



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, FEBRUARY 15, 1983

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 15th.

Item 2, Members' replies. Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Wray.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 29-83(1): Comments Of Frobisher Bay Principal On CBC Radio

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. On Friday, February 11th, when this Assembly was in committee of the whole, I took the opportunity to express to the Minister the views of my constituents about the quality of education in Frobisher Bay. On February 14th on CBC radio, the school principal in Frobisher Bay made statements concerning my views made in this House. I listened to the interview last night and some of the comments were that I was misinformed, that I did not have my facts right and last but not least, I was trying to make a splash politically because I was a newly elected MLA. Mr. Speaker, I am shocked and outraged that a civil servant would get on the radio and criticize and belittle a Member of this House for views and comments made in debate in this House. My question to the Minister is, is the principal in Frobisher Bay speaking on behalf of the government and if not, would the Minister explain this breach of parliamentary practice by one of his officials? Thank you.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Fire him.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 29-83(1): Comments Of Frobisher Bay Principal On CBC Radio

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I say first of all that unfortunately I was not able to hear the item that the Member is referring to because I believe it was not repeated in the morning newscast which I listened to this morning. However, my view is certainly that while public servants have the right of free speech, it is incumbent on them to confine themselves to factual matters and the provision of information, and it is certainly not the place or privilege of public servants to articulate political positions. That is certainly my province and the honourable Member's province, as a Member of this Assembly. Having not heard the offending remarks I would simply say that it sounds to me like that particular public servant went farther than he should have gone, although I would defend his right to give information on school programs and even correct misinformation on programs offered in his school. I agree completely with the Member that it is my province and not that of a public servant to criticize politicians in political terms. All I can say is I apologize to the Member for that and will look into it further. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. For the Minister's information, there is a copy of that tape in our offices upstairs. Oral questions. That appears to be all of the oral questions for today. I am sorry, Mr. Sayine, an oral question.

Question 30-83(1): Building Of Bridge At Little Buffalo River

MR. SAYINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 27th 1980, I asked the Minister responsible for the highways department when a permanent bridge at Little Buffalo River would be built. At that time, the Minister's answer was that the Little Buffalo River bridge has been recommended to the Executive subcommittee on priorities and planning for construction in 1984. My question to the Minister is whether this is definite that the bridge would be built in 1984.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, may I take the question as notice and file a further reply?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions.

Item 4, written questions. Item 5, returns. Are there any returns for today? Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM NO. 5: RETURNS

Return To Question 24-83(1): Extension Of Airstrip, Lake Harbour

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written Question 24-83(1) asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on February 10th in regard to the Lake Harbour runway extension. The existing runway in Lake Harbour is sufficient for safe operation of aircraft presently being used by the scheduled air carrier. While it may be physically possible to extend the runway 400 to 500 feet, it would serve no useful purpose. The scheduled air carrier confirms that at present, there is not enough traffic to justify use of a larger aircraft and that an extension to the present runway is not required. The terrain at Lake Harbour would make a longer runway extension allowing use of a larger aircraft extremely costly and could not be justified based on the present volume of passenger and cargo traffic. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further returns for today?

Item 6, Ministers' statements.

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 9, tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM NO. 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 7-83(1): Appointment To Standing Committee On Finance And Public Accounts

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that at the appropriate time I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that this Assembly appoint the honourable Member for Keewatin North, Mr. Wray, to the standing committee on finance and public accounts.

---Applause

I will a little later at an appropriate time ask for unanimous consent to proceed with that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion.

Notice Of Motion 8-83(1): Reappointments To Workers' Compensation Board

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking for unanimous consent to move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, that Bryan Roberts of Yellowknife and John Todd of Rankin Inlet be reappointed to the Workers' Compensation Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to proceed with Motion 7-83(1).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM NO. 12: MOTIONS

Motion 7-83(1): Appointment To Standing Committee On Finance And Public Accounts

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the resignation of the Hon. Donald Stewart has created a vacancy on the standing committee on finance and public accounts;

AND WHEREAS it would be desirable to fill this vacancy;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Hon. Tom Butters, that this Assembly appoint the honourable Member for Keewatin North, Mr. Gordon Wray, to the standing committee on finance and public accounts.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 7-83(1), Carried

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

---Carried

Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, do I have unanimous consent to proceed with my motion?

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Braden.

Motion 8-83(1): Reappointment To Workers' Compensation Board

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS two vacancies will arise on the Workers' Compensation Board after this session is finished;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that this Assembly fill these vacancies in order that the Workers' Compensation Board can continue its business;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, that Bryan Roberts of Yellowknife and John Todd of Rankin Inlet be reappointed to the Workers' Compensation Board.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 8-83(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. This concludes motions for today.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters.

ITEM NO. 15: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

Bill 1-83(1), Appropriation Ordinance, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-83(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1983-84

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. For some of the Members that were not at caucus this morning, we discussed the rules briefly about motions and amendments that were made to motions, and it was felt that the Chair should get a little tougher when someone is talking about a motion or an amendment to a motion, that they stay on the subject and not wander all over so we can maybe pick up a little bit of time. That is for the information of some of the Members that were not at caucus this morning. Mr. Butters, have you a point of privilege?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Member for the Western Arctic advised me yesterday that I had made some incorrect or some unwarranted interpretation of her reaction to my remarks yesterday and I am very pleased to withdraw the offending references.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. McCallum, do you have any opening remarks or do you wish to bring in your witnesses? Carry on with your opening remarks, thank you.
Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I want to present the budget for the Housing Corporation for the fiscal year 1983-84. I simply want to indicate that the combined budget, capital and O and M, for the Housing Corporation will reflect expenditures of approximately \$79 million. This is made up of the territorial government share and that of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The contribution funding from the GNWT to the Housing Corporation this year totals \$40,978,000; that is an increase of approximately five million dollars and it occurs primarily in the capital budget. It is in keeping with the identification of home-ownership both by the Assembly and the board of directors of the corporation. This is a major priority. However, within the limits proposed by the economic reality and the current climate of financial restraint, this year the corporation will concentrate further attention on programs offering home-ownership as a viable alternative to rental housing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: In summarizing the housing program for this year, I would like to highlight, Mr. Chairman, certain features and areas of increased emphasis impacting this budget and what we hope and have to accomplish in the coming year. I would like to deal first with capital, Mr. Chairman.

Capital Programs

On the capital side the goal of home-ownership is one that has been very attractive for many years in the Western Arctic, particularly within the tree line, due to the availability of natural materials for the construction of houses. Many log houses, constructed of locally-harvested materials, have been built to the home-owners' satisfaction. Mr. Chairman, in recent years and most particularly within the last year, at housing conferences that I have attended in Arctic regions and here in this Legislature, officials of the corporation and I have heard of a desire on the part of people living in communities above the tree line to be able to participate in the

home-ownership assistance programs. Therefore I am pleased, Mr. Chairman, to announce that the corporation estimates for this year will provide for home-ownership grants to qualified applicants in the Eastern and coastal Arctic region. This is the first year that the home-ownership assistance program has been offered in these regions and although small, we will be embarking on this program in those areas this year. To ensure ease of management and availability of technical and training expertise, we intend to keep it rather small in the beginning but we hope to be able to increase it as the years go by.

In the estimates for 1983-84, you will note that there is a provision for a total of 62 units in the home-ownership assistance program, formerly known as the small settlement grant. These 62 units represent an increase of 15 units from the past year and an additional one million dollars. In conversation and communication with federal employment initiatives programs, we are hoping that we are going to be able to obtain funds so that the number of grants a corporation can make available to people will increase.

In another area of home-ownership, 25 units will be offered this year under the rural and remote program. That is a cost-shared program between CMHC and the Government of the Northwest Territories with 75 per cent on the part of the former and 25 per cent on this government's part. That is a doubling of the number of units available under the program. Rural and remote provides subsidized mortgage assistance to eligible candidates who cannot obtain a mortgage through the regular financial institutions. The increase in the number of units and funds allocated to this program is a reflection of the interest shown in the program by people in the communities during the last year. The corporation will continue the program of rehabilitating northern rental units. We intend to rehabilitate 150 units this year, as we have in the past, and at this rate that program of all existing units should be completed within the next four to five years.

Public Housing

In the area of public housing, Mr. Chairman, the corporation plans to supply, ship and erect a total of 85 units. This total includes 82 units for which site and foundation work was done last year and there is a replacement of the three burned units in Cape Dorset. In addition, a further 82 lots will be prepared and foundation work done for supply, shipping and erection of an additional 82 units next year. This is a two year construction cycle for public housing and it is now in full swing. In 1983, the average estimated cost of these units is \$150,000.

We will have a modest land purchase program this coming year to permit the sale of northern rental units under the territorial rental purchase plan. Mr. Chairman, I want to say here and now that one of the most viable options for people wishing to own their own homes is the purchase program available to tenants of these northern units. A portion of the rental payments are used as a credit or reserve in favour of the tenant, should he or she wish to purchase the unit. Depending upon factors such as the length of tenancy and the condition of the unit, the purchase program can prove an extremely favourable means of owning a home. Through an arrangement with the town planning and lands section of Local Government, some of these lots in which the northern rental units stand will be sold to the corporation for a nominal fee; that fact will be reflected in the sale to the purchaser. This is another feature adding to the attractiveness of purchasing these units. The corporation this year will be striving to make people more aware of the benefits of this program and will be encouraging people to participate in it. The roof retrofitting programs will continue with the supply, shipping and erection of 53 roof packages; 70 additional units will receive this repair from packages shipped in 1982. The roof repair will alleviate the severe leakage problems experienced in some public housing units.

