regard to the river itself. The river, in approximately 20 years that I have been in that area, has deteriorated. We have an opportunity to do something about it with this kind of development. There is a great deal being said about the animals, the birds -- specifically the whooping cranes, an endangered species, and the white pelicans, which, to the environmentalists, is now a near-endangered species. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that the whooping cranes nest, not along the way for that particular development, that is not along the Slave River, they are outside of it, approximately 60 to 70 miles, in the Sass River. The white pelican, there is no question that it has its nesting and feeding grounds on the series of rapids that go between Fort Fitzgerald and Fort Smith, but the concerns that the environmentalists, the Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada throw at people and put into the media, are concerns that are not legitimate concerns. They are concerns put forward by personnel within these federal departments for their own protection; I mean protection of Parks Canada and the Canada Wildlife Service, not for the protection of that particular species of birds. I do not propose to go very long on the development, save to say that I think it is an opportunity for the Government of the Northwest Territories, and therefore the people of the Northwest Territories, to get in on a particular development that will have very positive benefits not only in the Canadian interest, but benefits that will go along with the kinds of policies that our government, through my colleague Mr. Nerysoo, have been developing in resource development, benefits for people of the Territories.

Additional Constituency Concerns

This is not the only concern of people in my constituency, Mr. Speaker. They have a concern with the home-ownership plan, and if there is one area where this particular concept is taking hold, it is in that particular area. People have built homes owned under the home-ownership plan, homes that are constructed with locally harvested materials, and are constructed and put up by the individuals themselves. They do not consider it a make-work project. They are concerned with getting a better dwelling.

Obviously, education and the recommendations of the special committee on education are a concern as well. There is no need to spend any great deal of time on education. We have spent considerable time, and the special committee, whom I laud in their efforts to do something to bring education to the fore and do it in a positive way -- and I sincerely mean that -- those are concerns that people in my constituency have. They are concerned with the specific recommendations, and undoubtedly they will be concerned with making further recommendations to the Minister and to the government.

The future direction of the Government of the Northwest Territories obviously is a concern, and it is a very generalized area. Mr. Speaker, my constituents are concerned that this government take on more responsibility, to stand up to the federal government, not to provoke or promote confrontation, but not to walk away from that kind of confrontation that will always come about.

Contributions From The Seventh And Eighth Assemblies

If I may, Mr. Speaker, be allowed one of the things that are attributed to a near senior citizen, maybe I could make a few personal remarks about this particular House, in relationship to the previous one that I served in, and quite possibly to the Seventh Assembly and during the present debate that we have on the representation that we have across the Territories. I think Members should recognize here, today, that had it not been for the Seventh Assembly, which did away with and pressed for the extinction of appointed Members to this House, we would not be here today.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: If it had not been for the Eighth Assembly, which recognized that 15 Members did not truly represent the Northwest Territories -- that we must have more -- there are seven people here today in this House who would not be representing their constituencies of the Northwest Territories.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I think that is very important to understand and remember, and when we discuss again today that particular motion -- as I said yesterday, I think it is something every House should do, to reassess itself and not get involved with particular constituencies, but to reassess itself and to honestly be able to answer the question: "Is this House truly representative?"

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: That has to be that way. I think that there has been a great number of similarities over the last three years with the Ninth Assembly and the Eighth Assembly, and as possibly ridiculous or ludicrous as that may sound, each Member of the Eighth Assembly had the kind of passion, the kind of concern, that each and every other Member in this particular House has.

MR. CURLEY: Wow!

Development Of The Ninth Assembly

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: An awful lot of people throughout the Territories in the last couple of years maybe think that Mr. Curley and I are enemies. Let me assure those people and let me assure Mr. Curley, I have the utmost respect for him. I do not always agree with him...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: ...but I have the utmost respect for him, as I do each and every Member of this particular House, as a representative of the constituencies that they do, indeed, represent, and represent very well. I think that is what has to be uppermost in our minds when we come here. I think that as others before us have proven, so also we have shown in these last three years, that we are not only politicians, and as such take a lot of knocks, and some of us even say it ourselves, that we are in it for our own good. If we are, when is my turn? I have not got much good out of it. But we have shown ourselves to be statesmen as well, because we have been able to work together on a great number of very important issues that this House has been faced with over the last three years, and I need not enumerate those. You all know. We have a concern for people in the Territories, and I well remember sitting in Coffin Corner, the first time that we met, in the fall of 1979, with my friend, the MLA from Hay River -- in that particular corner -- and having motions made and votes taken that were 17 to two, as I recall. I well remember Members in this House saying, "We are not a government", but we have been, and I think that with the end of the life of this particular House, that there should not be any of us not be able to look ourselves in the mirror and say, "I put the time; I put the effort -- whether it was in the right direction or not, at least we moved forward on it." I think each and every one of us should take some kind of pride in the relationships that had been established over these particular years, and they go by too quickly. Let me tell you, the older you get, the faster they go by, so those of you who are just turning 35, the next 15 are going to go by a hell of a lot faster.

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSEN: You know it.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: You had better believe it.

MRS. SORENSEN: I hope it gets better.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: They do. I told you that yesterday.

MRS. SORENSEN: You have not demonstrated it yet.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I was prepared to do that as well.

---Laughter

The relationships that have been established amongst people, in this House and committee, in holding sessions in places such as Baker Lake, Frobisher Bay, Hay River, Inuvik -- these are the kinds of relationships where we do things that are important. Perhaps the kinds of relationships that have been developed were not supposed to be developed in the first place. I well remember 1979. I do not think I was supposed to be where I am now and in retrospect it might have been better, because then nobody would be under any illusion that I was not the Member from Fort Smith and I had covetous eyes in other places -- certainly it would have been a lot easier, but it was a particular issue to get there and in retrospect, when the day of judgment comes along, it may be that it was a poor decision of people to place me where I am -- and others. But I think that we have shown leadership and though I very much appreciate the remarks of my Member colleague from the Western Arctic yesterday, I do not believe that we, as politicians, are in it for our own good - our own benefit. I think that we are in...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Speak for yourself.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: ...we are in things to make sure that people of the Territories are better represented and that people of the Territories get the kind of recognition and get the rights that other citizens of Canada have and take for granted. Our past, present and future work will indicate that we, in fact, have done some positive things. It may not be with all the haste and speed that should have been, but go back to 1975 and look at the seven short years, and we have come a considerable way. We have done many things. We have come a long way.

Responsibility For Housing

I have responsibilities now for Housing and I believe what is going on in Housing is in the right direction for people. It may not be fast enough, but it is a lot different than what we have been used to in the past. All I have to do is go around to the communities and see the pride that people have in their particular homes, throughout the Territories -- not just in the East and the West, but in the North -- and see the pride that people have with their own homes. I would hope that within the last year I would be able to take on more responsibility on behalf of the people of the Territories with the Department of Public Works. I know that my colleague on the Executive Committee, the Deputy Commissioner, will be providing me with the same kind of assistance and guidance that he did when I was made responsible for Housing by this particular body, as well.

Economic Development Portfolio

I started off, Mr. Speaker, talking about the Economic Development portfolio, that I said has been a centre of controversy for some time. I said that there is a great deal of concern about that department, and yet, we have a way to go in it. I am excited about those kinds of prospects, even given the present economic status across the country. In a lot of parts of the country there are people facing similar situations as they faced in what was commonly known as the "Dirty 30s", and those of you who do not recall the 1930s...

MRS. SORENSEN: I sure do not.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I am going to tell you about them, dear. Just sit tight...

MRS. SORENSEN: Go ahead, dad.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: ...especially coming from very depressed areas, that 30 years later are more depressed than ever. We did not even realize there was a depression going on. We did not have anything to start with, we never expected to get anything. We in the Territories today do not face the same kind of concerns that people in other parts of Canada do. We are better off here in the Territories than a great number of places in the South, granted that one out of every eight or nine Canadians are looking for work. The unemployment rate is close to 15 per cent. That is getting close to the 1930s. Corporate profits are almost non-existent. Bankruptcies are up to close to 50 per cent over a year ago. There are many major companies facing severe financial constraint and the immediate prospect for small business is not very good. I am talking nationally. In the Territories, because of the way things are going, small businesses are not facing that same kind of a situation. The government is a spender and the government, because of its particular policies, has been able to keep and sustain these small businesses.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Look across our border, to the Yukon, and see economic collapse. There is no need for me to go into any great detail about the projected population decrease, the mine closures, unemployment, the rise in unemployment insurance claims, the areas of forestry production, mineral production. They are real and we are not feeling those yet. So, Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to some generalized degree about the economic situation in Canada and very superficially alluded to the situation in our neighbour territory. I do this to give some kind of an indication of what the economy is within the Territories, and the challenges that are faced by not only this government but the federal government, that must be shared and accepted by the Assembly and the people of the Northwest Territories.

Present Economy Of The Northwest Territories

Maybe I could take a few moments, Mr. Speaker, to comment on various sectors of our territorial economy. The total retail trade in the Northwest Territories was up almost 16 per cent from June, 1981 to June, 1982.

---Applause

The number of corporations registered in the Northwest Territories was up nine per cent. Oil and gas exploration over the past year has remained almost constant, with a drop in off-shore exploration offset by increases in activity on the mainland. But have you heard the news today? Lumber production is up very marginally -- little change in the total value -- because the lumber market has gone down.

Tourism has shown dramatic gains. We estimate that tourism expenditures for 1982 over 1980, a two year period, will be up approximately 70 to 75 per cent. Our fishing has dropped, but as I had indicated in a reply, I think that we are going to be able to take measures to try to bolster that particular production. Our mining industry is struggling. The total mining industry in the Territories is down, seven to 10 per cent, over the last year, despite the fact that three new mines have come into production. The 1981 production was 45 per cent above the 1980 level, and you have to temper that fact with what I have just previously indicated. Zinc production is down this year; copper and lead, silver by a startling close to 40 per cent. It is of course partially attributable to the Echo Bay closure, but again in some cases due to ore exhaustion.

Gold is the one bright spot, production to date about 20 per cent over last years level, and if the precious mineral prices hold their own or increase, I am confident that existing mines both in the East and in the West will increase production and at least one new mine will come into production. The mining exploration activity is a little more alarming. It is down some 50 per cent over last year. No exploration means no new mines, and that is a major concern to me in terms of mine development in the next five to 10 years. We as a government contributed to the task force on mining report which made several recommendations concerning the effect of shutdown of mining centres.

Our construction industry in the Northwest Territories suffered more than any other sector of the territorial economy. The value of construction is down some 70 per cent since last year, and I personally know that many contractors in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith are under extreme financial difficulties, pressures.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: That is happening at a time when places like Yellowknife are facing a very severe housing shortage. Other places in the Territories are under the same pressure, not to the same extent, but the same pressure. I am hoping that interest rates will continue their downward trend to revive this sector or at least stabilize things at their current level.

I am also very concerned about the drop in returns to those pursuing traditional activities. Hunting and trapping returns for 1981-82 are down \$1.3 million from 1980-81, a drop from over five million dollars to just under four million dollars. Coinciding with these figures was a drop in the number of commercial hunters and trappers from approximately 4500 people to about 3600 in 1981-82. I am certainly aware that this years results will if anything be less than the dismal results of last year, and the European reaction to sealskins will do nothing but aggravate an already soft market.

Future Development Of The Territorial Economy

Mr. Speaker, I indicated at the start that I was challenged by the problems we face in further development of the territorial economy, and about the prospects. I want to take a few minutes to outline some of the initiatives that have been taken and that will be taken in the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to meet these challenges.

As you know, I intend to table the Mair report. It has been sent to each and every Member of this House. It has been publicly released, and there are no doubt questions that will be raised by Members of the Assembly and indeed the public. Considerable changes have already been under way, and these are at the initiative of the department. I expect that I will get increased public feedback, and that feedback will be valuable to any kind of changes that I will contemplate in the future, so that the department can better meet the pressing economic needs of the Territories. Officials within the department, as well as myself, welcome the report. It contains comments and recommendations which are valid and which will be acted upon. Indeed, measures are already in motion to put the department on a better footing.

