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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1983

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Fraser): Item 2, Members' replies. Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Wray.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 78-83(1): Introduction Of Regional Council Ordinance This Session

MR. WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Local Government. Would the Minister please inform us as to whether he intends to introduce the ordinance with respect to regional councils in this session for passage in this session, please?

MR. SIBBESTON: Good idea.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 78-83(1): Introduction Of Regional Council Ordinance This Session

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, no.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Supplementary To Question 78-83(1): Introduction Of Regional Council Ordinance This Session

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that commitments were made in the spring of 1982 at a regional council session and given that commitments were again made in November of 1982 that this ordinance would be introduced for passage in this session, would the Minister please inform us to the reasons why it will not be introduced? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 78-83(1): Introduction Of Regional Council Ordinance This Session

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I intend to made a statement in that regard to this House.

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

Question 79-83(1): Problems Involved With Introduction Of Regional Council Ordinance

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the Minister of Local Government. In view of the fact that the Minister promised that he would introduce this legislation last November, and although the Minister indicated that he will make a statement, could the Minister maybe indicate as to what exactly the problems are involved so that we could at least make an intelligent assessment and not have to pressure the Minister to try and introduce that legislation which is urgently needed right now?

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

Return To Question 79-83(1): Problems Involved With Introduction Of Regional Council Ordinance

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I will make an intelligent statement which will outline the reasons why I do not intend to bring forward that legislation at this time. Thank you.

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

Question 80-83(1): Review Of Minister's Statement In Committee Of The Whole

MR. CURLEY: I do not want to undermine the Minister of Local Government but the public has been waiting for almost a year since they started dealing with the draft proposal last year and although the Minister is going to make a statement, there will not be an opportunity to respond and ask the Minister questions. Will the Minister also indicate whether he is going to give us an opportunity for us to review the statement during the committee of the whole?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 80-83(1): Review Of Minister's Statement In Committee Of The Whole

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, no.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question 81-83(1): Funding For Regional Councils

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I noticed in the budget that the funds for regional councils has almost tripled. I am just wondering what is the intention of the Minister of Local Government in this regard? Does he intend that he increase funding planned for the budget in 1983-84? Will that be distributed to only existing regional councils or will that be provided to regional councils that may be set up this coming year?

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

Return To Question 81-83(1): Funding For Regional Councils

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member's question will be answered in my statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, item 3, oral questions.

Question 82-83(1): Government Plans For Introduction Of Ordinance

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that I had originally intended to have a Private Member's Bill set up for the Deh Cho regional council and I have since not gone ahead, with the understanding that the government was going to come forward with the regional and tribal councils ordinance, is the Minister prepared to reconsider his apparent decision not to proceed with the ordinance at this session? Even if he was not going to proceed with it at this session would he be prepared to proceed with it, perhaps, in the spring or the fall session? What are the government plans? I ask this hoping to have some answers so that one can deal with it, rather than have it dealt with in the agenda under Ministers' statements, where one does not have a chance to ask questions when statements are made.

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

Return To Question 82-83(1): Government Plans For Introduction Of Ordinance

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I will be making a statement in this regard not today but tomorrow. The honourable Member will have an opportunity to study my statement and can ask me further questions under oral questions or written questions, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, has the Minister changed his tactics from being very wordy to an arrogant attitude today or what is the problem that we are not receiving the answers that we were hopeful of getting?

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I did not read a question in that: I sense it was, rather, a statement. Am I correct?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would remind Members that this item is oral questions and the Minister could not find a question in there. Mr. Sibbeston, supplementary.

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes, I want to know how the Minister is feeling today.

---Laughter

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I feel fine. Thank you for the honourable Member's concern.

---Laughter

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Curley, item 3, oral questions.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Commissioner. I would like permission to...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay, nay!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it agreed that the Commissioner...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay, nay!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Curley, item 3, oral questions.

Question 83-83(1): Indication Of What Members May Expect From Minister's Statement

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not want to get into any acrimonious debate with the Members but we are dealing with some of the government policies and I sincerely would ask you to co-operate.

This is what we want. I would like to now ask the Leader of the Elected Executive Committee a question as to why some changes have been made because, although the Minister of Local Government has indicated that he will make a statement I do not believe that we are restricted to just Minister's statements. Could we get some indication whether or not there are problems involved? Are there funding problems involved? Are we going to be given a chance to react to the statement in a formal way? Could you indicate to me, honestly, sincerely, what we may expect from the statement coming from the Minister?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 83-83(1): Indication Of What Members May Expect From Minister's Statement

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: MR. Speaker, I can attest to the amount of time that has been spent by the Executive Committee examining the complex issue of regional councils and also devolution of responsibility to regional advisory councils. We started late last year, as I recall, and it has been a regular item on our Executive Committee agenda. I just want to assure all Members in this House that the Minister of Local Government, in particular, and other representatives in the Department of Justice have spent a great deal of time on this particular subject. I am not at liberty to disclose what my colleague is going to say in respect of this issue of regional councils. Suffice it to say that the government has done a lot of work. We would hope, as a result of the Minister's statement, that some approach could be taken to getting some input or reaction from Members because it is something that is of great significance to the government. As Members know, we have one regional council that has been established and, obviously, the Minister is under pressure because there is a tribal council in his constituency that is looking at forming in some fashion, there is another council in Mr. Sibbeston's riding, there is a regional council in the Keewatin and there is a regional council in Kitikmeot. So the Minister is under pressure. I assure Mr. Speaker and other Members of the House that it is not the Minister's intent to try and sweep this issue under the rug.