There are other capital programs that I would like to mention as well, Mr. Chairman. The first of these is the extraordinary maintenance for major repairs such as the correction of housing code violations, replacement of major appliances and energy conservation related repairs.

The second one is the enriched emergency repair program to serve as an interim measure to upgrade northern rentals and extend the life expectancy of those units until a full rehabilitation of the unit can take place. Both of these programs are cost-shared with Canada Mortgage and Housing.

The third program is the correction of major deficiencies identified through stringent investigation and inspection of housing stock. Many of these problems are related to the actual construction of the units. We will this year as well, build two warehouses -- one in Frobisher Bay and one in Whale Cove.

---Applause

Housing project purchase of Yellowknife condominiums will be undertaken this year. We will purchase furnishings for senior citizens' homes and equipment for housing associations and the Housing Corporation itself.

In summary then, Mr. Chairman, the corporation will embark upon a moderate program of construction in 1983, but one that attempts to recognize and respond to the needs and desires of people as well as possible within our budget limitations.

Operations And Maintenance

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like to turn to the O and M part of the budget and deal with it. Once again our projections indicate that of the moneys available to housing associations in the year 1983-84, approximately two thirds of it will be expended on utilities. In 1982-83 the estimates for utility payments totalled just slightly over \$19 million. Estimates for the coming year 1983-84 indicate expenditures of close to \$21 million or an increase of roughly 7.5 per cent. Of this figure, power and fuel costs alone account for \$19,143,000. The "user pay" policy continues in force in certain communities and still appears to be the most successful in the Hay River district. The corporation hopes to expand its implementation of the policy in other areas this year.

Our rehab and repair program increasingly reflects an emphasis on improving insulation and energy saving features. Energy conservation can be likened to a consciousness raising exercise. The corporation will be striving to better co-ordinate with other government departments to offer educational programs designed to educate users and increase awareness of energy conservation issues.

I want to indicate, Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee, that progress has been made by the corporation in the area of rental collection and the implementation of the rent scale. Many of you are aware that the new rental scale has been implemented in certain areas. In most regions it is being phased in with small rental increases occurring over three month intervals to offset what might be an onerous impact of a one time catch-up increase. The implementation appears to be proceeding well in most areas. While no one ever applauds increased costs it would appear that most of the associations recognize and agree with the need for these graduated increases in rent. It should be noted that corporation staff are visiting communities to assist housing associations with updating family income forms and leases.

In terms of rent collection, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to report that revenue estimates for this coming fiscal year are some \$800,000 more than projected for the fiscal year 1982-83. These increased projections in revenue are attributed to better understanding of and adherence to collection procedures, financial control and increased financial support at the associations level. Local housing associations are becoming more experienced in these areas and we have great expectations that the expertise will continue to be reflected in increased revenues during future years.

I have outlined, Mr. Chairman, what I consider to be the highlights and desired goals and objectives for the coming fiscal year. I want to say that the corporation, despite setbacks of former years has overcome many of these problems and has improved and refined its operations and programs. In recognition of the importance of adequate housing in the North, we will continue in this effort this year and in future years.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would simply like to say that the Housing Corporation's budget, in terms of the total territorial budget, amounts to about 7.6 per cent of the total government budget. That is a little decrease over the preceding year, even though there has been an addition of approximately \$1.5 million. With those few remarks, I would now turn back to you for any general comments that may be made on it. I should say that if there is a need to deal with the day to day operation of the corporation, it may be best to have the president of the corporation, Mr. Irving, at the witness table at that time. If you are dealing with my responsibilities in reporting to the House on it, I do not have any difficulties in handling that, but if there are questions dealing with the day to day operation of the corporation, I think they, in some instances, may be better referred to Mr. Irving. So if I could have the indulgence of the House, to have Mr. Irving here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Is it agreed that Mr. Irving appear as a witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Irving, are you prepared to fight this battle all by yourself or do you wish to bring in any more colleagues? Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Irving will not have to fight the battle alone. He has all kinds of support in here.

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

Housing In Mackenzie Liard Constituency

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief. I just want to relate to this committee some of the observations that I made during a recent visit to Mr. Sibbeston's constituency. We visited a number of communities including Wrigley, Fort Liard, Trout Lake, Nahanni Butte and Fort Simpson. The one community we missed during that three day visit was Jean Marie River because the airstrip was out. I want to say one thing about Mr. Sibbeston's riding and I cannot speak all that knowledgeably about it but I was very, very impressed that in five of the six communities that we visited there was no public housing. There was only public housing in Fort Simpson and if we had gone to Jean Marie River we would not have found public housing there as well.

I recognize that perhaps Mr. Sibbeston's constituents are a bit fortunate because there are good materials around his riding to build housing but it was really a pleasure to go in and to visit people who own their own homes and who took pride in their homes and who were obviously concerned about government housing programs. I think it is a real testimony to how important it is in the Northwest Territories for people to own their own homes. It was really an eye opener for me and I think Mr. Sibbeston and his constituents can be very proud.

I want to relate just a couple of incidents, and I do not mean to steal any thunder from Mr. Sibbeston -- which I probably am, but I will let him go on about it. When we were in Fort Liard we met some members of the McLeod family. Mr. Sibbeston can speak on it in more detail but they had taken one SSHAG grant and built two incredible log homes, very, very comfortable, very well built, and they were really looking forward to moving into these homes. There was just a bit more work that had to be done. I was impressed that there was a lot of what I guess is called "sweat equity" put into these homes and they had even got to the point where they were looking at digging a small well nearby which would provide water for the two homes.

It seemed that in almost every community we went into there was a lot of interest in the home-ownership programs that the territorial government -- and I guess to a certain extent the federal government -- have in place. There is a lot of interest in programs concerning upgrading insulation, getting furnaces in their homes that would use wood instead of oil. Generally, it was really impressive to me to see how much people are encouraged by home-ownership programs that we do have. I know that the Minister has talked briefly about some of the extra dollars, extra revenue, that we are putting into our home-ownership program and I think that -- in my experience, anyway -- that brief trip to Mr. Sibbeston's riding really, really illustrated how popular and how necessary those programs are.

I would like to just conclude by urging the Minister, if I could do this, that we continue on in the Northwest Territories -- not just in the tree line and in the West, but look to programs that could be instituted in the Eastern Arctic to assist residents of our territory to get into their own accommodation. I think as politicians sometimes we do get a little bit caught up too much in issues such as division of the Territories or responsible government and things like that but when you get into the ridings and into the communities and the constituencies you see how important it is to have something as basic as a good home which your constituent owns. That is all I have to say. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Before I recognize the next speaker I would like to recognize Bob Kadlun of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

---Applause

General comments. Mr. Pudluk.

Public Housing In Arctic Bay

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a problem with the Housing Corporation in Arctic Bay. I do not think they have really taken care of where the houses are going to be placed. The applications take a long time to be sent to headquarters. The people of Arctic Bay have been submitting applications and they have been requesting more houses but they are only going to be given three houses. The people who are working in Nanisivik -- when they quit working in Nanisivik or when they are fired, when they try to go back to Arctic Bay they do not have any place to stay or they do not have a house and a lot of them have been in need of houses. There are a lot of people waiting for houses and one household has more than one family living in it. The person I am talking to just left.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: It is okay, talk to me.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) I guess it is okay. The health workers have said it is unhealthy to have more than one family in a house. Some communities in the Baffin area really do not need houses as much as Arctic Bay and I know that there are some communities that are getting more houses. I submitted a petition here to the Assembly last year, I think it was; I think they just did not bother with this petition. At this session I am going to submit another petition from Arctic Bay. I do not want to let them just forget this or drop it this time because I have been to Arctic Bay and this is a big problem there. I want to talk about this. I wonder if there could be changes regarding the houses that are being sent to communities. That is all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would ask Mr. Irving to comment about the location of houses in a community but prior to that I simply would like to indicate or respond to the comments that the Member for the High Arctic indicated, in terms of the distribution of public housing, because I think the Member is referring to public housing and he is absolutely correct. There were three houses allocated this year to Arctic Bay; there are 82 units across the Territories as I indicated in my opening remarks for public housing. Of those 82 units, 67 are in either the Keewatin or the Baffin. Next year, of 82 units that we are preparing for, 77 of those 82 units in public housing will be going either to the Kitikmeot region, the Baffin or the Keewatin.

Public Housing Allocations Based On Need

In all communities we have allocated and worked an arrangement based on need and it would be very nice if we were to be able to accommodate every request for public housing in every community. It very well may be, in the opinion of the Member, that some communities that are allocated units do not need them as much as he says they are needed in Arctic Bay but that is not very easy to tell the people of Broughton Island, for example, that they do not need 10 units or the people in Hall Beach that they do not need 10 or in Repulse Bay that they do not need five.

To reallocate these particular units now that were promised these communities a year ago would be then to incur the wrath of people in these communities. Through our district people we attempt to identify a need in all communities and it may be that one of the ways that we should do it, because we have discussed it, is to look at a community's needs and say that if there are 25 units required in a particular community, to put them all in in one year. That would mean that other communities who have the same requirement would have to wait an additional two or three years. What we are trying to do in the distribution of these public units is to put them in areas to try to satisfy to some degree the requirements in a number of communities, but it is not possible to do all things for all people at the same time in terms of financing.