The Mair report indicated the lack of goals and objectives for the department, and that was a valid criticism. In a review of departmental goals and objectives, we have come across various sets of objectives which were produced over the years for the purposes of inclusion in the annual territorial report, the budget, employees' handbooks. The goals and objectives that the department must have were started by the department on the initiative of now the new deputy minister, Mr. Larry Gilberg. These are being developed now, policies are being developed, and some of them are in their final stages for preparation and Executive Committee review. Further, it is obvious that the Economic Development priorities vary from region to region, and although general government policy on various issues does not, we recognize the necessity of various and varying thrusts in particular regions, and I have been working with department people to develop regional subobjectives. There will be regional input, regional goals will be developed, and together with the regional input and headquarters material, we will come up with the proper goals, objectives and policies.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, more important is the development of action plans to implement those objectives. In the past few months the department has put a renewed emphasis on policy development as a first step toward examining existing programs and thrusts as well as developing new plans of attack. I have at present, Mr. Speaker, financial assistance policies before our Executive Committee priorities and planning committee. These policies will rationalize present loan and grant programs, including start-up grants to small businesses, economic development corporations, and tourism associations. Mr. Speaker, some of our financial outlays will be reduced, but in other areas significant enhancements will be made. The policies will represent one of the more important adjustments that I am introducing in terms of today's economic realities. I have indicated my plans to formalize departmental goals and objectives, and regional subobjectives. Formalization will take place through a departmental policy which will contain these objectives and which will indicate the thrust for program policies that will be developed.

We are currently developing a small business assistance policy, a privatization policy for current economic development projects, a price support policy for renewable resource harvesters, and a tourism marketing and infrastructure policy. Members will, hopefully, agree that these initiatives identify the overall departmental goals and objectives, and these individual policies will be presented as they are refined and gone over, to the Executive Committee before adoption. Mr. Speaker, in order to realize some of these new thrusts, I have been working with my deputy minister and other departmental officials on a functional realignment in the department. I will be presenting, for consideration of my colleagues on the Executive Committee, a document outlining these changes, in the near future.

Northern Preference Policy

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I indicated to the Member for Yellowknife South that I would make some reference to our northern preference policy. If I may be allowed just to very briefly indicate the purpose of that policy, talk about the scope of it, and outline some of the features. As I said yesterday, the purpose of the northern preference policy, Mr. Speaker, is to permit the Government of the Northwest Territories to provide a preference to northern contractors. In this way, we hope to promote the use of northern labour and materials, and to encourage the development and competitiveness of northern business by the application of this preference policy. It will apply to the supply of goods contracts, construction contracts, service contracts, and leases. It will not apply to contracts for legal services, consulting services, and the portions

of contracts funded by non-Government of the NWT agencies, where certain funding conditions preclude the application. As an example, if you like, in respect to the last point, where the Government of the Northwest Territories cost shares on certain programs with other agencies, the preference will be allowed on the same basis as the cost-sharing ratio. For instance, if the Government of the Northwest Territories funded portion is 75 per cent, the preference would be 75 per cent, given to northern contractors. There are certain features, I think, that should be noted in this particular policy, Mr. Speaker. The policy applies to those businesses and individuals who have received designations as northern contractors, and I think it is important for northern contractors, as well as Members of this House to know, that contractors must apply for designation as a northern contractor.

Definition Of A Northern Contractor

A "northern contractor" is defined as a "contractor who meets the legal requirements to carry on business in the Northwest Territories; who maintains a bona fide office in the Northwest Territories with a resident manager who employs people living in the Territories" -- that is, domiciled -- "and who has received designation as a 'northern contractor' prior to submitting a tender".

It is both general subcontractors and subcontractors who are eligible to apply for designation under this policy. The kind of preference that is given, I think, deserves some kind of acknowledgement, Mr. Speaker. A fixed percentage will be applied to that portion of a contract that will be carried out by a northern contractor, or northern contractors, for contracts of \$300,000 or less. For contracts of \$300,000 or less, a 10 per cent preference to adjust the bid is the maximum preference, \$30,000. For contracts that exceed \$300,000 and are up to \$600,000, a preference of 10 per cent to adjust the bid on the first \$300,000, and a preference of five per cent on the remainder, to a maximum of \$45,000. There will be a registry of northern contractors maintained, updated, and published annually by the Department of Government Services, through the good offices of my colleague, the Hon. Tom Butters.

Until this application form has been developed, tenderers should deal with the contract authority. Once the form has been finalized, it will be made available across the Territories. Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize that this does not preclude southern contractors from bidding on contracts in the Territories, but it does recognize that where businesses established in the North are able to provide the goods and services required, they should be given and will be given an opportunity to compete on an equal basis, given that doing business in the North involves higher costs. As I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that policy has been sent out to all chambers of commerce, and there will be advertisements placed in all newspapers in the Territories.

Mr. Speaker, then, in my very short three and a half months as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, I have made an attempt to institute mechanisms for change in the department, and the resulting changes on the surface may not seem so dramatic, but I can assure you that they will be fundamental in terms of delivering a better product. Streamlining will occur, overlaps will be eliminated, and regional functions will increase.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: At the same time, headquarters responsibilities will be clearly defined, and a more efficient product will emerge.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I indicated it was my first opportunity to speak to the Members as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, but I want to assure each and every Member that I would continue an open dialogue with the Members of this House and the public on all aspects of this particular department and any other department for which I have responsibility. I hope that in the last two sessions of this House I may be afforded the same opportunity to speak to Members of the House about my responsibilities with the government. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Bingo! Thanks.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Are there any more replies? Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 70-82(3): Invitation To Minister To Appear On CBC Television Program

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Minister of Education. I have been informed -- I do not know whether reliably or not -- that the Minister of Education was invited to appear on a television program called Focus North, on which there was to be a symposium on education, and particularly with respect to changes that were recommended as a result of the special committee on education's report. I do think that we want people throughout the North to know as much as possible about those changes. First of all, may I ask the Minister whether he was in fact invited to participate in that program, and if he declined, why did he decline?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 70-82(3): Invitation To Minister To Appear On CBC Television Program

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I was invited to be on that program. No, I did not appear. The reasons I did not appear were stated at length in my reply to the Commissioner's Address. I do not want to lend credence to a television program which I think undermines the originally stated objectives of CBC Northern Television, to promote independent native language television production in the Northwest Territories, and I am not satisfied that the CBC has done anything since I raised those concerns to do anything about this reversal of policy. I do agree, however, Mr. Speaker, that I have some obligations as Minister of Education to promote the discussion publicly of matters concerning reform of the educational system such as were dealt with at this session. I did give interviews to the radio media on the subject of this committee's recommendations, but, perhaps more important, I instructed my deputy minister to appear on that program so that the departmental point of view would at least be represented through him. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 70-82(3): Invitation To Minister To Appear On CBC Television Program

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I would ask the Minister if he does not see it as an obligation to distinguish between his actions as the Member for Frobisher Bay...

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...and as a Minister of the government? I had suggested earlier I felt that all Members ought to make that distinction, the press ought to make it, and the public ought to make it. Well, certainly I believe Ministers ought to too, and therefore I would ask, would the Minister give an undertaking to reassess his position and seriously consider making that distinction between his role as the Minister of Education and his role as the Member for Frobisher Bay, in matters like that?

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 70-82(3): Invitation To Minister To Appear On CBC Television Program

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I already stated to the House that I felt that my responsibilities to the public as Minister of Education would be quite adequately discharged by having the deputy minister of Education and the chairman of the task force on implementation appear on that program. I will undertake to reassess my stand with reference to the CBC program Focus North. I am awaiting a meeting of the Nunatsiakmiut board of directors this Wednesday in Frobisher Bay, as to whether or not they might be satisfied with some offers that were recently made by the CBC Northern Service. But I must say, Mr. Speaker, that while I believe as a Minister one must look at one's responsibilities to the general public and speak for all Members, at the same time one cannot completely ignore one's origins and one's constituents. So I felt that I had at least compromised in offering to have the deputy minister present, and I will continue to reassess my position, and I hope that the CBC will continue to reassess their position, because I think they are fundamentally doing the wrong thing...

MRS. SORENSEN: No, they are not.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...and I will oppose it as long as I am able to speak in this House. Thank you.

MRS. SORENSEN: They represent more than the Eastern Arctic.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 3, oral questions. Item 4, written questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 4: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 71-82(3): Recommendations From Status Of Women Conference

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. The Minister had called a conference of women in Yellowknife on May 1st and 2nd, 1982, and certainly recently indicated his concern about women's rights and child care issues by introducing those matters into the education debate last week. Since the Minister is on record, in a speech to the federal-provincial-territorial conference on the status of women -- he indicated that there was a need to revamp our government's current policies and programs in the areas of women's rights and child care, will the Minister responsible for the Status of Women list each of the recommendations made to him by the status of women conference held in Yellowknife on May 1st and 2nd, 1982, and then provide this House with a detailed response as to what he has or has not done, intends or does not intend to do, with respect to each recommendation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 4, written questions and returns. Are there any returns today? Mr. Nerysoo, returns.

Minister's Statement On Resource Development And Energy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, during the session in May in Inuvik, and subsequently during this session, I was asked by my colleague, Mrs. Sorensen, a number of questions that related to resource development and the efforts of this government. I outlined a number of initiatives my colleagues and I had taken on two subjects of great importance to us all, resource development and energy.

I would like at this time to report to this House on the status of what has been done to date. However, before I do, I would like to establish the setting which we in the North have to live with. As Canada heads toward the 1990s, the Northwest Territories will be transformed into a major supplier of non-renewable hydrocarbon and mineral resources. These resources will be used to fuel our nation's industrial heartland, and to retain for Canada its well-deserved reputation as a world class resource exporter. Northern resource development will be massive by northern standards. Each potential project -- the Beaufort Sea, Norman Wells, the Arctic Pilot Project -- has been called a megaproject in its own right. Over the next 10 or 20 years, economic realities will transform the North, allowing it to assist in the maintenance of a high standard of living for all Canadians.

This transition represents a tremendous opportunity for us to improve our social and economic well-being, while also contributing to the prosperity of all Canadians. However, this transition brings with it the challenge of ensuring that we receive a reasonable share of the benefits of resource development, while reducing the related social, economic and environmental costs. And I suggest that people, environment, and resources are the three essential elements for development. These three elements must grow in tandem. Resource development cannot be allowed to proceed in a way that will damage our important northern social values, or our fragile environment. The Government of the Northwest Territories is attempting to increase its influence over resource development. This is being done so that northerners can have a voice in determining what the North of tomorrow will be like.

Resource Development Policy

First, the Government of the Northwest Territories has implemented, as of October 1982, a resource development policy. The policy will be this government's mechanism for co-ordinating public consultation, providing for assessment and review of resource projects, and for monitoring

resource development activities. As I said in May, it is this government's responsibility to ensure that northern people bear fewer costs and receive greater benefits from resource development. The next steps to be taken in implementing the policy include tasks which will result in clearer understanding of the policy by those affected by its implementation.

The first step was for the Executive Committee to identify development impact zones. The three zones indicated are in the Beaufort-Mackenzie delta, Fort Smith, and Norman Wells areas. This will result in a clear indication to the public, industry, and all levels of government that the Executive Committee considers that these zones warrant particular attention, due to resource development activities. Also, it will indicate to the public that the Government of the Northwest Territories will support the formation of one development impact zone group in each zone. I am taking immediate action in concert with local leaders, by inviting them to consider the establishment of such groups.

The second step to be taken is the development of an information package. Two separate information packages are required to describe the resource development policy, its rationale, intent, background and requirements. Specifically, one package will be a detailed technical information package intended to instil an in-depth understanding of the policy and an orientation to the operational level of industry and government. The second package is intended to provide basic information to the general public. Successful completion of this task will result in clear, concise data on the resource development policy, which will enable industry, public and government to discuss and understand the policy, its procedures, and its respective roles.

The third step is a presentation to industry. I have met and will continue to meet with the representatives of the resource development industries in order to explain the resource development policy and its implications for industry, and procedures for dealing with a specific resource development project proposal.

The fourth and most crucial step is a presentation to government. I will meet with and brief appropriate federal and provincial ministers and municipal, band and regional councils affected by resource development to ensure good understanding and acceptance of the resource development policy and to begin the task of establishing joint working relationships in support of the policy. Also, I will be holding discussions with the federal government on their participation in the resource development policy. I must stress to this House that the success of the resource development policy is now in the hands of the leaders and the people of the Northwest Territories, and they are the backbone to this policy and can ensure its complete success.

Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement

The second approach in our attempt to increase the Government of the Northwest Territories influence over resource development is through a resource revenue sharing agreement. Such agreements have already been signed by some provinces, and negotiations are going on with others. The Government of the Northwest Territories feels a resource revenue sharing agreement is vital to orderly resource development. In May I indicated to you that resource development in the North must do more than provide jobs and business opportunities to northern people. As Members of this House have made clear on many occasions, the North must obtain a greater share of the revenues from resource development...

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: ...if self-determination is to become a reality. I am happy to say that all preparatory work required to proceed with negotiations on the Government of the Northwest Territories role is in its final stages. I say "in the final stages" because it is most important and necessary to ensure that the native people who are negotiating aboriginal rights settlements are not negatively affected by any revenue sharing negotiations. Further, it is imperative that intensive discussions be carried out with the native organizations to ensure that this does not happen and, in fact, any discussions which lead to the negotiations of revenue sharing agreements should strengthen aboriginal rights settlements.