There are many communities within the Mackenzie Delta and Tuk, for example, in the Kitikmeot and in the Keewatin and Baffin who have requirements for homes. I know that there will be some Members who will say, "Well, we are not getting any." There are some communities that are not getting any this year and there well may be communities that are getting some this year and some the next year as well, but the need is identified. It has been identified over a number of years. So though I commiserate with the Member about the need for more homes, it is like anything else. I guess other communities have the same need, and everybody has to take their turn.

I would ask Mr. Irving to talk about the location of those particular homes in Arctic Bay. I think the Member raised a question and there is some concern as to where these three new units are going to be located in Arctic Bay. If that is not the question then there is no need for Mr. Irving to comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Pudluk, was that your question? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman. That did not really answer my question. I did not really want to know where houses are going, whether to Igloolik or anywhere else. I just wanted to know if I could get some more houses in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Pond Inlet Housing

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) First of all I would like to talk to Ludy Pudluk from the High Arctic. I looked into this in my constituency in Igloolik and Hall Beach and I was concerned about the fact if they could at least give away one or two houses to other settlements. I am just a speaker for them. I cannot really say to them that they are getting more houses than anybody else. That is all I want to say to Ludy. I know the problems. One of the communities in my constituency, Pond Inlet, was requesting more houses. Last year I was doing my best when we were dealing with this during the year of 1982. I guess the people who worked for the Housing Corporation understood exactly what I was trying to say that I wanted to get more housing in Pond Inlet.

While they were putting together the plan they decided to skip Pond Inlet. I do not really like this at all and I understand exactly what was happening. I understood when Arnold McCallum was saying that it is hard to give houses to every settlement. The person who is sitting at the witness table, in May 1982, was visiting Pond Inlet and he was with the housing association. He held meetings and he understood what the problem was that they were having in Pond Inlet. Also he mentioned the fact that he is going to do some study on Pond Inlet and if they find out that Pond Inlet is needing housing they will be able to give it to them.

I think you understood exactly -- like in Pond Inlet, there are 15 families who needed housing. There are three more families moving up there and there is no housing for them. For those houses that are to be renovated, there are 14 houses but there are only seven that have been renovated up to now. For those families who are living in the houses that have to be renovated, they have no place to move to; that is why they have not moved out to have their houses renovated. They are very concerned about getting more houses and also for 1983, houses will be going to Baffin region and I guess I already know the answer that I am going to get from the person who is sitting at the witness table. I guess that this is a big problem for those places who plan to be getting 10 houses -- to give one house at least to another settlement. Could they take more houses from out of those 10 in one settlement? Maybe Pond Inlet could get one of those houses.

I heard that in 1984 they will be getting houses, or maybe toward the end of 1985 they will be getting some. For those plans that they had for 1984, they will be getting them toward the end of the year 1985. That is the reason why I am asking this question. I know I am going to get an answer that they cannot supply housing to Pond Inlet during the summer of 1983. I am wondering if they could get some housing in Pond Inlet. Last year I mentioned this but I was told that they would not be getting any more. I started telling myself I would not be talking about this any more even though I am going to hear more about the problem that Pond Inlet is having. I would like to see more houses in Pond Inlet in the summer of 1984. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman. Certainly it is true that there are no housing units going into Pond Inlet this year under our distribution of them. We are not planning any in terms of the next year. Mr. Irving may have some further idea as to where Pond Inlet stands in a priority list among other communities for future years. So Mr. Irving may be able to comment further.

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

More Practical To Allocate Houses In Groups Of Five Or More

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman. The corporation is aware of the problem that the two Members have outlined. Just for the matter of the record, initially this year there were five houses to go to Grise Fiord and the people there decided that they would rather have the older units rehabbed instead. Consideration was then given to splitting those five up; three to Arctic Bay and two

to Pond Inlet. Then because of recent local conditions at Grise Fiord where two families need houses, they made a special request to have two units back. We have already made one switch. It was felt that there was a greater need at Arctic Bay than at Pond Inlet, so the other three went to Arctic Bay.

The allocation of houses as the Minister has pointed out is done on a needs study and there are simply not enough houses to go to every community. There is a need for housing at Pond Inlet and the corporation is looking at attempting to get housing in there in 1984. This will depend on the need and the budget that we will be preparing later this year. I take the Member's remarks into consideration and every effort will be made to provide additional housing for both Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet as soon as possible. However, I regret that this year we can supply only three units to Arctic Bay. We would have to rob one of the other communities to increase that.

Lastly, in regard to putting in one unit, it would be very difficult to only put one unit into a community having regard to supply, cost factors and the rest. It makes it more feasible to put in groups of five or more. Even putting two in is very difficult and very costly. Thank you.

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

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I just heard Mr. Irving comment about the units in Grise Fiord. On May 7th when they were holding the meeting, you mentioned that you heard that Grise Fiord would not be needing these units but Grise Fiord never said anything about this. If you get any more information, I guess you could pass on the information on to Pond Inlet. I do not think they have received any letter. That is all I would like to say. I would just also like to say that they need some more units in 1983.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Irving.

MR. IRVING: Mr. Chairman, it is a matter of providing that information to Pond Inlet but I guess all I can say is that I agree and we will attempt to correct the communication gap.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Irving. Ms Cournoyea, general comments.

Motion To Approve Housing Corporation Main Estimates Without Debate, Bill 1-83(1)

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I have a motion. It is my understanding that the Housing Corporation is run by a board somewhat separate from the Legislative Assembly in terms of their ongoing process of determining where the housing units go and as Mr. McCallum says he has a lot of support over there. I congratulate him for that. So I would move that this Legislative Assembly committee of the whole approve the NWT Housing Corporation 1983-84 main estimates as tabled, without debate, in the amount of: operations and maintenance, \$29,978,000; capital -- building and works, acquisition of equipment, grants, \$11,000,000; total expenditures, \$40,978,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Could we have a copy of that, please, Ms Cournoyea? Your motion is in order, Ms Cournoyea. Do you want to speak to your motion? Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, can I ask a question concerning procedure? What are our rules in respect of closure? It seems to me that Ms Cournoyea's motion is in effect bringing in closure and I tried it once in Frobisher Bay and I got shot down. I am just wondering if you could ask your advisers if they have any comment on my question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Braden, we have no rules on it but if we are prepared to recess for five minutes we will check Hansard to see why you were shot down, or what the precedent is, Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I think it was Frobisher Bay but it could have been here in Yellowknife. I recall attempting to stop debate one day and it did not work. I do not recall just what session it was but I would be interested in finding out -- I do not mean to be challenging your ruling on the motion, Mr. Speaker, but I think the motion does in effect suggest closure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We will recess for coffee for 15 minutes so we can check this out.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The committee will come back to order. I will have the Clerk read the motion and then I will make my ruling.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): I move that this Legislature approve the NWT Housing Corporation's 1983-84 main estimates as tabled without debate in the amount of: operations and maintenance, \$29,978,000; capital -- buildings and works, acquisition of equipment, grants, \$11,000,000; total expenditures, \$40,978,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The motion is in order, and on Mr. Braden's question on closure, this House does not have rules dealing with closure and I feel that this is not a motion of closure. To the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, during this session we have had at least two Ministers telling us that if we want to make changes in the budget then we should tell them where and how and from what to where it should go, and on the occasions that this was attempted it was not received very favourably or in a positive light. It seems that the decisions have already been made. The Housing Corporation also has an additional buffer in the board and it appears that the board has already dealt with the issues that are presently at hand.

Budget Debate Unproductive

There is really no reason to discuss the subject further and waste further money by sitting here talking about it. I believe that if the Members want to bring forth their recommendations for the future budget -- which we will not have any input into, because we will not be here as ordinary Members -- it probably could be taken care of in formal motions, with rationale and background provided at the time of the formal motions. I do not see that it is productive to sit here and cause hard feelings when you question the Minister's budget and have the feeling that we are after the Executive. It seems that is what we are perpetuating when we have been dealing with the past two budget allocations that have come before us.

This motion I present here is in no way predetermining the good will of the board of directors of the Housing Corporation nor questioning the ability of the Minister, or putting down that process. However, that process has taken place, the decisions have been made, and I see little reason why we should continue to sit here talking about things that we cannot change.

---Applause

It is a situation that many of us -- except for one new Member -- have gone through over the last three years, and I feel that perhaps the way we have been going about it is not necessarily the proper way and it may have been best for us to come here prepared, with all our desires presented in the formal session and hopefully dealt with at that time. As far as I am concerned -- whether you accept the motion or not, it is my feeling that a whole number of us spend a certain amount of money sitting here talking about issues that we cannot change. We have been told that we are in an economic crisis. Maybe if we ended this session one week earlier, we could build one or two more houses somewhere and maybe that direction can be taken in terms of formal motions from some of the Members.

I hope that the Minister and the Housing Corporation do not feel that this is a slight toward them. It is rather in respect of economy, how we deal with issues, how we resolve them and how we get things done from the ordinary Members' point of view. So the motion is for your consideration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): I wish to inform the Members that the debate on this motion must be relevant as to why Members want to have or not have the debate on the NWT Housing Corporation estimates. Mr. Sibbeston, to the motion.

Motion Reflects Frustration Of Members

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I support the motion because I think it will illustrate the point that despite how much you raise matters and talk, it seems that the budget once set by the government and comes before us, is impossible to change. So what is the purpose of talking about the budget? What is the purpose of trying to change anything? As you know, as we have seen in the last few years and the last few days, it is virtually impossible to change any of the items in a budget. Some people think it is a sacred document that is impossible to change; some people say that is not the right approach, that is not the process and there are some other ways of influencing the budget. We even have the Executive Committee banding together. When one of the Executive Committee Member's departments is threatened they band together and help one another to oppose anybody who wants to change it.

I agree with this motion. I am sure it was made somewhat in frustration and to make the point of "What is the point of talking about it if we cannot change it?" If the attitude of the government changes after this, I could see where maybe we could go into other departments with an open mind, but as things stand, as the government sees things -- yesterday one of the Ministers even suggested he was going to resign if we changed something in his budget, which I generally think is nonsensical. It appears now that there is no way for an ordinary MLA to change a budget once it is set. It is a sad day -- it is just really sad that an ordinary MLA cannot come to the Assembly to which he is elected and try to raise concerns and get things done for his constituency; he is just simply out of luck.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I am going to vote against the motion.

MR. SIBBESTON: Of course.

MRS. SORENSEN: I have questions of the Housing Corporation -- I am sorry to say, Mr. Sibbeston, but I do have questions. They are of concern to my constituents but I think they are also of concern to your constituents and to other people who are constituents right across the Territories. I do not agree that we cannot change the budget. I think yesterday was a good example where a Member felt strongly about an issue and managed to get the concurrence of the Minister who was before us and did change the budget. He used a very slick tactic and I guess I admire the tactic because in the end he did win. Therefore I am opposed to the fact that the Members have said that there is no way we can change the budget.

Budget Debate Deals With Policy Changes And Provides Guidance

Mr. Chairman, the budget debate is also used for other measures, and that is to deal with policy changes that we wish to see made and to provide guidance and direction, not only to the Minister alone but to the Minister when his deputy minister is in attendance, so that that deputy minister can hear the passion, if you will, that comes from the Members, can hear the explanation. Because I am not at all sure that deputy ministers read the Hansard but can hear first-hand why a Member or group of Members feel as strongly as they do about an issue. I feel it is very important that discussion of this budget take place so that the managing director, the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner and the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation can hear what we have to say. Unlike Ms Cournoyea and Mr. Sibbeston, I have not felt that this budget is not reflective of the Legislature. It is, in my opinion...

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Point of order, Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: I did not say that the budget was not reflective. I would like that remark withdrawn because I never did make that statement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): That is not a point of order, Ms Cournoyea. Go ahead, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel that this current budget, including the budget of the Housing Corporation, is in fact very reflective of the things that Members have brought forward in debate when the department has come before us. A good example is the porches that Mr. Curley asked for at the very first session, which were immediately put into the budget that same current year. Another example is the home-ownership plan which Mr. McCallum described for us which was the direct result of debate in this House that occurred during the debate of the main estimates of the Housing Corporation.

I think that we should take this opportunity to bring forth our thoughts and our feelings and the wishes of our constituents during the time that the Minister and his department comes before us. For that reason and because I have questions of the Housing Corporation I will vote against the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Changes Not Effectuated By Discussion

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) I am going to say this in Inuktitut. When we come to discuss the budget, every year the budget is prepared and it is tabled in this House and there are a lot of times when we cannot make any changes to it. We have to sit for six weeks to discuss the budget and know ahead of time that there is no way that we can make any changes or alterations to the budget. I think that perhaps we should just approve this departmental budget because we would just be going through days and days of debate on it. I would like to support the motion because when we try to make alterations or amendments to the budget the Executive, I understand, have various responsibilities. I am not going against them but as an ordinary Member we also have to represent our constituents and try to represent their feelings.

Last year I made a recommendation to change the costs for the rent, if there was a widower for example. This does not seem to have been considered very much. I was requesting that only the head of the family pay the rent and this was not approved. If we approve the budget at once we would not use as much money and we would not have to meet that much longer. We could make motions to make amendments as long as we give 48 hours notice and I know that the government would try to make amendments or changes to the budget if we did make the motions. (Translation ends)

Mr. Chairman, in speaking in favour of the motion, one of the things that I find is that if the government or the Housing Corporation was so interested in the Members' views or receptive to the ideas and recommendations from ordinary Members, why is the chairman of the Housing Corporation not sitting here? I hear he is down in Edmonton doing other business. Why not? They are just going to rubber-stamp his budget anyway. He does not have to be here to hear the concerns of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Pilot does not have to defend his budget seriously because it will never change anyway. He has learned the trick, he has learned the game that MLAs do not have any power, therefore he is not here today, he is down in Edmonton doing other business when he was very well aware that his budget was going to be coming up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: On a point of privilege, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pilot, the Deputy Commissioner, is not responsible to this House for the budget of the Housing Corporation. You placed me responsible for the Housing Corporation in this House. Mr. Pilot does not report to this House. I listen to you people on the other side and everybody else here making elected people responsible for the budget. Now all of a sudden you want to turn around and have someone else in. He is not responsible for the budget to this House, Mr. Chairman. I am.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I remember very well in Inuvik the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation asking this legislature whether or not this Assembly has any accountability or any business with the Housing Corporation. I do not know how he has changed his mind that he is responsible because when I introduced a motion to try and at least correct the concerns of the people with respect to the government policy and the rental scale, he said that this House has no business being involved because it was a private corporation, not a department.

I would just like to put that on the record, Mr. Chairman, that we can then get our directions to the government by way of formal motions and therefore, I think we would spend time more constructively by presenting policy recommendations by way of formal notice of motion and therefore debate them in that fashion. I certainly have some concerns as to the Housing Corporation but I know that I am not going to get anywhere with them. I knew from the beginning that I was not going to get anywhere therefore I am not all that excited about trying to persuade the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation because I am not sure whether he would agree with me. Therefore I will be voting in support of the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion. Mr. McCallum.

Executive Responding To Members' Concerns

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the motion and the rationale for it, I would just like to make a few comments. In terms of the Housing Corporation, it already has been noted that when Members were asking for things to be done and changed with regard to policy in the Housing Corporation when we discussed the budget -- and the Member for Keewatin South waxed eloquently on it -- we took that into consideration because then we made changes in rules, we

made changes in our northern preference policy, so that we now have people in the North getting the work that he talked about. He talked about taking into consideration in the rental scale the income of family members, and we have changed the rental policy. He waxed eloquently to that when we discussed it. He got a reaction quickly on that.

Regarding input of Members as to where public housing should go, we have embarked on a two year plan that will now allow MLAs, people in the community and district offices to have input as to the allocation of the public housing units. He talked about getting home-ownership in the East, that it should not only be in the West. If he was paying attention to my opening remarks he would have heard me say that this year we are putting home-ownership grants in the Baffin and the Keewatin. I suggest to the Member for Keewatin South that that is because he brought it up.

I can go back to situations with other particular departments that I have had some responsibility for, in particular Social Services when he wanted to increase the clothing allowances, when he wanted to raise the assistance rates. When he made those kinds of motions in here, when he talked about them, they were done. Those things have been responded to. If you want changes in particular departments or in a particular budget we have taken the opportunity and we have responded to it.

As far as simply passing the motion is concerned, to say that the rationale for going along with this is because people are not listening to you, that is wrong -- notice how cool I am being -- that is wrong. You cannot sit there and tell me that we have not responded to your concerns. I could go through a litany of them, even longer than the one I just went through.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that the motion might reflect some Members' frustration with having to listen to other Members' questions on parts of the budget that they are not very interested in, or they feel they are happy with the way it is in their constituency so they do not want to hear what is going on otherwise. So the...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Point of privilege. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, he is not speaking to the motion, he is assuming what other people are thinking. I do not believe that he is privileged to do so because I do not believe the he should base his argument on what other people are thinking. The motion does not ask about what other people are thinking.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Can you keep it to the motion, Mr. McLaughlin?

Eliminates Input From Interested Members

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, as I said, I think the motion might reflect some Members' opinions about not being very interested in what other Members have to say if this passes. There are lots of times when you sit in here listening to the debate on different parts of the budget where it is not of any great interest to you, when other Members have their chance to speak about the problems in their constituency and to represent the people that elected them. I think that this will set a bad precedent for leaving few Members chances to talk on a particular area of the budget -- taking that chance away from them just because other people are not particularly interested. So I think it is a bad precedent to set, because we could by a majority, maybe 12 to nine, pass every part of the budget like this without any debate and the Members that are concerned would therefore be eliminated. I am going to vote against this on the principle that it really is a closure and may prevent two or three Members from asking questions that are of interest to them, specifically for their own constituency or for the territorial government in general. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. McCallum said he was going to be cool about this. I am not going to be cool. I think that if anyone votes in favour of this motion, it will simply state that they want to go home, that they have lost interest in their jobs. I think that if that is true then maybe they should resign. They should resign and go home and explain to their constituents that they are frustrated and that they no longer wish to do a job.

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

MS COURNOYEA: We are speaking to the motion and the Member that is speaking is presuming upon other people's actions, and the motion does not presume on others' actions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): That is a point of debate, Ms Cournoyea. To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Contribution Of Members To Budget Debate

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. I think a budget debate generally is more than just passing the budget. That is an important part of it, but always a budget debate enables Members to raise concerns, insist on clarification, gives them the opportunity to bring in motions that help to shape directions. All of those things are valuable and a part of budget debate so I do not want to support the motion because it would deny Members the opportunity to do those things.

Even just sticking strictly to the matter of numbers and budget allocations, I think evidence will show to anyone who wishes to examine the past record that changes can in fact be made in the budget, and have been made in the budget. Because that is an evident truth. I personally believe that there are motives other than those being advanced for the introduction of this motion. Because I am not allowed by rules to impute motives, I will not do so but I still have the right to say that I personally believe there are other motives. In fact, we do see that there was a change yesterday. It was not a change that entirely satisfied me because I felt that a need for that change had not yet been demonstrated in debate. I am not saying that it could not have been demonstrated, but it had not yet been demonstrated.