However, I assure Members of this House that further work is required, and I wish to outline the following: 1) I will be presenting to my colleagues a set of precepts and negotiating terms which will be used as a focal point to begin discussions on the issue of revenue sharing. 2) I have completed a Government of the Northwest Territories-Canada resource sharing agreement proposal which requires further review, discussion and approval from my colleagues. This agreement covers three areas: resource revenue sharing; oil and gas pricing; and resource management.

As you are now aware, our preparations for the negotiation of a resource revenue sharing agreement have been quite extensive to date, and I am confident that our expectations are reasonable and that the federal government, when the time comes, can negotiate in good faith and in the spirit of co-operation and understanding.

An Energy Policy

In our third approach, an energy policy is being formulated which will, among other things, require hydrocarbon-producing resource development projects to provide reasonably priced energy benefits and secure energy supplies where practical to communities within its proximity. The Government of the Northwest Territories has long been aware of the energy problems in its territory -- supply difficulties, high consumer costs, and oil dependence. Departments and agencies have responded to the problems by instituting action to cut government costs, to encourage public conservation, and to demonstrate in a small way the use of new technology. Others have been active as well. The Government of Canada has committed millions to the future development of new energy sources and to the subsidization of energy purchases. The Northern Canada Power Commission has also, within its means, experimented with devices which promise solutions to the problems of Northwest Territories electrical generation.

Yet action in this area has largely been unco-ordinated in its focus. Aspects of what really is one problem have been treated independently, without the opportunity being given to the Executive Committee for providing overall direction. The energy policy which I will be proposing will provide the required focus. It will state the overall government objectives and describe the action required to achieve the desired ends. The provisions and the basic policy precepts were recommended as early as October 1980 in the energy strategy report which I subsequently tabled before this House. Recognizing the tremendous scope of the problems, and the limited resources of this government, my efforts must be carefully ordered to achieve the maximum benefit.

The first steps I will discuss with my colleagues are those that can be taken now, and they include a commitment to the policy's goals and direction; adjustment of the funding of current programs to make the best use of dollars already being spent; halting practices which continue to mitigate against the efficient use of energy in the Territories; and investigation and planning of development of new energy supplies.

Later, as more becomes known about the economics of various sources of energy, supply development programs will likely be required. Also, over the next few years the Government of the Northwest Territories will have to develop its own regulatory powers to assure that the decisions of Northwest Territories energy projects are made with the best long-term interests of residents in mind.

Using these three major mechanisms, the resource development policy, resource revenue sharing and the energy policy, I believe we can increase northern benefits, reduce costs, and exercise a greater degree of control over the rate, scale, timing and conditions of resource development. However, it is most important -- and I wish to emphasize -- that this Legislative Assembly support the initiatives that are being taken by myself as Minister and, most important, the direction being given by the Executive Committee.

Other Important Initiatives

Further, there are other equally important fronts that we are working on to increase the Government of the Northwest Territories authority and control over resource and energy development in the Northwest Territories. A major initiative, which my colleague, the Hon. George Braden, Leader of the Elected Executive, initiated is the Government of the Northwest Territories decision to review the mandate of the Public Utilities Board with the objective in mind of extending the board's mandate. I have taken actions to review and identify the long-term regulatory need of the Public Utilities Board, and to plan for the increase of Public Utilities Board authorities incrementally over the next 10 year period, culminating in an appropriate mandate and structure for the board, one which allows the people of the Northwest Territories to exercise greater control over energy development.

Speaking of public forums, we are also gearing up for the hearings of the Beaufort Sea Environmental Assessment Review Panel. The Beaufort Sea Environmental Assessment Review Panel was set up by the federal government to conduct a formal public review of the Beaufort Sea proposed hydrocarbon developments. To assist the panel in its review, the Government of the Northwest Territories and agencies have been requested to prepare submissions outlining their

existing mandates and responsibilities -- the possible effects of the Beaufort Sea development on their programs, policies, and activities on the proposed development -- by September 1st, 1982. This submission has already been sent to the panel. The next phase of the hearings is the actual intervention, which will begin early in the new calendar year. My colleagues and I have set the wheels in motion to organize for this intervention.

Another area in which I have taken policy action is in the mining industry. We must not forget that the economy of the Northwest Territories is led by the mining industry, which has a great deal of potential for future developments. It is extremely important that the Northwest Territories continue to welcome investment in the mineral development area. The mining industry has made a number of representations to the Government of the Northwest Territories regarding the resource development policy and guidelines and criteria and their application to the industry. I have taken steps to set forth and review with my colleagues a position on the types of mineral development which will not be subjected to the assessment and review processes under the resource development policy. Some policy voids which will deal specifically with issues particular to the mineral industry will have to be covered. On this issue I will work hand in hand with industry.

Also my colleague, the Hon. Arnold McCallum, and I have initiated with the Yukon government the first steps of what we envision as a co-ordinated approach to assist the mining industry in mineral developments which will occur on our mutual border. Specifically, we will be meeting with the Yukon government to discuss how best mutual interests of government and industry can be satisfied, as well as maximize social, economic and environmental benefits in the border area. It is our intention to develop a consistent and co-ordinated approach, one which outlines answers to those crucial questions which industry has asked both governments to address over the last number of years.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, I see a great future for the Northwest Territories, especially for its people, and I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and I will in fact be tabling the necessary documents at the necessary time.

---Applause

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

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 20-82(3), Statement by Hon. James Wah-Shee, Government's Land Valuation Policy. I would further like to move this document into the committee of the whole for consideration by the committee of the whole.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: There is a motion on the floor.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry. Is that a motion, Mrs. Sorensen?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you run that motion by me once again?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: You are not a Minister yet, Lynda.

MR. SIBBESTON: You are trying to take advantage of his inexperience.

MRS. SORENSEN: If you have your way, I never will be.

MR. CURLEY: You have to go by the rules, Lynda. You have to ask for unanimous consent.

MRS. SORENSEN: You would give it to me?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen, I do not know how you can get a motion into tabling of documents. I think motions have a certain place in this House.

MRS. SORENSEN: Perhaps then the honourable Speaker could advise me how I get this into committee of the whole.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: You have to give notice of motion.

MRS. SORENSEN: I did not ask you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen, if you will stick to Item 6, tabling of documents, then you go to Item 8, which is notices of motion, where you make your notice of motion to put this into committee, and when you come to motions you try to get unanimous consent to put it into committee, or wait your 48 hours. You should know that.

MRS. SORENSEN: You are too smart for me, Mr. Speaker. You caught me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Tologanak.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 21-82(3), Draft Legislation for a Proposed New Medical Profession Ordinance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Tologanak. Tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following documents: Tabled Document 22-82(3), Resource Development Policy; Tabled Document 23-82(3), Resource Development Policy, Guidelines and Criteria.

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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with section 39 of the Interpretation Ordinance, I table Tabled Document 24-82(3), Consolidated Regulations of the Northwest Territories, Numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Volume III of Part I of the Northwest Territories Gazette; Number 2 of Volume III of Part II; and Number 2 of Volume III of Part III; Indices of the Regulations of the Northwest Territories; Statutory Instruments and Appointments made pursuant to the Ordinances of the Northwest Territories that have been made between the 30th of April, 1982 to the 31st of October of 1982.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table Tabled Document 25-82(3), Aboriginal Rights and the Constitution.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 26-82(3), Northern Development, to Lead or to Follow, a report on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, with special reference to the Inuvik region, by W. Winston Mair, June, 1982.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 6, tabling of documents. There are no further documents.

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Motion 23-82(3): Global Referendum On Disarmament

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Thursday, November 18th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay, that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories endorse the concept of a global referendum on disarmament, as

proposed by Operation Dismantle, and that it urge the Government of Canada to endorse the concept as well and begin taking steps to bring about such a referendum in Canada, as well as in other countries of the world; and further, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of External Affairs, the Minister of Defence, the Leader of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, and the leader of the New Democratic Party; and further, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the secretary general of the United Nations.

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

Notice Of Motion 24-82(3): Trustee For Baffin Divisional School Board

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice of a motion, which I will move on November 18th, Thursday: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that this House recommend to the Executive Committee that the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories appoint the superintendent of Education for the Baffin region as trustee for the Baffin Divisional School Board, effective April 1, 1983, and that the superintendent begin immediately to provide training for the BRES members and executive committee to prepare them to assume the powers of the trustee by April 1, 1984.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Notices of motion, item 8. Mr. Tologanak.

Notice Of Motion 25-82(3): NWT Housing Corporation Board Of Directors Appointment

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that I will be moving the following motion and will be seeking unanimous consent at the appropriate time: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Western Arctic, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner the appointment of Henry Ohakannoak, of Cambridge Bay, to the board of directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Tologanak. Item 8, notices of motion. Mrs. Sorensen.

Notice Of Motion 26-82(3): Tabled Documents 20-82(3), 22-82(3) and 23-82(3) To Committee Of The Whole

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to serve notice that on Thursday, November 18, I will move that Government's Land Evaluation Policy, Resource Development Policy, and Resource Development Policy Guidelines and Criteria be moved into committee of the whole as an item for discussion, following the discussion of bills. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for unanimous consent later on to raise this motion today. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Item 8, notices of motion. Mr. Braden.

Notice Of Motion 27-82(3): Tabled Document 25-82(3), Aboriginal Rights And The Constitution, To Committee Of The Whole

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking for unanimous consent to proceed with the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that this House consider Tabled Document 25-82(3), Aboriginal Rights and the Constitution, as the first order of business in committee of the whole on Friday, November 19th.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 8, notices of motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

Notice Of Motion 28-82(3): MLAs Serving On GNWT Boards And Committees

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Thursday, November 18th, I will present the following motion, seconded by the Member for Western Arctic: I move that the Members' Services Board be requested to consider the necessary legislation to prohibit Members of this Assembly from serving on committees and boards of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

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

Notice Of Motion 29-82(3): Financial Assistance For Adult Vocational Training And Educational Upgrading

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on November 18th, Thursday, I will move -- and, Mr. Speaker, this is the reworded motion that I presented yesterday -- that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that special financial assistance be made 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. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, do I have the consent of the House to proceed with the motion that I introduced earlier on?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Agreed.

---Agreed

Proceed, Mr. Braden.

Motion 27-82(3): Tabled Document 25-82(3), Aboriginal Rights And The Constitution, To Committee Of The Whole

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS it is desirable for this Legislature to establish a formal position in respect of aboriginal rights and the Canadian constitution;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that this House consider Tabled Document 25-82(3), Aboriginal Rights and the Constitution as the first order of business in committee of the whole on Friday, November 19th.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have a motion on the floor.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 27-82(3), Carried

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

---Carried

Item 10, motions. Mr. Tologanak.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the Housing Corporation appointment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Tologanak.

Motion 25-82(3): NWT Housing Corporation Board Of Directors Appointment

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker:

WHEREAS vacancies exist on the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Red Pedersen of Coppermine had resigned and was a past member for the Kitikmeot region on the NWT Housing Corporation board of directors;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that this vacancy for a member for the Kitikmeot region be filled as soon as possible;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Western Arctic, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner the appointment of Henry Ohokannoak, of Cambridge Bay, to the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 25-82(3), Carried

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

---Carried

Item 10, motions. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to consider my motion concerning moving the land evaluation policy and the resource development policy into committee of the whole.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Unanimous consent?

MR. SIBBESTON: Nay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry...

MRS. SORENSEN: Do you want my vote on the boundaries commission?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mrs. Sorensen. You have been denied unanimous consent. Item 10, motions.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Are you that easily persuaded, Lynda?

MRS. SORENSEN: Hardly.

MR. SIBBESTON: You must be a liberal.

MRS. SORENSEN: I am not vindictive. I would never do that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 10, motions.

MRS. SORENSEN: You will never know when it hits.

---Laughter

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Sounds good.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 10, motions. It appears we are having a conference over on this side, here. Are we going to get back to order?

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 12, second reading of bills.

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

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

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 18-82(3), Public Sector Compensation Restraint Ordinance.

We will go into committee of the whole, dealing with Motion 7-82(3), Electoral Boundaries Commission, with Mr. Sayine in the chair. I would like to urge Members that this is Mr. Sayine's -- he was just appointed to this position, and I would appreciate Members to be a little patient and considerate with the chairman. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Further Discussion Of Amendment To Motion 7-82(3), Electoral Boundaries Commission

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The committee will come to order now, and we are dealing with Motion 7-82(3). We have an amendment on the floor.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I had asked yesterday, Mr. Chairman, that the motion as amended be typed and translated for Members. I wonder if copies could be distributed, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): I understand that was not done, Mr. Patterson. What is the wish of the committee?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Recess.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Recess? Okay. The committee will recess for five to 10 minutes.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: A simple amendment like that?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: It is not simple. We argued for three hours about that.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Now the committee will come back to order. Everybody has a copy of the amendment now. To the amendment. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have an opinion from someone as to what this amendment means. Does it mean that the boundaries commission could only recommend 22 seats, or does it mean that the boundaries commission could recommend up to 25 seats?

MR. MacQUARRIE: I will give an opinion.

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSEN: Ask Nick. He is a lawyer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Okay, Mr. Patterson. It is the opinion of the Chair that this motion, if passed as amended, would still allow increase to more than 22 seats. To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question, question.

Motion To Amend Motion 7-82(3), Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): All those in favour raise up their hands, please. Opposed? The amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: Let the record show the West won one, for a change.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Patterson, to the motion.

Further Motion To Amend Motion 7-82(3)

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would now propose an amendment which would clearly restrict the number of seats to 22, and clearly restrict the terms of the commission to review the size of existing boundaries, and I have copies prepared and translated.

The amendment would add, in the fourth line of the "now therefore" clause, after the words "boundaries commission to study" add the words "the size of existing electoral districts and to present its recommendations regarding any changes to the existing 22 electoral districts before the next session of the Assembly", and delete the words "the existing size ... and to present its recommendations regarding any changes before the next session of the Assembly".

MRS. SORENSEN: Clearly out of order. Clearly out of order. It changes the intent.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Point of order.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Do you need a copy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Okay. We have reviewed the amendment, and the amendment is in order. To the amendment.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to explain the rationale behind this amendment. I am very concerned that there is no apparent consensus in this House on new seats and new ridings and indeed on the number of seats that should be increased, and I am very anxious that we not set up any boundaries commission for an impossible task. I fear that the debate yesterday afternoon would provide little or no guidance to any boundaries commission. All that I think we can really say for sure from yesterday is that some Members are dissatisfied with the boundaries of existing ridings. We have heard concerns that the population has shifted in Yellowknife, although the MLA whose riding has enlarged does not herself seem to be too concerned about that. We have heard that Mr. Tologanak feels that his riding is too large, and that perhaps the boundaries there should be adjusted to make it smaller. We have heard

Mr. Sibbeston say that he would like to see someone else take responsibility for Fort Providence. We have heard that the timing is crucial, in that the new legislation must be in place by April, and we are expecting the boundaries commission to do the work over a very busy time of the year -- the holiday period and municipal elections and the work of a federal boundaries commission.

Amendment Would Make Task Simpler For Commission

So I am proposing, by this amendment, if there is going to be a boundaries commission, to at least limit its work to a manageable task, which task would be to look at anomalies in the existing constituencies. I did mention that even my own constituency needs some revision to recognize the elimination of a settlement that has occurred since the boundaries were last revised. So I am presenting this amendment as a realistic task for a boundaries commission, given the time constraints that are imposed upon us by this amendment. I think that the commission would have a much simpler task in hand if it were simply to look at adjusting existing boundaries rather than creating new constituencies, because, as I have mentioned, the only fair way to create 25 new constituencies from 22 is not simply to say, "Well, there should be a new seat created out of Mr. Sibbeston's constituency, and a new seat created in Yellowknife, and a new seat created in Mr. Tologanak's constituency"...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: That makes a total of 25.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...because that is tampering with a very carefully balanced 22 Member House that was developed after a great deal of work and attention by what I am satisfied was an independent and objective boundaries commission.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: You just proposed three new seats.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The only way we can create new seats is by wiping the map completely clear and by starting from scratch, and I submit there is not time to do that job and to properly hear from all the affected public in that short time period, so I am recommending that there be a reduced mandate for the boundaries commission to deal with the existing 22 seats only, and I trust all fair-minded Members who have the public interest at heart will support this amendment. Thank you.

MRS. SORENSEN: No way, kid.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am supporting the amendment. We would only be exercising the changes of the electoral districts during the last three years, and at least, in the House, I think we have not seen significant changes, I think, in terms of population of the NWT. As a matter of fact, I think there has been some reduction in some population patterns, particularly in places like Inuvik and Yellowknife, whereas when there was a move toward the major pipeline, there was, I think, a very high peak population. During that time, when the electoral boundaries commission was doing its work -- I really am surprised even our Commissioner would support such a proposition, that we ought to establish a commission, after only four years. I say that because there is, I think, an attempt here to try and at least go along with such a proposition, when we have had barely time to really experience the impact of the work, and the recommendations presented by the last electoral boundaries commission. So would it be fair, if, right after the fourth year of the 10th Assembly, they wish to reorganize it again because some of the former Members of the Assembly did not get in, or there might be new prospects for putting in some Members to the Assembly, or new prospects who want to run in the 11th Assembly? I could not understand why there is such a rush. I understand some of the ridings are huge...

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: To the amendment.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Question.

MR. CURLEY: ...and that there are linguistic, and different tribal groups, in certain parts of the Territories. I understand that, but I am not in favour of creating constituencies based on ethnic and tribal lines.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: That includes Nunavut.

MR. MacQUARRIE: May we engrave that?

---Laughter

MR. CURLEY: There are other, many other reasons here. Tribal dialects, the language, and maybe even actually asking for a Dene representative from Mr. Sibbeston's riding.

MRS. SORENSEN: Good idea.

MR. CURLEY: Is that how we ought to be setting up our electoral districts?

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

MR. CURLEY: So that we can have one more Inuit from my riding? Or one more Dene from there? Or one from Kane's riding?

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Why not? Equal opportunity.

MR. CURLEY: Is that how we want to develop our political institution up here?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: To the motion.

MR. CURLEY: I do not agree with...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Question.

MR. CURLEY: ...all the reasons why the Members are trying to oppose this thing. I think this amendment would prevent that kind of representation, the possibility of further dividing the Assembly on racial lines, and really would actually give it, I think, more fair and equitable representation of the population, rather than what type of ethnic groups you have in the Territories, considering the present representatives of this Assembly here. So I think if you vote for this motion, you would be actually voting for what I would call a real democratic practice.

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSEN: Simply because it does not change the intent, anyway.

MR. CURLEY: I think the western Members have always feared that, you know, you do not support ethnicism in any political institution, and the reasons, the arguments, for the motion to establish the boundaries have been just that. They have been calling for more division, I think, polarization in the Assembly. If we have that, at least it is not the fault of this particular Assembly. Now we want to establish it, by rejecting this amendment. So I am going to vote in support of the amendment. Thank you.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Parker.

MR. CURLEY: To the amendment.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, since the honourable Member made reference to me in his remarks, I would just like to state for the record that I have not taken part in this debate, and I will not take part in the debate unless I were asked a technical question, or something of that nature. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment, Mr. Tologanak.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, at the outset, I will not support this amendment and what the amendment suggests. Everyone knows that Kitikmeot is a little bigger than most other ridings, in the distance, and the number of communities that exist in that area -- and what this amendment is asking, and what was said by my colleague for

Frobisher Bay, that perhaps the boundaries for the riding should be made smaller. I believe that it is saying that perhaps, if my constituency is considered by the electoral boundaries to be too large -- then it is suggesting that some of the communities in my constituency would go to either Keewatin or to the Western Arctic, or even to High Arctic -- maybe to Yellowknife North.

MRS. SORENSEN: Well, I will take them.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: But what I am saying, Mr. Chairman, the people in the Kitikmeot, if they were considered by the electoral boundaries commission, would not wish to either go to Keewatin, High Arctic, or Western Arctic, to be part of that constituency. So I would urge all Members to consider what the people have requested, from the Kitikmeot, right from the beginning, at least two years ago; to this speaker, and a request to this House to take a look at the boundaries and at the size of Kitikmeot. I urge Members to vote against this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will see if I can muddy the waters a little more. The mover is clearly under the illusion that if this amendment passes it would, in effect, prevent the commission from increasing the number of seats above 22.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Well, let us just remove the illusion.

MR. MacQUARRIE: That, he declared, was his clear intent, when he moved the amendment, and all of his subsequent speech in support of the amendment indicated that, and yet I would suggest that if his amendment effected what he intended, the Chair would clearly have had to rule the amendment out of order, since the initial motion clearly says, "...to study the existing size and number of electoral districts". I therefore ask the Chair, is it the opinion of the Chair that, if this amendment is passed, the commission would still have the right to increase the number of seats above 22?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The reason I ruled it in order was because the amendment does not change the intent of the motion.

---Applause

MR. McLAUGHLIN: So why bother making it? Why bother even voting for it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Further, then, you are saying that clearly, in your opinion and in the opinion of your advisers, that the commission would still have the opportunity to recommend that there be 23, 24 or 25 seats. Is that correct?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Keerect.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Of course, that is right.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Yes.

MR. MacQUARRIE: The answer is, "yes".

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Ms Cournoyea. To the amendment.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I will support the amendment. Perhaps there is some problem in clarification. In regard to increasing the number of electoral districts and in regard to limiting it to 22, I believe that most people, in the changes that are required, probably could be accommodated if there were only to be 22. The reason that I would want it to stay at 22 is something along the lines of the argument that we had right from the very beginning of this session. It was very difficult, you know, to maintain -- many of you might think that our job over here is really easy, keeping our group together, but many of the things that have been

happening in this Legislative Assembly, as opposed to past Legislative Assemblies, have been because we were committed to something we really believed in. Many of us who are involved in the Nunavut caucus have worked very hard outside this Legislative Assembly to present to the public a kind of thing that we feel is so important to survive and it has been difficult.

Balance Is Important

Right now what you are asking is the possibility that we will have again the West dominating what we want to do. That is what you are asking. The chances of people getting electoral districts the way they want...

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MS COURNOYEA: ...may not come out the way you want it. The balance is important. I have worked a long time, you know, to try to get the real people in the right places, to see what they feel is most important through and what I see going to happen if we go above 22 -- it will not be the Inuit of the East or the people of Nunavut that once again become the dominant factor in this Legislative Assembly. I see people who are sophisticated regrouping and I do not count on the fact that we will be able to maintain a stronghold or any kind of identity.

You may think that these things are very simple and straightforward. In the past, district development of the new districts to be involved in this electoral boundary thing -- I spent a lot of time on that myself when it was increased, because I was asked if I would get it across in the community that something was happening. I believe a balance is important and I believe that, as well, all of us represent our communities and every time we try to do something, we are always concerned about an amount of money -- you know, how much are we spending?

I think that it will always be here in the West that you are going to have the majority of people on the Executive from the West, because they live close to it. So, that is a power base for certain people. It gives them an in and they will always be there. I am concerned with going to a larger number of districts -- I do not suffer under any illusions that it is going to be something put in balance. We have got an ability, I suppose, to give people a little more money to travel more if it is necessary. It does not have to be that adding three more is going to solve your problem. I wonder if it will, or will it create a problem? It is really nice to see all you people in your seats here -- over there -- and I think it is important. You might think that we are pretty hoity-toity over here because we sort of form a caucus, but we do not always win. We do not always win, but the work we are doing in trying to represent our constituency is one that has gone back for over 15 to 20 years and we have come a long way bringing people here and to do that and try to take the balance from the 22 now -- I think it would be premature. I think it is a premature thing to do.

I am going to support this amendment, because I think it might be doing -- and having the intent of the amendment -- I may be wrong -- I know people will support this and if you people across there feel that it is not changing the intent, then I certainly hope you will support the amendment as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Wah-Shee, to the amendment.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to oppose the amendment, and I will give you the reasons why. I do believe that the option of increasing constituencies to 25 is in order, because that is the option that we have as a Legislature, to consider that proposition. However, I take a different view in regard to the amendment, because here we are trying to create a commission. It is supposed to be an impartial commission, which I assume the last commission was, which increased the constituencies from 15 to 22. Now there are some disparities here and let us face the reality. We have some representatives in this House that represent 200 people. There are other ridings that represent 2500 to, maybe, 3000. Now, to me, sitting on this side of the table, it seems to me that there are some disparities. If you want to talk about representation, let us talk about it in terms of what can be done to improve the membership in this House. I see, across the table here, that we have a majority of the Inuit caucus. They refer to themselves as the Nunavut caucus, but, oh no, let us not talk about party politics here. We do not need party politics. We have already got a caucus that represents the East. The only problem is that we have never put a label on it.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: We should put a label on Nunavut party, which is unofficial.

MR. CURLEY: What is wrong with that?

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: There is nothing wrong with that, honourable Member. However, when we talk about party politics, it does not have to be official.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Unofficially, the eastern caucus represents a party at the present time.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: It does not have to be official and as far as being involved with aboriginal rights I have been working with the honourable Members across the floor here for many years -- with Tagak Curley, with Nellie -- and I think I have a fairly good idea of what is going on, but I think that we should call a spade a spade in terms of what the actual reality of this House is.