Whenever any Member wishes to bring about a change in the budget, it is simply necessary for that Member, and that would include myself, to remember that this is an Assembly for the whole of the Northwest Territories and that it is necessary to persuade all other Members that the change you wish to see is a desirable one. In order to do that you have to have some solid facts and some evidence, and a self-righteous statement of outrage is not sufficient to persuade other people. Those Members who are frustrated because after having self-righteously expressed outrage and finding that other Members are not yet persuaded, may feel that the process does not work, but it can work. I am willing to listen to good solid arguments as to why a particular thing should be dropped and something else should replace it, but that does take time. Anyway, I feel that this is not a desirable motion, that Members must have the opportunity at each step along the way to raise concerns that are important to them and I will vote against the motion.

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

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot vote for the motion; I will vote against the motion for personal reasons. I feel that I have to ask questions of the Housing Corporation if I want to find out how many houses are going to be built in my constituency, if there could be any changes in the house locations. I realize that we have talked about this before -- about just rubber-stamping the whole main estimates and passing it -- but that is not going to find out what is happening in your constituency, so therefore I cannot vote for a motion like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Decisions Already Made

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we vote on the motion, I would like to express how much power we have concerning housing. The executive of the Housing Corporation know everything that is going on so we cannot change it. They have already informed the housing federation in Keewatin and Baffin and even before we approve this budget estimate the people in those areas know how many houses they are going to get. We know that we cannot change these main estimates because the people in the communities have already heard how many houses they are going to get in the future. This is the reason why I am going to support the motion. We do not have any power because they have already decided where the houses are going to go and everybody knows where the houses are going to go.

Somebody was saying that we could make motions. If this motion is going to be defeated and we continue to talk about the main estimates, I would like to make a motion concerning the main estimates, a motion to add 10 more new houses, on top of the 82 houses. I know that they will not approve the motion that I make because the people in Pond Inlet would like to get 10 new houses and it will be eight months before the sealift comes in. I know that even if I make a motion it will be defeated. The reason that I am going to support the motion is because we do not have any power to change the main estimates, even by motions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Attitude To Members Proposing Changes

MR. SIBBESTON: Let me just state again that I support the motion. It seems that some of the people who yesterday had a very arrogant attitude toward any changing -- who looked in scorn upon anybody who dared try to change a budget, today now are backtracking and saying, "Yes, it is very proper and possible to change the budget."

The process that was outlined to us yesterday is that of a regional capital planning process and this by and large is a civil service approach or undertaking. Eventually it gets down to the finance committee but in the end, as I understand it, it goes to the Financial Management Board which is a board consisting of elected Ministers. So the Ministers in this government here have the best chance, they are in an advantageous position to have things provided for their constituents and in a year just before an election it is particularly important that we as an Assembly know and be assured that, as ordinary MLAs, we can have an opportunity to influence and have an impact on a budget. This though was not the view yesterday. The view yesterday was that you look with scorn on anybody who dared try to change it; you band together; the Executive Committee vote in a bloc against any proposed changes; and that is partly the reason why I believe this motion was brought forward today, because of frustration, of thinking that it is not possible to change the budget.

Some people say, "As a result of yesterdays efforts some things were changed." That is true but we still approved the now famous fence for Frobisher Bay, we still approved the pavement for Yellowknife, we still approved the renovations that people had doubted. We approved things that we really did not agree with but we in a sense were forced to go along with them. So I would like to ask the Leader of the Elected Executive Committee whether he has changed his mind since yesterday and whether he is prepared to say in this House and state clearly that the budget before this Assembly is only a proposal, that elected Members are free to change it, that Members as elected MLAs are encouraged to take part in consideration of the budget and may in fact request and make changes to the budget. Also I would want to know if Mr. Braden can assure us -- me anyway -- that any time anybody talks about changing one cent of a budget that the Executive Committee is not going to band together to oppose any of the changes as a matter of course, as a matter of apparent policy to stick together and protect the sacred cow that is before us -- then I may change my view. But otherwise my views remain the same as yesterday. It is impossible to change the budget and it is just a useless and hopeless undertaking to try to do so. You have to be a real rebel in order to get one cent changed and even then you may not be successful. You are looked upon as a bad guy and unruly guy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Was that a question directed at Mr. Braden? Go ahead, Mr. Braden.

MR. CURLEY: Point of order.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be only fair, since we are not directing our disagreements to the president of the Housing Corporation, that we should excuse him for a while. I would not want him to feel that we are attacking the Housing Corporation officials. In the event that this debate gets any worse than it is now starting out, I would think that would only be fair to the Members of the House. May I ask you to consider that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Does the committee wish to excuse the witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Irving, you are excused. Go ahead, Mr. Braden.

Main Estimates Not Merely A Proposal

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the Member's questions, the main estimates and in particular the main estimates of the Housing Corporation, are not merely a proposal. I would say initially that a lot of work goes into the preparation of main estimates and I can safely say on behalf of my colleagues that the frustration that you experience in the House is experienced by the elected Executive Members as well, when they are preparing the main estimates.

There is only a certain amount of revenue that is available for new programs, new policies, new program thrusts and that revenue we call "discretionary". There is a tremendously large portion of the budget of the Housing Corporation and the budgets of other departments over which we have some control but to which we are committed.

In the case of the Housing Corporation, when we decided as an Executive that home-ownership was to be one of our objectives and priorities -- primarily because of feedback we have received from this committee, the Legislature and the Territories -- we demanded that an extra million to a million and a half dollars be allocated within the budget for home-ownership programs, including grants for purchasing homes and labour for constructing homes.

To get back to the first question, I would not say that it is merely a proposal. There are a lot of areas where it is probably not that easy to make changes. I do not want to suggest to you that it is impossible to make changes. I think there are examples where the Legislature or the Legislature's committee have been very forceful and have demanded that changes be made. I believe one example was last budget session where the standing committee on finance just would not accept the taxation and revenue regime which the Executive Committee proposed. We had to go back and, over a period of a week or a week and a half, we made changes to our taxation proposals which eventually met with the agreement of the Legislature and its committee.

I am not suggesting that changes cannot be made. In respect of capital projects -- I believe Mr. McCallum or the Commissioner could speak on this more effectively -- there is flexibility. There are projects which do not proceed. There are projects which are put on hold. I think in the case of one of Mr. Sibbeston's concerns, in respect of an issue in his riding, we have given him a commitment that we are going to look very carefully at how we can find some capital dollars to construct a badly needed facility in his particular riding. So it is possible to make changes. I do not think the door is closed. I think it was demonstrated again last budget session where a number of Members, particularly the Members of Dene background, were quite concerned because the Department of Information had not proceeded on a program respecting the Interpreter Corps or the Dene Language Bureau, and the Commissioner who was responsible at the time for the Department of Information recognized that this was a very serious issue and came back with proposals for how the government would fund and staff a Dene Language Bureau. Now that could not be reflected in this sacred cow, as Mr. Sibbeston refers to it -- and I agree with him, it does tend to be seen as a sacred cow -- but it is flexible.

There are two examples of where the Legislature really indicated to the government that this estimate for a particular department was just not satisfactory or, in the case of taxation, that the taxation proposals were just not satisfactory and they would have to be changed.

Issues Involved In Preparation Of Main Estimates

Now I guess I would have a bit of a difficult time responding to that last question and if I missed anything I will be pleased to respond. Mr. Sibbeston asked a question on why the Executive Committee bands together. I do not want to be patronizing or paternalistic in saying this, but there is a lot of hard work that goes into preparing the main estimates. There are trade-offs that have to be made and take for example the issue yesterday -- there is confidence that has to be placed in the Minister responsible that what he is presenting is in the best interests of the program that he is responsible for. The issue yesterday concerning various projects in the Department of Education caused our Minister of Education a great deal of alarm, because of the significance of those dollars and those programs to the operation of Education. We, as Executive Members, recognized his alarm and said "Well, we had better support this guy", although he did indicate at the outset of your initial list that he was prepared to abstain. He was prepared to take direction from the House. There was an example of where the Minister was prepared to take a second look at his proposals.

I do not know if I have helped the Member at all in his thought process on this particular issue. I would just say in conclusion that we are operating within certain guidelines. I think there are times when we can be flexible. We have not gone through the supplementary estimates process yet but I think when you do take a look at some of the supplementary estimates you will see that there are some -- not all -- but there are some issues in the supps which reflect direction of the Assembly or desires of particular Members. I am saying that in respect of the fiscal year we are going into. Obviously we will be coming back as we do, probably in the September session, with supps to rearrange the main estimates within departments and within programs and there again is another avenue where it is possible, I think, for us to take direction and advice, proposals from this particular session, from previous sessions and from future sessions and to try to integrate them to the extent that it is possible within our main estimates. Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion. Supplementary. Mr. Sibbeston.

Ordinary MLAs Opportunity To Influence The Budget

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to hear from Mr. Braden. I do not feel he has answered clearly the government's view as to whether an ordinary MLA has as much right or opportunity to influence the budget as the Ministers. Would the honourable Member not agree that in the year just before the election that it may be open for some of the Ministers to take steps to make it such that more moneys are directed toward their constituencies? In view of this, does the Minister not agree that it is very important for all MLAs to be able to influence the budget, not just the advantaged seven, and that this can be done by open discussion about the budget with everybody knowing that they are no less than anybody else, that we are all elected the same way and that we ought to have the same opportunity to make changes to the budget as the Executive Committee Members?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I would say that the MLA who does not sit on the Executive Committee has opportunities to influence the budget...