Restricting An Impartial Commission

I think that I have a lot of respect for the honourable Members. I think they are doing a fine job in representing their constituents and they ought to be commended for that. However, I do not support the amendment, because it is trying to restrict and tell the impartial commission and making its own recommendations. These recommendations will end up back in this House, surely, and all the honourable Members will have an opportunity to make further amendments to their recommendations or changes and it may end up that we will all agree that it should remain at only 22. We may even agree that it maybe should be increased, for a number of reasons, to 23, 24, even 25. I disagree with my honourable colleague from Frobisher Bay. He, being a lawyer, should understand that when you set up commissions you do not tell the commission what it should recommend. You try to give it flexibility, to allow this commission to do its job and then come back with the recommendations. You do not have to agree with these recommendations. So, therefore, on those grounds, I think that I cannot support the amendment. There should be some flexibility. I will not question the honourable Member's motives for his amendment, but I certainly do know where I am coming from and where I would like to go. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Tologanak, to the amendment.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Well, Mr. Chairman, I was going to comment on the number of people from the East and the West. Mr. Wah-Shee did cover some of the argument, that this House does have the opportunity to take a look at the recommendations of the committee. Whether we agree that it should remain status quo or go to 23 or 24, and perhaps we should seek further directions from Ottawa -- maybe this House should be increased to 26 -- I think if this House wants to remain equal in both parts of the Territories, that we will ensure that is done when dealing with the recommendations of the electoral boundaries commission. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Patterson.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Consensus In Eighth Assembly

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really am concerned that the talk that is going on today about, "Well, we can fool around with the recommendations of the boundary commission when they come before this House again; do not worry about it now", is setting the commission up for a gigantic fall. I would say that anyone who listens to the debate that has gone on over the last two days and is asked to join this commission would be very discouraged, because the process that was taken by the Eighth Assembly -- and I do not hesitate for a minute, by the way, to commend them for the work they did in increasing the representation to this House; I probably would not be here if it had not been for that recommendation -- but the Eighth Assembly provided responsible advice, and objective advice, based on consensus from all the Members to the commission, and we do not have any consensus in this House. It is very obvious. There is nothing but division here, and positions are hardening, and it is growing worse. I am

saying one way around this is to at least agree that we will preserve the existing balance in this House, and I would challenge those who suggest that there is an imbalance, that the eastern Members, or the Nunavut party, or whatever labels are ascribed, are in the majority. I do not know where the majority arises. I am talking about preserving the existing number of seats in this House, Mr. Chairman, which I think is relevant to this motion. It has been suggested that increases are needed to redress a monopoly position held by Members from the East, and I would say I do not know where this majority arises. There are six of us from Baffin, there are two from Keewatin -- which is eight, and even if you add Ms Cournoyea and Mr. Tologanak, who live in an area...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment, Mr. Patterson.

MRS. SORENSEN: It is you who raised that issue, not the West.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...the most you get is 10, and that is not a majority. Mr. Chairman, much has been made today about the notion that an increased House will mean better representation, and I say that does not necessarily follow, that bigger is better. In fact, there may be distinct disadvantages to enlarging the size of this House. I say that we have an adequate balance now between the Executive Committee and the MLAs who are not Executive Members. I do not think a hard-working Executive Member would be unable to discharge the responsibilities of even more than one portfolio; I think Executive Members are doing that with great effect at the moment, and I do not see any justification for increasing the size of the Executive Committee, or indeed for increasing the size of this House.

No Hearings In Major Western Centres

I must say, Mr. Chairman, that this movement for increase is coming primarily from Members who are in the western part of the Northwest Territories, and I would really like to ask those Members where were they and where were their people when the last boundaries commission held its hearings? There were no hearings in any of the major centres of the Western Arctic, including this city, whose Members are now concerned about adding an extra seat. I know that the staff of the former boundaries commission went to the council of the city of Yellowknife, and said, "We would be more than glad to set up a public hearing here," and there was no interest. Neither was there any interest in Inuvik, Pine Point, Fort Smith, Hay River. Norman Wells was the only community that even...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment, Mr. Patterson. Not the main motion.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, the amendment, Mr. Chairman, is to restrict increases to the existing 22, so that the present balance exists, and the reason I am mentioning that there was no interest in the former boundaries commission is that it raises some doubts about where this movement for change is in fact coming from, and, indeed, I would suggest that if people from the western part of the Northwest Territories did not take advantage of the opportunity to make presentations when the last boundaries commission held its hearings, then now is not the time to complain. They had their chance. The fact that Members from the Eastern Arctic participated in ensuring that the boundaries that were established, when the House came to 22, reflected their special interests, should not be held against them now.

So I urge Members to support this amendment, and I also would respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that your opinion on the effect of my motion is just that. In fact, the words I have put in the amendment read that the boundary commission would "study the size of existing electoral districts ... to present its recommendations regarding any changes to the existing 22 electoral districts...."

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Which could be effected by adding one or more.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: "Changes to the existing 22", Mr. Chairman. That does not mean adding seats, and I think "changes to the existing 22 electoral districts" is plain on its face, and I would ask Members to support this...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Question.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...the logic that I have presented, to vote in favour of this amendment. I am not necessarily against expanding to 25 seats. What I am against is trying to rush it through in a busy time of year when it is obviously going to be impossible to have full and fair and objective consideration. I am saying the amendment presents a reasonable task, and I

think -- in answer to Mr. Wah-Shee, who says we are trying to prejudge the work of the commission, or tell the commission what it should do -- yes, this House must give some input to the commission. There was no committee established, as the Eighth Assembly did, and so we must give them at least some direction, and if this amendment is defeated, then there may be other ways in which we can remedy the alarming situation that has been presented to us...

AN HON. MEMBER: What alarming situation?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...but I would urge Members to support the amendment as it stands. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Mr. Sibbeston.

Territorial Government Not Recognized By Dene People

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I guess it is repeating oneself, but I think it is important to state your feelings. Nellie, I guess, has come forward with what I feel is a very emotional point of view, and I respect that, because obviously these are deep-felt feelings on behalf of her people. Likewise, when I am asking for 25 seats, I am talking on behalf of my constituents, who have very deep feelings of wanting to be better represented than they are now. Three or four years ago the Dene people, who are the majority in my constituency, did not recognize the territorial government; they did not attend that little mickey mouse boundaries commission that was floating around, because at the time they did not appreciate and did not want to recognize that the territorial government was in place. It was not their government. It has been the work of the people here in the last three or four years that have changed it around, and I say whereas it is necessary for some of the people to be on the executive level, it was necessary for people to be out in the constituency doing the work. The whole system of government works on some being at the top, but somebody has got to be down below doing the work, and I have done that, the last few years, and I say my constituency is too big...

---Applause

...and the people in Fort Providence, the Dene reserve in Hay River, want their own constituency, and if they do not get it, it could well be that they will not vote in the next territorial election.

It is just that there are many good people in my constituency who are now prepared to be involved with government. I can no longer say that I am the best man for the area, that I am the only man for the area, the area that I represent. There are other people, and they want to come up and be recognized and take part in government. So, if we are talking of an efficient, good government for the people of the North in the future, it will be more possible with 25, because this way there will be some people who will obviously have to move to Yellowknife to make decisions, but the more that are out in the communities and the constituencies, the better. We cannot all be in Yellowknife here making decisions, so the more people out there, the better.

Now Mr. Patterson in his argument says, "Well, there has been a nice balance made, you know, to date, and let us not disturb it." Well, I say let us get practically the same people that were on the last boundaries commission and let us ask them to do another good balancing act, and surely, just because it has been done once, it does not mean it cannot ever be done. Let us get Judge Tallis, let us get...

AN HON. MEMBER: Tapardjuk.

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes, Tapardjuk. Let us see the power of this Assembly, and I am sure Ted would not mind. Let us see if we can get the power...

MR. MacQUARRIE: And will you commit yourself ahead of time to accept the results? Will you do that?

MR. SIBBESTON: Let us see if we can revive Ted Trindell from the grave. How much power does this Assembly have?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Will you commit yourself ahead of time to accept the results, Mr. Sibbeston?

MR. SIBBESTON: You know, so I do believe that we can get a boundaries commission that can do as good a job as the last one.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say in closing on this, that, whereas I appreciate the feelings of people like Ms Cournoyea about her people, I too have very deep feelings about the people that I represent, and I must say that the history of government for and toward the Dene people has not been as good. The government has generally been much more generous, much more responsive, to the Inuit people.

MR. CURLEY: No way.

MR. SIBBESTON: I am talking about, now...

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

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

MR. CURLEY: I totally reject the Member's suggestion that the government has been more generous. He should understand, in the first place, that he rejected the government for 10 years.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: What is the point of order?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): No point of order there, Mr. Curley.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: You are out of order with your point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: My point is that if we do increase...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment.

MR. SIBBESTON: ...the number to 25, then it will be possible to have at least one more Dene person, and in turn that person can work to make this government better for native people, in our area, anyway. So I really urge people to vote against the present amendment, and vote to have 25 constituencies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment, Mr. Butters.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Question.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to speak and unnecessarily prolong what is an overlong debate already, and if I am out of order, maybe you could advise me but I am saddened by what I hear going on here. It is not a rational debate. It is a very emotional debate, and I am saddened by the suspicion that exists in this chamber with regard to the motives of other Members.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Balance Between Arctic Areas And Bush Lands A Major Consideration Of Earlier Committees

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I have not in the last three years felt this suspicion within these halls, and I think we are not doing ourselves or our constituents any good by continuing in this vein. I would like to hearken back, if I may, because I did chair the committee in the Eighth House, and I sat on the committee in the Seventh House when we established 15 seats. Yesterday, Mr. McCallum talked about three criteria, but one of the major considerations of the various committees I served on was to provide a balance between the Arctic areas and the bush lands. I can recall that in the First House we had 14 seats, and to ensure and provide that balance, the then Member for Frobisher Bay, Mr. Brian Pearson, made a special trip to Ottawa to convince Mr. Chrétien that the new House, the Eighth Assembly, should have 15 seats to provide that balance. Mr. Pearson's trip and initiative was supported by every Member of the House at that time. In the Eighth Assembly, too, we had a committee which looked at boundaries, and on that committee served Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Searle, Mr. Steen, myself and I think that we again used that major principle of balance, and we used it very well. We were aware that 25 seats were

being contemplated, and we recommended 22 -- and it was not, as Mr. Daniels said yesterday, a recommendation of the commission that the Belcher Islands be a constituency on its own, it was a recommendation from Mr. Evaluarjuk through the committee. But Mr. Daniels is correct that we did present to them a map of what we felt was a balance for full representation in this House, in the Ninth Assembly.

Committee Produced An Objective And Well-Reasoned Presentation

The honourable Member for Frobisher Bay wonders why Yellowknife was not asking for a hearing before the commission, or some other community -- the reason was the committee did its work -- I think it did its work fairly and adequately and objectively. I can recall Mr. Kilabuk appeared before the committee, Mr. Whitford appeared before the committee, Mr. Lyall -- admittedly, they were all making representations about their own constituencies, and about problems they saw, but those representations brought into place the Hudson Bay constituency. They brought into place, I believe, the Baffin South constituency, and they brought into place Keewatin North constituency. They also brought into place the Pine Point constituency, the Great Slave East constituency, and the Mackenzie Delta constituency, a balance between the Arctic and the bush lands. Yellowknife, too. We recognized that Yellowknife's desire and interest in obtaining a third seat was a valid one. Admittedly, we felt that possibly the Speaker would be chosen from the Yellowknife seat, which would leave them with two active representatives, in effect -- I am just saying that here was a group of Members who worked together in a committee to present to a commission a very objective and well-reasoned presentation, which the committee finally had only to change in a very minor respect. I suggest we can still do that.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

Mr. Drury's Suggestion To Set Up Commission

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I can suggest that we still have time to do that. My honourable colleague was just reminding me of the problem that arose during the last days of the Eighth House, when Mr. Drury advised us that we should not proceed as the Seventh House had done and just recommend our own constituencies and put them into legislation, but that we should establish a commission. Therefore there was a time factor that we had to deal with. We had to recognize that Mr. Drury's suggestion was a proper one, and we did move to refer the matter to a boundaries commission. I feel that the work of that commission was well and ably done. I think that the work of the committee on which I served as a Member was also well and ably done, so I suggest that the formula used in the Eighth House would still apply here, and I have no suspicion about other Members' motives. I felt the contributions that were made, were made in the best interests of the total Territories.

MR. CURLEY: Then let us stick with it.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I feel that that is what you are saying now...

MR. CURLEY: Let us stick with it.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: ...and I think that we are not asking that there would be an imbalance, we are asking for a committee to look at this matter of enlarging the House and ensuring that representation occurs in the 10th Assembly, as has been permitted and is permissible in this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The committee will come to order. To the amendment. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I cannot understand, first of all, why the Member is trying to make an amendment to a motion when in effect this amendment is not going to change the motion anyway. I think it is just a frivolous attempt to change the intent of the motion, which has failed...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: That is debatable.

MRS. SORENSEN: Filibuster. Filibuster.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...and I think Members should really consider that what we are trying to do here as an Assembly is to set up, for the next election, constituencies that can better represent the people of the Northwest Territories. If the boundaries commission feels that that should be done by expanding the number of seats in this House, then so be it, but let us let this neutral boundaries commission make the decision, and let this neutral boundaries commission make recommendations to us after they have heard what the public have to say on this important matter. It is not right that Members should try to prevent the boundaries commission from making a decision to do the best thing for the Northwest Territories, and Members who are making this amendment are attempting to keep things as they are for their own benefit, or even if they are not they appear to be, and that is not right. The boundaries commission should make the change, not the Members in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Further Motion To Amend Motion 7-82(3), Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Question being called. All in favour of the amendment? Opposed? The amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

To the motion, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, there is a little matter that I would like to clear up, and it concerns a statement that was on CBC this morning regarding the fact that I would be faced with a dilemma regarding a...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Patterson, point of order.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, there are provisions in the rules for contradicting press statements made in error. The Member rises on a point of privilege in formal session, I believe, and I would suggest this is not the place for that purpose.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): You are correct, Mr. Patterson.

MRS. SORENSEN: The Member is anticipating that I am going to criticize CBC. That is not...

---Laughter

...necessarily the case. I am merely expanding upon my comments yesterday with respect to...

MR. CURLEY: To the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, sir. In any case, it was stated that I would be faced with a dilemma regarding a redistribution, and possible changes of boundaries which could place me in another constituency with a whole new set of voters, and, Mr. Chairman, while that may be true, I certainly do take exception to the inference that I might vote against this motion on that basis. I think to vote against a motion which might give northerners better representation -- as is the case with respect to the Member for Central Arctic requesting better representation for his people,

and the Member for Mackenzie Liard is requesting -- to vote against that for personal reasons would be a very frivolous thing for the MLA for Yellowknife South to do, and that is certainly not what I am about at all. So I am concerned that CBC has left the wrong impression with my constituents.

Now, what I did say yesterday, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the redistribution and the possibility of three more seats, is that I am, as a Member for Yellowknife, not naive enough to think that this expansion could mean another seat for Yellowknife. Also, contrary to the comments made by the honourable Member for the Western Arctic, where she said it probably will mean more representation from Yellowknife -- I do not feel that. Mostly because even if the commission recommends that, we do -- and we determined this yesterday -- as a Legislature, have the opportunity to overturn, to reject or to amend any recommendations that this impartial body could make, and if a fourth seat was recommended for Yellowknife, I have the feeling -- it is nothing I know for sure, but I have the feeling -- that certain Members even from the West who are now supporting and using that as a basis to gain my support for this motion, will probably vote against that recommendation for Yellowknife. So I am not under any illusions that it automatically means another seat for Yellowknife, and I would like my constituents to know that. I guess, in the final analysis, we will not know that until we accept the report of the boundaries commission and debate it.

Not An Issue Between East And West

Mr. Chairman, there were other significant comments made that I would like to respond to during this debate. I really do believe that the issue is not an issue between the East or the West...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: ...and I agree with Mr. Butters that the debate that has taken place is somewhat shameful. The reason that this has come onto the floor is because Mr. Tologanak's constituents -- and I have heard them personally -- have requested more representation. The reason that this has come onto the floor is that the constituents that live in Mr. Sibbeston's riding have requested it. I sat next to one at the constitutional conference who said to me, "You are going to vote in favour of an expansion of the seats." It was Mr. Bonnetrouge who is the chief there, I believe, and who is very concerned about the need for more representation for Providence in particular. So this comes from not only an Inuit community -- a set of communities, an Inuit riding -- which is clearly not the West, yet; it is aligned with Nunavut -- and a native dominated community, and contrary to what Mr. Patterson pointed out earlier, this request has not come from Yellowknife. I have had no formal requests from my constituents for a fourth seat in Yellowknife. I realize that the mayor might be interested in having a fourth seat, and I have heard the mayor say that he would like to see a fourth seat. I have heard Mr. McLaughlin say that he would like to see a fourth seat in Yellowknife...

MR. CURLEY: You said it sometime last year. What did you say?

MRS. SORENSEN: ...but I have not had representations that would convince me that Yellowknifers are determined that they wish to have a fourth seat. Now that is not to say that if there were a boundaries commission and there were to be a public hearing in Yellowknife that they would not say, "Yes, we would like a fourth seat, or a fifth seat, or a sixth seat", and perhaps that is what the honourable Member for the Western Arctic is referring to, that perhaps when they make their case based on representation by population...

MR. CURLEY: What about me? What about Nellie Cournoyea? How about Nick Sibbeston?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): You are next to speak, Mr. Curley.

MR. MacQuarrie: And that means not now. Very good, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: ...perhaps then the citizens of Yellowknife will be able to convince the boundaries commission that they should have all of the three seats. That is something that we cannot dictate, because we expect that a boundaries commission will be impartial and will take what the citizens request and turn it into their own recommendation. So I sympathize with the suspicion and the fear that Ms Cournoyea has, but I think that...

MR. CURLEY: Truly sympathize!

MRS. SORENSEN: ...for the most part, while she may have a valid point, that it probably will not happen anyway. The comment was made that we are "attempting to rush this through", Mr. Chairman. Well, I said yesterday -- and I will repeat again today -- that it is the eastern Members that have constantly put this issue off in caucus, saying that there was "lots of time, plenty of time, we will do it next session"...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: We said we were opposed.

MRS. SORENSEN: No, no. Oh, no. I was there every time, and I have a mind like an elephant. I remember.

MR. CURLEY: I am sick and tired of that lady interpreting our position.

MRS. SORENSEN: Finally, we have decided that the time is now, and we are hearing that there is no time left, from those same Members who said we had lots of time...

MR. CURLEY: We never did.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...as late as the last session in Inuvik. There is one other point, and that is that -- and I believe Mr. Tologanak addressed it, and he did well, but I would like to re-emphasize the fact that in a redistribution, simply moving a boundary to make Mr. Tologanak's region or constituency smaller is not going to address that situation because it will make another constituency larger, and the people will still have the same complaints, that of an area that is too large for one MLA to represent.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Good point.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Your first one since the Liberal convention started.

Opportunity To Debate Recommendations Of Commission

MRS. SORENSEN: Well, I will let it rest there, except that I do have one question, and that concerns how binding the recommendations of a commission are -- should it be formed. We say, in the second part of the motion: "And further that the Executive Committee be requested to introduce legislation during the winter session 1983, to implement the recommendations of the electoral boundaries commission." Mr. Chairman, does that not imply that if we pass this motion the recommendations will have to be adhered to as they are presented to us by the Executive Committee, and we will not have the opportunity to debate them and amend or reject them?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Sure does.

MRS. SORENSEN: I am helping you, actually.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Do you not always?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Was that a question to the Chair?

MRS. SORENSEN: I am sorry. Do you wish me to repeat? The second part to the motion says that the Executive Committee should be requested to introduce legislation during the winter session 1983, to implement the recommendations of the electoral boundaries commission. Does that mean that this Legislature will not have the opportunity to amend, reject, or accept the recommendations -- that they must clearly be accepted and sent to the Executive Committee for implementation -- well, for the writing of the legislation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Braden, do you wish to answer that?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, just like any other bill that is before this House, it goes through notice of motion, first reading, second reading, you debate the principle, it goes into committee of the whole, there is debate there, third reading, and then assent -- and it would go, presumably, before MacQuarrie's standing committee on legislation. So I would assume that there would be opportunity to debate the bill on electoral boundaries, just as there is opportunity to debate issues surrounding any other bill.

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

Further Motion To Amend Motion 7-82(3)

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make an amendment. It is beginning at the "now therefore" clause, at the fifth line, after the word "districts", to add the words, "taking into account means of ensuring a favourable balance of seats between the eastern and western parts of the Northwest Territories".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Can we have a copy of it, please? The amendment is in order. To the amendment.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Will you reread it, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Clerk.

CLERK ASSISTANT (Mr. Hamilton): The amendment is to add, in the "now therefore" clause, line five, after the word "districts", the following words: "taking into account means of ensuring a favourable balance of seats between the eastern and western parts of the Northwest Territories." It would continue with, "and to present its recommendations...."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I have been assured from many people who have spoken today that it is not the intention to show the issue of bringing a fair and equitable representation into this Assembly. I spoke earlier about my concerns, about the probability of a boundaries commission redistribution that would be favourable to this region, and I have been assured on many occasions that this is not the intent. The amendment presents to this committee that there will be issues that we would have to deal with in regard to redistribution, and those issues are the issues of population between the East and the West and I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that in this new redistribution and this boundaries commission, if the boundaries commission is indeed set up that we will find a very renewed interest, primarily from the southern Mackenzie region, to allow an equal representation according to population. I do not think that any of us here could predetermine what our constituents will be saying in terms of where they want that distribution to be.

Decision Will Be Made By Constituents

At the beginning of the debate, it seems that we were told that this was a fairly broad mandate to form a boundaries commission. Now, it seems to me much of the concern that arises from the interior has always been because of their remoteness and because of the various regional interests. In any redistribution, population is a primary concern. Representation at the boundaries commission hearings will determine to a great factor what the commission will decide, and I can assure every Member here that in the time that we have we will have a difficult time telling the communities that they must appear to restate, or make new submissions, to such a commission -- in the time that we have. So therefore, I believe that the pressure is going to be insurmountable for this commission. There will be a lot of submissions from areas that did not make a delivery of their issues from their communities. We will be hearing from areas where the population is larger, where people are more sophisticated, and there will be issues relating to many of the things that have been brought up in this Legislative Assembly. There will be a desire on the part of many people who do not feel that they in the West -- and primarily in the southern Mackenzie, do not feel that they have been able to get their point across, vis-a-vis things like division, etc. So therefore, a commission will have a very difficult task at this time. Each one of us can be -- or purport to be -- very honourable in our intentions. However, the decision is going to be made by people in the constituency -- out in the areas of the communities, the towns, the groups, and the representative people who feel that perhaps the whole distribution of the Northwest Territories has not really adhered to the population.

I believe it is important in these changing times that there is a commonality of interests that is addressed and I believe that at the last commission there was not such a high profile of that commission, but at this time, because of the work of the people who are here and the ability to draw attention to a Legislative Assembly -- that has a great number of native people on it -- has given the whole process credibility. Now that it has a degree of credibility, many people will want to be involved, which is good. However, in making representation, if I were a commission,

I would have to listen to the strongest group who presents the best argument and I am not at all sure that the interests of the interior will be as loud and clear as the groups of people now who have renewed interest in finding a way to get what they see as a lack of good representation from the more heavily populated areas.

In my comments, I do not mean to put anyone down or discredit their reason for being. However, I believe that the Eastern Arctic people and Members here have allowed the credibility to be built for this Legislative Assembly and I know they do not have the population, perhaps, to maintain the number of representatives that they have and I believe there will be many questions asked and many suggestions coming forward and saying let us set this up, that we serve the greatest number of people.

I would like to talk away from the amendment; however, I would only be repeating myself in the grave concern that I have that the past Legislative Assembly's decisions were not as high profile as they are now and given that high profile, any kind of gains that the interior has been able to make -- this will be challenged. I certainly feel that if you are at all sincere, the amendment will not be difficult to support. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Mr. Curley.

NWT Is Overgoverned

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I fully support the amendment. I think that would ensure that not only the urban centres with larger populations would get immediate attention, whereas in the past that has always been the practice. I was actually surprised that some of the communities, like Pine Point, for instance, would have one Member to a place -- one urban community -- and Hay River, for instance -- when, in fact, they could have possibly included other communities surrounding that area.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I have one -- Buffalo Camp.

MR. CURLEY: You know, not only Pine Point, but other major centres, because communications I think is the key to a Member's ability to represent them. The larger ridings in the past have never complained before about not having adequate representation. So I think this amendment, if it is passed, would ensure that the commission -- may even want to look at reducing or expanding present ridings, even in my own area. Maybe Keewatin ought to have one representative. If that were to be the recommendation, I do not think I would quarrel with that. What I am trying to say is, you know, maybe this government is overrepresented. In terms of population, I think per capita -- comparing other provinces to the federal-territorial, I think NWT is actually overgoverned. We have a huge civil service in the regions.

MRS. SORENSEN: Dave Searle would agree with that.

MR. SIBBESTON: Particularly in the East. Particularly in the East.

MR. CURLEY: Lynda would agree with that, I would think...

MRS. SORENSEN: No, Dave Searle agrees with that.

MR. CURLEY: ...if he was really to state whether or not, in fact, this government is overrepresented in terms of a per capita basis.

MRS. SORENSEN: Certainly not in Yellowknife, per capita.