MR. SIBBESTON: As much?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I will get to that, Mr. Chairman. I think if one goes through the budget preparation process there are opportunities that are afforded through Mrs. Sorensen's committee -- I recognize there that not all MLAs sit on Mrs. Sorensen's committee. There are also some opportunities in the field when there is discussion of capital budget, for MLAs to influence the budget, for example through the Baffin Regional Council. There are times when, in the final analysis, not everything comes out the way an MLA would like to see it. There are a couple of examples. Finally, in this particular forum an MLA has a chance to influence the budget of the Housing Corporation.

In respect to the last point Mr. Sibbeston raised about Ministers taking steps to influence the budget to their political advantage, I suppose that is possible although I would say that, as the group here, we have a mandate to respect the needs of all the people in the Territories and in the particular Housing Corporation budget I think Mr. McCallum indicated that...

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

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

MR. CURLEY: We made an agreement during the caucus meeting that the Chair would stick by the rules and not entertain questions that are unrelated to the motion on the floor. I feel that we are now breaking our agreement of this morning, that the chairman would have to disallow a question when the motions are on the floor. I think we are going off the track as far as the rules are concerned. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): I feel that the question is directly asked of the Minister and it has to do with the motion. That is why I let it carry on. Are you finished with your reply, Mr. Braden?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: One more minute, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief and will try to keep to the original intent of the motion. As Mr. McCallum indicated, that 70 out of 77 homes would be built in the Keewatin and Baffin regions of the Northwest Territories and only one MLA on the Executive Committee is from one of those two regions.

I will make one final point on another general way in which the MLAs can influence the budget's preparation for the Housing Corporation or others, particularly in the context of capital expenditures, is that three to four times a year we go through our capital expenditures. I think that what we have tried in our quarterly capital review is to look at priority items such as the one that Mr. Sibbeston and his group raised to the Executive a couple of weeks ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, thank you. It has been discussed at this time and I feel that I understand what the government is trying to do, in part because I am a member of the housing association in the community. Because of these reasons I know why the allocations were in various different numbers. I will be supporting the motion that is on the floor, although the situation is like this and because most of the Members are trying very hard to have and get things done but we are always defeated. Because of this reason in regard to the Housing Corporation budget estimates, I will be totally in support of the motion. I would like to make myself clear before the motion is passed; I just wanted to point this out before the motion is passed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion. Mr. Wray.

Housing Already Allocated

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to support this motion and I am going to support it on a point of principle. It is very appropriate that the Housing Corporation is the one department that is up here right now while we are discussing this. This department, I think, highlights the frustration of an ordinary MLA. When I came here on Friday I was given this book and I was told it was for debate, approval, and I assumed that things could be changed around. Then we come to the Housing Corporation and we have a list of communities and you have a number of houses that these communities are going to get and not only do we know that but every housing association, every...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Wray, can you slow down a bit? The interpreters are falling behind.

MR. CURLEY: Speak in Inuktitut.

MR. WRAY: ...every housing association, the housing federations, every southern and northern newspaper, already know who is getting the houses and there is no debate; that decision is made. What we are going to have to do here is to rubber-stamp what is already a fait accompli and I certainly was not elected to this House to rubber-stamp somebody else's decisions. So for that reason I have to support this motion. If we cannot change things, why waste the time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. McCallum.

Housing Allocation Approved By Legislature In 1982

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the housing that is being built this time -- and I am talking to the rationale behind the motion -- the housing that has been allocated to be built under section 40, the 82 units, were agreed upon last year. If you will recall, at numerous times I was asked whether we were building any houses last year and I said no, that we were waiting to get this kind of input. That is why we went on a two year plan. There is no question, no question, you people approved where those 82 units were to go this year. There were five in the Fort Smith region -- and that is not the town of Fort Smith, so they are not getting any; I did not feather my own bed. They are going to Detah. There are 10 in the Inuvik region, to Tuktoyaktuk. There were 19 in the Keewatin, and 48 in the Baffin. You approved those last year.

Proposals For Future Housing

Under land and foundations, where it says 82 units, those are proposals because that is the demand we received from communities. Now, if the Member for Keewatin South does not want to put up 18 units in Eskimo Point or 18 more in Rankin Inlet -- if he does not require those and there is a requirement from Pond Inlet or from Arctic Bay, I am more than willing to make that change. They are only proposals. We are proposing to build the foundations and get the land in those units. So if the Member for Keewatin South wants to give up 36 units in Keewatin South, then fine, we can go ahead and distribute them around in other places. If the Member for the Kitikmeot region wants to give up 22 units that we are planning in Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Pelly Bay, we can do that as well. Those are the proposals. If you do not think that those are the right places to put those units, fine. There were 15 units scheduled for Baffin, 10 in Pangnirtung and five in Lake Harbour, and if the Member for Lake Harbour wants to give up his five units that would be built not next year but the year after, then I will gladly take those five from them and put five into Arctic Bay.

MR. CURLEY: To the motion. To the motion.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking to the motion, because that is the rationale behind the motion; you could not change anything. This is not cast in stone; these are the proposals, where we are going to put it. You will note that there are not any in my constituency -- Fort Smith; there are five units going to Rae-Edzo, that is the only one in the Fort Smith region. So if the Members do not like where we are going to propose putting up 82 more units, then I suggest give us the input and we will divvy them up into other places. It is the same thing. All you have to do is sit and read what it says. It says the proposed -- land and foundations, 82 units. We did not build any houses last year. We changed to a two year program to get input from people. I would dearly -- no problem at all -- take the 36 units from the Keewatin and divvy them up around other places if you do not think that is the right place to go, but I understood from last year you cannot talk about not approving the 82...

MR. CURLEY: You said...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Curley, Mr. McCallum has the floor. Go ahead.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: If the Members of this Assembly want to change where we are proposing to put these particular units, and there is a greater need that can be demonstrated, that is fine. That is what it says. You people approved where we are going to put the 82 units that we are building this year with the passage of the budget last year, because we did not build any houses last year. Everybody asked me time after time, "Are you building any houses?" "No." Last year we got an approval where you agreed to where we are going to distribute the houses, and so we put them up. This year I am saying to you we have a proposal from the needs that were expressed in various districts and various communities for the 82 units.

MR. SIBBESTON: Point of order.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, it seems that Mr. McCallum is not speaking to the motion. He is going into details as to the budget and that is not the motion under review.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): I feel Mr. McCallum is speaking to the motion because he is giving his reasons why we should debate this budget.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Exactly. I agree with you, Mr. Chairman. The rationale behind the motion was to make sure that you could get some kind of change. I am saying that here is an opportunity, at least in the Housing Corporation's budget...

MR. CURLEY: To the motion.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: ...that if you do not like the location we are planning and you want to put them some place else, fine. We can do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Appaqaq. To the motion.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the motion, I will be supporting it with the best of my ability. The reason is, even before we had a meeting last year, my constituency was already aware of this. It seems to me that we cannot make any changes at this time because the commitment has already been made and I see that the foundations have already been found. However, if we wanted more housing, I do not know what is happening now. I do not even know what situation we are into because my constituents already know of this, way before we have heard about it.

There were a lot of good reasons and if we want to make any motions or present petitions -- whatever the people want we will do. This is not a hard thing to do. I do not feel that we are trying to cut this meeting short. Most of the Members here in the House really have tried their best and a lot of times we are not even sure what we are getting into.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. It is a very important motion and the debate is getting complex. I ask that a copy of the motion be delivered to everyone, with translations please, and that we recess until that is done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Does the committee agree that we take 15 minutes for coffee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): We will take 15 minutes coffee break and get the motion typed and distributed.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The committee will come back to order. The Members now all have a copy of the motion in front of them. To the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, just to get back to the point of clarification, the motion does not say that the NWT Housing Corporation's budget should not be approved. It only states that it should be approved without debate, because of the reasons stated previously. Some of the Members are talking about the rationale of why we should continue to talk about it and discuss the issues, but my understanding was the chairman asked for general comments and we are just proceeding to move into the main estimates. I felt that we could save that time and perhaps deal with other directions that the Minister would like to have in the normal course of motions and replies to the Commissioner on behalf of our constituents. That was not the intent -- not to approve the budget -- but just without debate, because we spend a lot of time on little details we can do very little about. As politicians, I am sure that when a community has the anticipation that they are going to receive an assigned item and then we go and take it away from them, I do not think that is fair. I was not even implying that the Housing Corporation did not do the best job that they could. The motion was merely to save some time and deal with direction and with the general policy in another manner, maybe more efficiently, in a formal way. Thank you.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I say I support this motion it means that -- and I would like the Minister responsible for Housing Corporation to listen to exactly what I mean by supporting the motion. It means approve the Housing Corporation 1983-84 main estimates as tabled, without debate, and I could interpret that as without change. So if he wants to not support this motion -- to me approving means you are in agreement with what is presented. If he disagrees with that, then he means he is rejecting the budget for 1983-84, as tabled. I could not interpret his rationale for saying that if we approve this budget as presented, he then is going to start transferring the housing allocations all around. I do not know what rationale he would use to that effect if the Housing Corporation's budget estimates are approved without change. I do not know where he would get the authority from to change them around. So then, I would like him to understand that part, that approving means not rejecting the budget presented by the Housing Corporation.

No Action On Committee Motion Of February 11, 1981

Mr. Chairman, I just want that clarified because the rationale for supporting this motion is, in 1981, I introduced the following motion, which asked the Housing Corporation at that time to -- I want to read it, Mr. Chairman, because it was a very...

AN HON. MEMBER: To the motion.

MR. CURLEY: ...important recommendation to the Housing Corporation. The motion was "that this Assembly urge the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to establish a design and construction program in the coming year, which will give priority to meeting urgent housing needs for single people and single parents in the Northwest Territories". That was February 11, 1981, and to date there has been no action taken on that. So that is one example why I could not see where the Housing Corporation all of a sudden would have a change of heart and respond to the positions taken by this Assembly.

I feel that the Housing Corporation has been given enough opportunity to respond to the direction that we have given them, and if they cannot do it, then what is wrong with approving the main estimates as they are presented now? If we want to speak to the Housing Corporation officials, we could certainly do that outside of the chamber because we have a lot of days that we do not sit in the Assembly. We could speak directly to the Housing Corporation officials and the Ministers, and even have dinner with them once in a while. I think they would appreciate that, so I urge everyone to support this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Question being called.

MRS. SORENSEN: Recorded vote.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, if this motion is defeated am I given to understand that we then would proceed to discussion of the main estimates as tabled, with debate? Is that the intent of the motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): If the motion is defeated, we will continue to debate the Housing Corporation budget. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, by passing the budget like this, with \$29,978,000 and \$11 million being approved as the two figures, that means that we are not debating on the detail of that department. Therefore we are leaving it entirely up to the Executive to determine what to do with this \$40 million or nearly \$41 million. Only the total figures are being dealt with here. We always have to go back to page one and vote the department as a whole, so in fact what we are doing here is voting the department as a whole, as tabled, its total figures, and this will leave the Executive free to do whatever they want within that department. So I am going to vote against the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion.

MR. CURLEY: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Question is being called.

MRS. SORENSEN: Recorded vote.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Recorded vote requested. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Appaqaq, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, Mr. Wray, Mr. Sibbeston.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Those opposed.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Fraser.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Abstentions.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Nerysoo.

---Applause

Motion To Approve Housing Corporation Main Estimates Without Debate, Bill 1-83(1), Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The motion is carried eight to seven.

---Carried

0 And M, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Agreed

The motion was carried and we will now have to pass the operations and maintenance, page 3.01, \$29,978,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Capital, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Capital, \$11,000,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): That concludes the Housing Corporation main estimates. Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion To Approve Remaining Main Estimates And To Recommend Dissolution Of Legislature And Calling Of Election, Ruled Out Of Order

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have a motion.

I move that this Legislature approve the remaining main estimates, both O and M and capital, as tabled in the 1983-84 main estimates;

And further, that this Legislature recommend to the Commissioner that it be dissolved and that he call an election as soon as the appropriate legislation allows.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): We would like to have a copy of the motion. We would like to have it typed and translated and we will take a 15 minute recess.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come back to order. My ruling is that the motion is out of order because of the previous motion that was passed. That was Mr. Curley's motion, which was: I move that this Assembly defer approval of Education, administration, O and M estimates until the Minister tables to this House the following: a) financial commitments for each coming year for the proposed Keewatin education centre; and b) schedule of plans for building and construction, and completion date for this centre.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: It is all in your hands, Dennis.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I will table it right now.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, if it is out of order I would have another motion, then.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Go ahead, Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion To Recommend Dissolution Of Legislature And Calling Of Election

MRS. SORENSEN: I move that this Legislature recommend to the Governor in Council that it be dissolved and we call an election as soon as the appropriate legislation allows.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Copy of the motion, please. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is my opinion after having watched this Legislature in action over the past week and a half, that it is completely out of control and that the only possible solution is to call an election and to seek a renewed mandate from the people who have put their trust in us, and whose trust we have apparently, in my opinion, set aside.

Right Of Member To Represent Constituency Has Been Refused

Mr. Chairman, I guess the question then becomes why should we call an election? It is my opinion that besides being out of control, I feel absolutely appalled that certain Members would move to prevent me, the Member for Yellowknife South, from representing my constituency to the fullest, which is what has been done by preventing debate on the Housing Corporation.

I said, during that debate, Mr. Chairman, that I had questions; I said that I wished to discuss them with the Minister and that obviously I felt it was important that those questions appear in committee of the whole and in our Hansard. I was refused that right. Indications are such that Members might move the same for each department, except maybe those that they personally want to speak about, and I am not prepared to sit here and be railroaded with respect to each department, into a vote in the same way that we were railroaded by a vote of eight to seven today.

Those who say, Mr. Chairman, that I can achieve what I wish through formal motions and through question period or over dinner with the deputy ministers are wrong. Formal questions are very limited; they are not subject to a give and take back and forth between the Minister and the Members. In terms of formal motions, it is very difficult to make a formal motion without all the facts. Motions in committee of the whole often arise as a result of discussion that has taken place, not only discussion between the individual Member and the departmental head or the Minister, but also as a result of the input of other Members. Good motions have come out of the debates that have taken place in committee of the whole and could have come out of the debate that would have taken place under the main estimates of the Housing Corporation.

Consensus Within The House Has Disintegrated

I would also like to say, Mr. Chairman, that we speak much about consensus government in this House, and the fact that we have to be different -- of the need to be different -- yet here I did not detect that we had any consensus on the last vote. That is the reason, too, that I think we should have an election, that the consensus that we pride ourselves on and brag about outside of the House has really broken down.

The previous motion was rammed through by a majority of eight to seven, with one abstention. It was not a consensus decision, and to me, as long as this House is not operating under consensus, it is then operating under a mish mash of party politics -- the Eastern Arctic caucus being a party -- and some sort of consensus that really is not consensus at all. So for that reason I think it has disintegrated and it is time to call an election.

Mr. Chairman, it is my impression that our constituents want us to question the government on a departmental by departmental basis, as we review the budget's main estimates. If we are not prepared to do so -- as we have just shown with the Housing Corporation budget; if Members feel that discussion which takes place in this House makes no difference, as some Members have indicated; if they refuse to give Ministers direction, which is just what does take place in the committee of the whole during the debate of the main estimates -- not only direction with respect to this budget, but direction with respect to next years budget, which they will very, very much need, because the finance committee will not be in operation next fall to review the main estimates, so it is imperative that we discuss each department and particularly discuss the department of the Housing Corporation. But we have chosen not to do that and obviously it probably will happen with each department as it comes up. Mr. Chairman, if Members then, refuse to take this job seriously, I think we should dissolve. I do not think that we deserve, as a whole, the confidence of our constituents.

Provision To Allow Government To Function

Now, the reason that I moved that we accept the main estimates as they were tabled was to allow the bureaucrats and the Commissioner to get on with the job of governing while we go out on the election trail, but obviously that was ruled out of order. Well, if we vote to dissolve I guess we will not have to deal with the budget. There is however an order in council that can be made to allow the government to proceed even if the Legislature has not passed the budget.

Lack Of Commitment On The Part Of Some Members

Mr. Chairman, from the day that we opened I have felt a tremendous lack of commitment from some Members. It is as if some do not care any more. Some are extraordinarily argumentative -- we have always been an argumentative Legislature, but there almost seems to be a frenzy on the part of some Members. Some appear very, very frustrated; I think that is partly because they have not taken part, or refused to take part in the committee process where a lot of the work is done on the budget. Some want to get on with other interests, and obviously some want to get home. As I said earlier, however, an awful lot of work has been done in committee on this budget and, indeed, for the last two budgets. It is obvious that some Members who do not belong to the finance committee where detailed information is available on these budgets, are the first to be critical of the priorities chosen -- chosen, I might add, in fairly extensive consultation with the regions, with the Baffin Regional Council in particular. I said earlier that those priorities are also taken from the debate during the main estimates review, and that is one reason why it is so important that we do discuss it in committee of the whole.

That is our job. Obviously, we are not prepared to do that, as we were not with the Housing Corporation. So I say, Mr. Chairman, let us get on to having an election and let others who are willing to take this government to task in committee of the whole, who are willing to

question it, to direct it and, yes, even to badger it from time to time in a constructive way -- not a destructive way, but a constructive way -- let us let other people try their hand if we are obviously too tired and too bitter and too committed to other roles that we might have in addition to our MLA roles. Let us let them get on with it.

Mandate Of Trust Given By Constituents

I also realize, Mr. Chairman, that there are several things if this motion passes that will be left undone. I am sorry for that. The issue of the remaining seats, the territorial electoral boundaries, is certainly an important issue; the issue of the education recommendations which the Minister had talked about presenting to the Legislature this fall; but I think the issue of lack of control and lack of fulfilling the mandate of trust that our constituents have given us is a greater issue than the two major things that will be left undone. I think that obviously it is time that the Members here seek to dissolve and to let the public decide whether this Legislature is indeed worthy -- and Members in it are indeed worthy of a new mandate and new trust. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that I think it is Members of the Executive Committee who really brought us to this point and the event that happened yesterday is partly to blame -- you know, forced some people into taking the action we have before us today.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: You have your planning money.

MR. SIBBESTON: However, without taking away from your fence.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, but you got your planning money.

MR. SIBBESTON: And I would say that the fact that this motion has been made is the result of frustration that some Members feel in not being able to effect changes in the budget. Some may say that I accomplished -- that we were able to accomplish what I was hoping to, yesterday, but from somewhere the government scared up some money, or is prepared to scare up some money. Where is this pot that the government can go to occasionally, when they are pressured after a whole days debate, to make moneys available? This was done without taking away anything from the budget. Mr. Patterson still gets his now very famous fence for Frobisher Bay...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I will have to build it myself.