MR. CURLEY: I think the real intent of this thing is to undermine the case for -- again, I want to state this -- case for division of the Territories, the movement toward that. We are hoping, maybe, somehow, one way or the other, the next Assembly would tilt completely the opposite direction, like we did to the Eighth Assembly, because...

MRS. SORENSEN: That is politics.

MR. CURLEY: ...the supporter of the motion from Yellowknife South is a declared opponent of the principles that this Assembly has for its case for division of the Territories. She goes down to Ottawa and pretends that all is well...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: To the motion.

MR. CURLEY: ...that things are going well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment.

MR. CURLEY: What we are really trying to do is, to oppose these kinds of safeguards that we want to include in this amendment -- to oppose it would mean that there must be other motives, really, for creating this boundary commission. I am going to urge everyone to support the amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Eastern Arctic Adequately Represented In The House

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I will not support the amendment. At the present time we are one territory. As you know, we did have a plebiscite and I believe the federal government will present their decision on this very important aspiration of the Territories after Christmas. However, my feeling is that if you want to talk about representation by population, I think that the eastern communities are overrepresented at this time, anyway, if you look at the population in terms of statistics, from the western communities.

In regard to division, I do not think that is part of our motive, even though the honourable Member for Keewatin South would like to assume such. I think that at the same time we should also talk about the motives of the eastern communities -- that they would like to maintain the status quo, because they control this House quite well...

MR. CURLEY: Not the Executive Committee. That is where it counts.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: ...and I think that -- I think you had the opportunity to talk, Tagak, so why not give somebody an opportunity to express their...

MR. CURLEY: Who controls the Executive Committee?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Order, Mr. Curley. Mr. Wah-Shee, go ahead.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: ...comments in regard to the amendment? So, I think that the time has really come to look at the present representation, to do a review. I do not think that the Eastern Arctic should be frightened by the prospect. I think that it is about time that a review should be done, with the participation of as many people as possible and it could be done within the time frame of three months, which is sufficient time, as far as I am concerned, for recommendations to be made to this House. So, therefore, I cannot see myself supporting this amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the amendment actually is attempting to narrowly define what already is a broad mandate to the electoral boundaries commission in section 13, which says: "In recommending the boundaries of any electoral district, the commission shall take into consideration a) geographic and demographic considerations, including in particular, the sparsity, density or relative rate of growth of population of any region of the Territories, the accessibility of any such region, and the size or shape thereof; b) any special community or diversity of interests of the inhabitants of various regions of the Territories; c) the means of communication between various parts of the Territories; and all other similar relevant factors." So to support such an amendment would be to narrowly define what is already a broad, general mandate, which includes that particular consideration, but it should not be a paramount consideration as a direction to the committee, so I oppose the amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Mr. Patterson.

Electoral District Boundaries Commission Ordinance Is Obsolete

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, before I speak to the amendment, I would like to ask a question of clarification of the Law Clerk. The ordinance that Mr. McLaughlin quoted from, the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Ordinance. I would like to know, is it now in force, or was it not passed for the last boundaries commission and is now ancient history?

LAW CLERK (Mr. Fuglsang): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my view that the ordinance referred to was a one-time ordinance designed for the establishment of that particular commission, and having been accomplished is now a nullity as an ordinance. It has no significance at all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Patterson, to the amendment.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that point now reduces Mr. McLaughlin's argument considerably. In fact, there are no standards now which can ensure that a boundaries commission would follow the principle of balance, and I am told -- various Members say that the question of balance goes without saying, and that the commission will operate that way. I think all Members agree that this is desirable, so I am really quite astonished to hear indications of a lack of support for this non-controversial motion. I really would implore Members to seize this opportunity, at least here to express some consensus on this issue. I think if we continue to divide down the middle in this House in advising a boundaries commission that may well be established, we are going to be giving them an impossible job; we are going to set them up for interference with their final report. I would like to see -- at least at this stage, in this House -- some agreement on at least fundamental principles.

Now, we clearly cannot agree on the number of seats. My amendment was defeated on that, and I accept that in good faith. Surely, however, we can agree on the principle of balance, and I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that we have heard complaints from Mr. Sibbeston that his riding is too large, but I would also like to point out that there are many other constituencies in this territory that might well present equally compelling arguments to those of Mr. Sibbeston. I would suggest his riding has certain advantages: he can drive to Fort Providence; he can charter small planes at a relatively small cost; Mr. Sibbeston can go home to Fort Simpson on the weekend; and I would respectfully suggest to the honourable Member from Rae-Lac la Martre that if Mr. Appaqaq represents a small number of people, he also is faced with considerable obstacles in representing those people. It sometimes takes Mr. Appaqaq almost a week to get home. He does not have the advantages Mr. Sibbeston has. Mr. Pudluk has, in his constituency -- in case Members think that it is easy to represent ridings in the High Arctic -- 10 communities. The only way he can get around is by chartering a twin-engine aircraft. I am in the same situation in Frobisher Bay. It cost me \$2500 to go to an outpost camp at the foot of Frobisher Bay.

Principle Of Equity Between East And West Should Be Preserved

I think that it is very easy to suggest that the eastern Members have all the advantages and have control of the House, and that therefore we should not accept the principle of balance. I am really concerned that what we are dealing with is a movement that has arisen between western Members, and I am now beginning to wonder whether in fact the best motives are not quite as they seem. I would like to prevail on those Members, Mr. Chairman, to at least recognize that we have taken a major constitutional step in the Northwest Territories in recent months, and this House by a nearly unanimous motion has recommended that the Territories should divide. I think it is not at all unseemly that we should ask that the principle of balance between the East and the West be preserved, and quite frankly I do not see how any Members can vote against this motion unless they really do believe that what is behind this motion is to unbalance the balance that currently exists.

I would also like to observe, Mr. Chairman, that we do not have a report of a committee composed of representation from all interested parties in this House. We do not have any guidance to offer this commission, and this amendment at least proposes a principle of equity that I would sincerely hope all Members can support, because I am beginning to think that if there is a total lack of consensus on this issue of the boundaries commission, that the boundaries commission is doomed to failure, and that the divisiveness that is -- I am afraid I agree with the honourable Member from Inuvik, that it is increasing, and is sadly present in this House -- will haunt us over the next two sessions in our last mandate. I think we have achieved a remarkable degree of consensus on many issues in this Assembly, and I would hate to see us break into armed camps on this particular issue.

I think Ms Cournoyea's amendment is reasonable. It in no way attacks the notion of establishing a boundaries commission. It simply says if a commission is to be established, the principle of balance between East and West should be preserved. I am quite frankly concerned that the impossible -- what I consider to be impossible -- time limits imposed on this commission will severely handicap that commission and will impair its ability to be effective. I would be satisfied if the commission is to go ahead if I thought that there was at least some guarantee

that the principles of equity could be preserved. So I am delighted to see my colleague from Kitikmeot agreeing, because I think we had better darned well agree on something in this debate, or the whole exercise is doomed to failure. If I do not see some co-operation from Members who are initiating this motion, I fear that we are going to have a tooth-and-nail drag-out battle on this whole business, beginning with the introduction of the commission's report and the legislation, and we are going to be rent asunder by the negative feelings that are being expressed here. So I appeal to Members to at least accept what I think is an eminently sensible amendment, which will calm certainly my concerns about this initiative, and establish a principle that I think we can all agree should go without saying, and was adopted in the legislation that was before the House in the last session, but there is not even any such legislation to reassure us in supporting this motion.

So I really implore Members from the other side, particularly, to at least yield to the principle of equity. I would remind Members that although this debate may be unduly long, the people of the Northwest Territories are listening to us, and I believe that the public interest is intimately wrapped up in these discussions. I think it is a very delicate subject, and I think if we now defeat an amendment which is aimed at preserving balance between the East and the West in the Northwest Territories, then the public is really going to have to question the motives of those who are initiating this commission. I am sure their motives are nobler than some have suggested, and I am anxious to see the proof demonstrated in support from the other side for this innocuous amendment, but important. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Patterson, thank you. To the amendment, Mr. Wah-Shee.

Boundary Between East And West Not Established

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I think, in terms of motives it has to be interpreted, I suppose, from where you are coming from. I think that one of the reasons why I find it very difficult to support this amendment is that it makes reference to the East and West. As far as I know -- I do not know where the East ends, and I do not know where the West ends.

MRS. SORENSEN: Right on, right on!

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: So if you want to talk about boundaries between Nunavut and the Denendeh, I am sure that we can find other forms to have that negotiated -- between the aboriginal groups that are negotiating with aboriginal claims -- and that is in reference to the amendment. I find it rather intriguing to listen to my colleague for Frobisher Bay questioning the motives of the MLAs from the West. I also have that same problem in terms of motives from the East. Of course Tagak Curley knows where he is coming from, he comes from the East, that is Keewatin. I would also like to tell him that I come from Rae-Lac la Martre, that is -- far interior of the West, and so at least we know where we are coming from. I would hope that we can resolve this very contentious debate on the amendment and the original motion in a friendly atmosphere, so we can leave as friends at the end of this -- today, anyway.

What I find, Mr. Chairman, rather intriguing is that when there is a motion that Tagak Curley or some of his colleagues from the East would like, they call "question" right away, and they force a vote. However, when we want something from the West, we find that...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment, Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, to the amendment, Mr. Chairman -- is that it has to drag on for two days, and for all I know -- I think they might want to drag it on until Saturday. That is the feedback I am getting, Mr. Chairman.

MRS. SORENSEN: That is what a filibuster is all about.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I think it is a very good tactic.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, it is an important subject.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Of course it is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment.

MR. CURLEY: What did he say? What did he say?

AN HON. MEMBER: "Of course it is."

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Of course it is, yes.

MR. CURLEY: Garbage.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, I agree, it is a very important topic, and we should give it all the due consideration that we should, but at some point in time I think we are going to have to vote on it. I would hope we can.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Okay, I will ask the Clerk to read the amendment over, for information.

CLERK ASSISTANT (Mr. Hamilton): The amendment is in line five of the "now therefore" clause, and would add after the word "districts" the following words: "taking into account means of ensuring a favourable balance of seats between the eastern and western parts of the Northwest Territories," and would continue as in the motion, "and to present its recommendations...."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, I just wanted to get it affirmed. I would just like to ask the -- seeing that I have the mike, I would just like to ask the mover of the amendment what does the word "favourable" mean? Would not "a balance of seats" be just as adequate in describing what is required here? "Favourable" suggests favour, some part is favoured. Well, I think we do not wish to favour any part, we wish to balance the parts.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Good point. Hear, Hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: "Balance" meaning equality?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: "Balance" meaning the situation that has prevailed in setting up constituencies over the past 10 years, a balance between the Arctic and the subarctic areas, to ensure that representation is assured both areas equally and adequately.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): There is an amendment on the floor. To the amendment, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to try to explain what I mean by "balance" -- and I agree with Mr. Butters that the adjective "favourable" probably does not help and is likely not necessary -- and I would agree that the mover of the amendment might wish to consider withdrawing that particular word.

Creation Of New Ridings Would Cause Imbalance

There has been talk, Mr. Chairman, about a new seat in Mr. Sibbeston's constituency. There has been talk about a new seat in Yellowknife. There has been talk about a new seat in the Central Arctic. Now, let me suppose that that is what is recommended. As I see it, two seats would be clearly added in the western part of the Northwest Territories, in the Mackenzie Liard area and in the Yellowknife area, and there would be one seat in the eastern part of the Northwest Territories, beyond the tree line. I do not think that is balanced -- and that is what I mean, I do not think that is fair. I think it tampers with the balance that has been carefully worked out by a commission that I think all Members would agree did a thorough job.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Okay, one and a half seats each. A couple of half-assed Members we got.

MRS. SORENSEN: You already have that.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I think that that is what we are hearing, is that there should be a seat in Yellowknife, a seat in Mackenzie Liard, and another one in the Central Arctic. I do not know whether the commission is going to recommend that, but I think if the commission does recommend that, it will clearly tip the balance that already exists. I would say again, Mr. Chairman, that I do not know where this notion of a majority beyond the tree line occurs. My best calculations are we have 10. The fact that sometimes we are able to work together and agree on issues, and even find a few sympathetic Members on this side is a testament to our organization or lobbying ability, but it certainly does not mean we dominate this House in numbers. In fact

I would say the contrary; that indeed the western part of the Northwest Territories is well represented, and perhaps that should be so in that they have a larger population but I do say that whatever we have now is working fairly, and we should not tamper with that principle, and creating two new western seats and one seat in Kitikmeot would be an imbalance, if there is not one already. So I would just like to clarify to Members that this is what I am thinking of when I support this amendment, and I really sincerely hope that there is some kind of an agreement from the other side.