---Laughter

MR. SIBBESTON: ...and things that I think some of us feel are extravagant and unnecessary, such as all that paving that is supposed to be done around William McDonald school, are still apparently going ahead, so we have not effected any change in the budget. This is part of the frustration I think some Members feel.

As I said, it is important for MLAs to feel that they are MLAs, that they are an elected group and that they can leave their constituencies, come from them to a place where we are having meetings and effect change. But what happens oftentimes is you come here with good intentions, hope, and you meet a wall. This wall is the system that is in place. This wall is a bunch of Executive Committee Members that hold hands, vote together constantly to oppose anything that is being suggested from this side of the House, and it is very, very frustrating. I say that it is very important in dealing with departments that Ministers do not necessarily have to protect their budget with their life and threaten to resign any time you take steps to take away some of the moneys that are in their budget.

Budget Is A Proposal Of Government

In my view, on the contrary, the way the system should work is that the budget should be seen as a proposal of government, that Ministers and the government should indicate very clearly that it is simply a proposal and that it is subject to change, ordinary MLAs can effect change. If Members point out certain things that they consider to be extravagant, they ought to be able to change it. That is the kind of system, the kind of Assembly, that should exist here in the North.

I have not yet decided myself whether I will support the motion. I was hoping that there would be more debate and discussion about it before arriving at a decision. I, myself, am concerned that if we dissolve the boundaries commission will not finish its task. I am very concerned about that point. Yet if after hearing further debate, I am convinced that it is in the best interests of the people of the North to have an election and perhaps different people than us elected then I will go that way. So I am presently open to the motion and await to hear what other Members have to say on the subject.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Nerysoo. To the motion.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I have not spoken. I am going to indicate that of course I am going to oppose the motion, but there are two things that I would like to say. Number one, the Executive Committee does not always necessarily support one another and I think that to paint everyone with the same brush indicating that everything that is in the budget is supported by all Ministers is not necessarily true; we have to give and take. The reality is that if I wanted something in my constituency, I have to look at what other Members in this House require in their constituencies. I have to give up a lot, I think that everyone in this House has to give up something, so I think if you are going to paint the Executive Committee with a brush at all, at least you can paint them with the brush of being able to compromise with one another and to work with one another. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason advanced by the mover of the motion was that the Assembly should be dissolved because it is out of control, and I take issue with that. I do not think that it is out of control. I think rather that a situation exists where no particular Member has control of the Assembly, and that is good; that is the way it should be.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: I personally consider that the motion that passed with respect to the Housing Corporation estimates was an irresponsible motion; that it was not in the interests of good government. That is a personal decision, but if assemblies were dissolved every time motions passed that were not in the interests of good government, I think most assemblies everywhere in the western world would have a hard time standing for more than a month or so. We do not always do the right things; I personally think that was a wrong thing but I will not let that one wrong lead to another. I think another wrong and a greater one would be to dissolve the House.

I was elected on a four year mandate, and I know it would be very easy for someone to accuse a person like myself of clinging to the position for that length of time. If that is what someone thinks, let them think it; that is not the reason I want to serve four years. I was given a job to do for four years and I intend to fulfil it to the best of my ability and not to back away when things become frustrating or difficult. If the Assembly, in its majority, decides that a particular course of action is the way this House should act during its four year mandate, then I may not like it and I will make judgment about it, but at the same time I will accept that that is the will of the majority.

Federal Government Intervention Would Be A Mistake

There are other practical reasons that I oppose the motion. First of all, I think that it would not be wise of us to invite the federal government to intervene in the affairs of this Assembly and dissolve it before...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...the time that has been allotted to it in law. That would be a mistake. It would set a precedent and I do not think we should do it. I also believe that if we were to ask for dissolution and it were granted, that there is no guarantee at all that an election would be called when we want it. Certainly no guarantee in law. The only compulsion would be a kind of moral compulsion and I think the federal government could resist that until at least four years had elapsed in order to call an election. So it could be possible that we would be quite a number of months in the Territories without any Assembly if we were to ask for dissolution.

Finally, more specifically and very practically, although I am sure most Members here would agree with me that it is almost incomprehensible that anybody would run against me in Yellowknife Centre in the next election...

---Laughter

...the simple truth is that there are some people intending to do it. I sincerely feel that because of the way this Assembly is set up, such people have been making their plans according to a schedule which they have every right to expect will be fulfilled; and that where you have provincial legislators or the federal parliament, people expect that there may be elections sooner than that but here that is not the case. There are certainly many people who are making plans to run in the next election and they thought the next election would be in nearly a years time. I believe that in the interests of democracy and fairness, we should not pre-empt that kind of planning. So for all of those reasons, I will oppose the motion.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I missed the excitement today. I was attending a meeting of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum with my colleague from Kitikmeot but I understand my colleague on the Executive, Mr. McCallum, got a resounding vote of confidence from this House for the thorough manner in which he prepared his budget.

---Applause

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mahsi cho.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Just a few of the reasons I am going to be voting against the motion, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I think there is some apprehension on this side of the House anyway, that dissolution now could mean a spring election, if indeed an election does occur. I do worry about the possibilities along with my colleague for Yellowknife Centre that an election might indeed not be allowed to occur and we might be the victims of forces beyond our control. If there is a spring election it is going to be entirely unsuitable for the people of the Eastern Arctic. This is the wrong time of year to hold an election.

Important Unfinished Business

Secondly, I have got to build a fence in Frobisher Bay -- no, secondly, Mr. Chairman, I think there is a lot of important unfinished business in this House. One of the things I am really looking forward to getting a big start on in May and in the fall session of this Assembly, are the education reforms. I think we have built up considerable expectations on the part of the public of the Northwest Territories that we care about education and are planning major reforms. I think we should follow through on the initiatives that we have begun and I have precious little time as it is now to do the departmental work that is required. I do not like to just throw aside that issue of education reform because of what happened on one day in this House.

I would also just point to a few other important developments that I think are occurring. I think we are doing major preparatory work to prepare for fundamental constitutional reform in the Northwest Territories, preparing for division of the Northwest Territories, preparing new structures of government, the work of the Constitutional Alliance, the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, the Western Constitutional Forum which I think is accelerating land claims. I do not like to see these things interfered with when I think things are moving. Things are going well. We have some work to finish and I think we are going to look fickle and I would even say foolish, if we decide to suddenly interrupt things and astonish the public midstream with this reversal of what had been announced as our intentions to carry our term through for another year. I would have, I think, a very difficult time explaining to my constituents why this motion was made if I voted in favour of it.

For all those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I am going to vote "no", even though I see it as a chance to undo the boundaries commission or at least prolong the boundaries commission another four years. I had felt very strongly about that issue. But I would like to say on this business of consensus government that the vote passed on a narrow majority and I am willing to accept that that was the decision of this House. So I am darned well going to make sure that the boundaries commission makes the right decisions now and I want to be around to be a part of that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Expiry Of Term Related To Federal Politics

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just trying to analyse what would possibly happen if we were to carry on until our term is expired, which is I believe at the end of October -- if we decide to hold a fall session which could mean that we would not have an election until early

1984. So to those individuals who have plans and other ambitions for national politics, it might mean that if there would have to be a leadership convention in early 1984 and maybe a spring federal election, the fall election would not likely be a good time for those people with ambitions beyond the territorial politics. It might be good to have a spring session and dissolve early so that those people who have plans beyond that would be able to at least have almost a year to resign from their post in order to run for nomination in national politics. So in that case I think it would make sense that we dissolve and have an early election.

Because of these reasons I could not support the motion so I will be voting against the motion in that respect. Although we may have some disagreements in this Assembly some times, I think it is a good practice that democracy at least exists in this House. Once in a while not only the might and the government gets its own way. I think the government is prepared to make some changes. I was looking forward to debating the other areas, because by giving an example in the kind of motion that we passed this afternoon, I think we made our case. I think the point was taken by the government and that the Ministers, including the Commissioner, are prepared to assure us that each ordinary MLA has his own role to play in this House. I have not given up on that.

I have been disappointed many times when we did not have a consensus, for instance for the boundaries commission. It passed by just one vote but we did not have to call for early election just because we were defeated on our case.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: I think we should proceed on that basis. Not all of us are going to have an easy time in this Assembly. I am disappointed many times but that does not mean that I lose respect for the democracy that we enjoy in this House. So for these reasons I cannot support the mover's contention that we have lost control in this House. I think the Minister is prepared to respond and I am inclined to believe that they are going to do their best to try to improve in dealing with the concerns of ordinary MLAs. For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I am going to vote against the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: I will move that we continue to debate this matter beyond 6:00 o'clock.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Recommend Dissolution Of Legislature And Calling Of Election, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

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

MR. SPEAKER: Will the House come to order please? Mr. Sayine.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-83(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1983-84

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-83(1), Appropriation Ordinance, 1983-84, and wishes to report progress, with one motion being adopted.

MR. MacQUARRIE: But not much.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Members' Services Board at 10:00 a.m. in the caucus room.

ITEM NO. 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 16th, 1983.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Oral Questions
4. Written Questions
5. Returns
6. Ministers' Statements
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Bills 1-83(1), 6-83(1), 7-83(1), 8-83(1), 9-83(1), 10-83(1), 11-83(1), 12-83(1)
16. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I hope that the House will take notice that the hour of sitting is 12:00 noon tomorrow. This House stands adjourned until 12:00 noon tomorrow.

---ADJOURNMENT

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