Now, I recognize that there are charges that this debate is being prolonged unnecessarily -- by perhaps myself and others -- and that there may be some anger on the part of Members from the other side, but I do think that we ought to try to achieve consensus, try manfully to achieve consensus, or the whole process of redistribution is going to really be seriously threatened. I think this is one principle that we can agree on, and we may be able to agree on a few more, and if I believe some safeguards are built into this process, I will reluctantly accede to the need to increase the seats. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Mr. Curley.

An Issue Of Major Political Importance

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to comment further, really because this is a major issue -- one that is not a routine motion, like any other ones that normally go through the House and which really never make any significant impact to the public -- the ones that we deal with through the House presented by regular Members -- because they are normally just a recommendation to the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee, as far as I am concerned, is the one where the decisions and balance of power really lies. Sure, I had the opportunity, but I did not and I still do not want to be a Member of the Executive Committee. My role, I think, is more effective in being an ordinary Member and I do not aspire to be an Executive Member and I will never be an Executive Member of this government. Sure -- mark that word. If the Member for Rae-Lac la Martre...

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

MR. CURLEY: Yes, to the motion. He indicated to us that we are the ones that are causing difficulties here, but I say this issue is of major importance with regard to the political development of the NWT and the Minister responsible for political development and constitutional development -- surely he should not have to take these kinds of motions lightly, because it is going to be very much of a major concern to the people of the NWT and to assume that the commission can do its work in less than two months is really absurd. This motion is calling for any changes and recommendations to be presented before the next session of the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): We are on the amendment now, Mr. Curley, and the balance of seats. To the amendment. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question, through you, to the Leader of the Elected Executive Committee. A reference was made earlier by Mr. Patterson that the existing ordinance in the books on the electoral boundaries commission is no longer in effect. I had quoted that the description of the boundaries commission mandate would include more far-reaching objectives, in fairness, than what this amendment is doing. I think the amendment would restrict -- I would like to put the question through you, Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Braden, as to what the Executive Committee would do in the way of legislation if a motion passes in this committee of the whole and then passes in formal session to appoint a boundaries commission? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Braden, you really do not have to answer that question. Okay, go ahead.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I do not want to pre-judge further consideration of the options by our legal counsel and the Members of the Executive, but it would seem that we would take the existing ordinance and there would presumably have to be one particular change, anyway, to section 19, which deals with the disposition of the report. A change would have to be made there to reflect the wishes of this House and I suppose the one other very significant area has to do with section 13, which deals with the factors, if I can call them that -- that any electoral boundaries commission would take into consideration in their deliberations and development and presentation of their recommendations. So, that would appear, just off the top of my head, Mr. Chairman, to be one of the major options for the government to consider in establishing the statutory or legal base for an electoral boundaries commission.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Further Motion To Amend Motion 7-82(3), Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): All those in favour? Opposed? Abstentions? It is a tie vote. What is the wish of the committee? I vote. I oppose.

---Applause

The amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Curley.

Further Motion To Amend Motion 7-82(3)

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I certainly accept that the commission should conduct its public hearings throughout the Territories and if that is going to be the case, that we should give them an assignment to present its report and hold public hearings -- certainly not less than three months. So I would, therefore, move an amendment on the resolution part, on the fifth line, right after the word "changes" -- between "changes" and "before" I would add "not less than three months after the commission's appointment" and I would add the word, "further" after the word "appointment" after the amendment that I am proposing and include the words "and before the next" -- another amendment would be right after "next" -- "fall session of the Assembly".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The amendment is in order, and I will let the Clerk read it.

CLERK ASSISTANT (Mr. Hamilton): The amendment is to add in line five, after the words "regarding any changes" to add the following words: "not less than three months after the commission's appointment" and would continue "and before the next fall" -- adding the word "fall" -- "session of the Assembly".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to state that I do not believe that the commission would be appointed during this session, and we have only about two weeks left before the month of November is gone, and we likely will not be enacting the legislation by next Friday, because we have not introduced the first reading, second or third reading, of that bill. So if we look at how many days left there are in the month of December, I would say anybody -- whether active or not -- would probably only be able to do about two weeks of December work, travelling or doing actual inquiry into the electoral districts. Even if we were to say that there were 25 working days out of December and there are only 31 days in January -- there are only 56 days left before the next session, if we are looking at about February 2nd, or the first week of February for next session. Now the Members from the other side are trying to convince us that they can do the work in three months but if they are going to do the work and present the report before the next session of the Assembly, you are really asking them to do the work in one month. So if this amendment is not supported, surely there are other reasons than just setting up a boundary and trying to correct the present boundaries.

So I would urge everyone to support it, because if the commission has done its work -- okay, supposing they do the work in three months. That would lead us up to about the middle of March, maybe the end of March, if they are actually going to be playing around with establishing their budgets and so on. Give them a few weeks before they can actually begin. So that takes us to the end of March. So if we want to have a good look at the recommendations of the boundaries commission, surely we can do that sometime in the spring or summer. Maybe the caucus can have a special session, or we may want to call a special session to consider the recommendations. So I would think that changes can be put into legislation for the electoral boundaries by the fall session of 1983. I did not touch that, because even though the last part of the resolution

states that we should introduce legislation during the winter session, I believe that that particular part may be amended, so that it is consistent with what we are trying to do. So I am urging everyone to support this amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Mr. Patterson.

MRS. SORENSEN: Filibuster.

Working Time Of 1978 Commission

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: If you do not want to listen to me, Mrs. Sorensen, I think that people do, and there is a public interest involved, and I am going to insist on my right to speak. The rules permit it, and I am very concerned about the issue of time, Mr. Chairman. I want to mention that I have learned, since Mr. Daniels appeared yesterday, that although he told us that the commission held its first meeting, I believe, in June 8, 1978, and completed its work on September 30, 1978, I learned from him after the session that in fact prior to their first meeting Mr. Daniels had already been actively working as secretary of the commission, preparing materials to be sent out to the communities, planning just how to distribute the notices of the...

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Point of order, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, my point of order, Mr. Chairman, is that the ordinary rules of debate alternate arguments, in fairness, between those in favour of something and those opposed. No one, to my knowledge, has spoken against the proposed amendment, and therefore I feel it would be unfair for you to recognize a speaker who is obviously a second speaker in favour of the amendment. If there is no one who wishes to challenge, I think the proper procedure is to close debate...

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...and hold the question. Otherwise, you see, Mr. Chairman, this committee could stay from now until Christmas by only relays of people on one side of an argument continuing to make argument about it. You can correct us if you want to.

MRS. SORENSEN: Filibusters do not work in consensus government.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I have something to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. MacQuarrie, there is no rule under your point of order, as we are debating under Rule 69 of the committee of the whole. To the amendment.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order. Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Go ahead, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I recognized there is no specific rule in our own rule book, but I think the tradition of the House is to refer to other debate books, Beauchesne's and so on, that talk about parliamentary procedure. Could I ask whether those authorities were considered in making that judgment, Mr. Chairman?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Get out the black book, Binx.

MRS. SORENSEN: Earn you money, Binx.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Okay. The Chair will take five minutes to discuss Mr. MacQuarrie's point of order.

---SHORT RECESS

Chairman's Ruling

The committee will come back to order. The proceedings in this Assembly are conducted in accordance to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly. Where the rules are silent, the chairman or Speaker is directed to make any ruling based on the usages and precedents of this Assembly. Rule 69 lays out the rules of debate in committee of the whole. This Assembly has not adopted any of the curtailment rules of larger legislatures. In rule or in practice these include closing time allocations and selection of amendments. Under subrule 69(5) a Member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion and, therefore, I rule that the Member, Mr. Patterson, is in order. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move, under Rule 7, that this committee continue meeting beyond 6:00 o'clock, to conclude all the debate regarding Motion 7-82(3).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Your motion is in order. To the motion. All in favour of the motion? Keep your hands up, please. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

To the amendment. Mr. Patterson.

An Issue Of Time

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will thank you for allowing me the right to speak on this important matter. I was talking about the issue of time, which this amendment addresses, Mr. Chairman, and I really am very frankly worried that we simply do not have enough time to do this work. I would like to just note what Mr. Daniels said before this House yesterday, that the chairman had made significant time available to the commission. Mr. Daniels said that he cleared his calendar, if you will, of other activities so that he was virtually available for most of the time.

Now I note that under the previous ordinance setting up a boundaries commission the chairman was a judge and I really wonder whether the current supreme court judge of the Northwest Territories is going to be able, on short notice, to clear his calendar in November, December and January, to suddenly become available to this commission. I also would note, Mr. Chairman, that there is time necessary for organizing the commission. There is time required to identify persons who can serve on the commission and appoint them. There is also time required to hire staff. Mr. Daniels said there was a full-time recording secretary at the last commission, in addition to the executive secretary, and he also told me outside this House that prior to the first meeting of the commission Mr. Daniels had worked for the better part of a month in preparing for the first meeting -- that is, arranging for the materials that would be sent out to the communities and arranging for the notices of public hearings that are required. I would remind Members that notices are required not only in English, but in Inuktitut and in the Dene languages and I think we should follow the thorough example of the last commission, if the commission is to be set up, where oral tapes were made in the various -- at least in Slavey, I believe Mr. Daniels said -- so that people are aware of the hearings.

I am really quite frankly concerned, Mr. Chairman, that if we allow time for all these things the commission is going to end up with no time to travel and I can assure the commission, if it is established, from the degree of interest in this subject expressed by all Members in this House, that there will be requests from all quarters for public hearings. I do not think the Eastern Arctic is again going to be disinterested in this subject and I am really quite frankly concerned, Mr. Chairman, that if we do not accept this amendment and we insist on requiring the commission to report prior to the next session, which is, I understand, set for early February -- well, the motion says prior to the next session, if it is not amended. It says, "regarding any changes before the next session of this Assembly". Now that, to my mind, means before the end of January or before the second of February, which is the date, I believe, that is being planned for the next session. It says "before the next session of the Assembly".

AN HON. MEMBER: Before the end.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, before the session means before the session to my mind, Mr. Chairman.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Point of order. Point of order.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Just like witnesses appear before this Assembly, I intended that the recommendations -- should present its recommendations before the Assembly.

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSEN: You are really on the ball.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Mr. Patterson.

Prolonging The Life Of Ninth Assembly

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The rules are certainly expanding as far as points of order are concerned, Mr. Chairman. At any rate, as I read the motion, without this amendment there is going to be a lot of pressure on this commission and I am convinced that when they are asked to go to Pond Inlet or when they are asked to go to Lake Harbour or when they are asked to go to Sanikiluaq, as I am sure they might well be asked, with these kinds of time constraints, the public is going to be told, "We are operating under difficult time frames, so we will only be able to meet in the major centres." So I am really concerned that not enough time has been allocated to do a proper job and I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Curley's amendment can be supported and still allow time for changes to be implemented before the next election, but it may well be necessary to hold the next election later in 1984, rather than earlier in 1984. If we are going to do a thorough job of amending -- of increasing seats and hearing from all parts of the Northwest Territories we had better take the necessary time, even if it means prolonging the life of this House.

If this amendment is supported, as a Member of the Executive Committee, I will certainly urge that the necessary steps be taken to, if necessary, prolong the life of this House so we will have time to consider properly and based on full representation the report of this boundaries commission. I would also suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we need time to establish a committee of this House. I suppose that is not speaking to the motion, but it is another safeguard I would like to see built into this process, if Members are determined to go ahead with the boundaries commission. The first safeguard is time, though, and I think we need time and the Members who vote against this are voting for a rush job -- a quick and dirty job is what I would call it, and I do not think...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I do not think rushing the work is democratic or in the public interest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MRS. SORENSEN: It is not democratic if you do not want better representation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the amendment. Mr. Braden.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Time, 6:00 o'clock.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: It is 6:00 o'clock. Can I...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Go ahead, Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Well, just to say, Mr. Chairman, that whatever this committee ends up agreeing on, in terms of this amendment or the time frame that is outlined in the previous amendment, the government clearly has a responsibility to look at this factor very, very seriously.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: We are not going to force some eminent people into a rush job. We just will not do that. You know...

---Applause

...we had the same situation with the plebiscite. People did not like what I did...

---Applause

...but, you know, clearly, we have to be responsible, and that is why we are the government. We will take direction, we will take advice, but we may have to modify it.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: Oh, no, no, no, no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The time being 6:00 o'clock, I will report progress.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sayine.

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Motion 7-82(3), and wishes to report progress.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sayine. Mr. Clerk, announcements.

MS COURNOYEA: Point of privilege.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of privilege.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take note that our new person in the chair for the first time and I would like to commend him and certainly appreciate that he has taken the responsibility in the chair this afternoon.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day. Announcements and orders.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting this evening at 7:30 in Katimavik A, the standing committee on legislation.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, Wednesday, November 17, 9:30 a.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 November the 16th, Wednesday, at 9:30.

---ADJOURNMENT

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