In respect of what Mr. Sibbeston noted earlier on concerning the budget, obviously the Government of the Northwest Territories is anticipating that at some time in the future, there will be a demand on the Department of Local Government for funds. That is why there has been an increase in the portion of the Local Government budget that deals with regional councils.

All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that I am awaiting, as well, the Minister's statement, and that I am sure there is some technique, whether it is by motion or referral to committee of the whole, whereby we can get this issue discussed in much more detail. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like to remind Members that oral questions are questions that need immediate attention so just stick to the oral questions. Mr. Wray, oral questions.

Question 84-83(1): Funds For Proposed Keewatin Regional Council

MR. WRAY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a question for the government leader on the subject on funds. Given that this House has already passed those funds within the Local Government budget, would the government leader assure us that the allocation of those funds to the proposed Keewatin regional council will not be jeopardized by the government's inability to bring this ordinance through this House as per the commitments that were made in public and in writing to this Assembly and to the Keewatin regional council? I would like the government to tell me that those funds will not be jeopardized because of the ordinance not being passed at this session. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 84-83(1): Funds For Proposed Keewatin Regional Council

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker. A portion of the budget under the Department of Local Government is obviously directed at existing regional councils, that is, the Baffin Regional Council. As I noted earlier on, there are a number of other councils which are at the stage now where they feel they would like to incorporate or to have a law establishing them. I can give the Member for Keewatin North my assurance that the funds for the Keewatin regional council will not be jeopardized. I think the government has demonstrated, over the past few months, that it has been willing to assist the Keewatin regional council in some of the costs associated with the developmental process in forming and developing to the point where they feel they want to be incorporated and recognized in law.

So in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, my colleague indicates to me that the moneys will be appropriated. It is a major undertaking on the part of this government and we feel that it is necessary for the Minister to make a statement to the House at this time to start getting some feedback to whatever means is most appropriate in order that wise decisions on expenditure of the dollars that we have allocated can be made.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The leader of the government has been much more co-operative on the subject today.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

---Applause

Question 85-83(1): Responsibility For Answering For Local Government

MR. SIBBESTON: Is he taking over the responsibility of Local Government by answering -- rebuking, and putting down the rather arrogant and bad mood of the Minister today?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 85-83(1): Responsibility For Answering For Local Government

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I have been known to have my arrogant moments as well. I do not wish to detract at all from what the Minister has said. He indicated to this House that he was going to be making a statement. I am quite sure that he will be able to support and defend the kind of points he is going to make and to also stimulate this House into some reasonable debate which will provide him with useful input in the future. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin, oral questions.

Question 86-83(1): Relocation Costs Paid By Employment And Immigration Canada

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. It concerns relationships with Manpower and this government. I was wondering if he is aware, as I have become aware lately due to comments of different people looking for jobs in the Northwest Territories, that Quebec appears to be, for example, in a zone of high unemployment, and a company like Esso Resources of Norman Wells can have the way paid for those employees to travel all the way from Quebec to Norman Wells, if they are on UIC? However, unemployed people in places in the Northwest Territories, even Yellowknife, are unable to get Manpower travel assistance to go to Esso Resources. I was wondering if he was aware of this possible situation being in existence?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 86-83(1): Relocation Costs Paid By Employment And Immigration Canada

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the comments of unemployed people who are indicating that they can get some relocation funding to move from outside of the Territories into the Territories. I am aware that Employment and Immigration Canada pay on a one-time basis only, as far as I know, when we were talking about this in discussion on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. I am aware that Canada Employment and Immigration Commission will pay relocation costs on a one-time basis only. If the Member has further, particular information that I should be made aware of on a more concrete basis, I would be more than willing to take that information and try to delve into the concern that he raised, and come back with a report to the House.

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

Question 87-83(1): Tabling Of Reports Of Constitutional Committees And Forums

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, early last week, there was a resolution passed in this House that called for certain individuals to make a report no later than March 4th, 1983. Those individuals were concerned with the special committee on division, the special committee on the constitution of Canada and the special committee on constitutional development, as well as the Constitutional Alliance, the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if you yourself are aware that the various chairmen have reports for us today -- which is three days late -- as asked for in this House, or whether Mr. Braden can enlighten this House on whether those individuals will be making their reports today?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. I am not prepared to answer your question, but maybe Mr. Braden could.

Return To Question 87-83(1): Tabling Of Reports Of Constitutional Committees And Forums

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I have to be somewhat humble here. I am aware that the chairman of the constitutional development committee has completed his work and that the chairman of the alliance has completed his work, and the chairmen of the two forums have completed their work. However, as the co-chairman of the special committee on division and the special committee on the constitution, I have to report that, as of last Friday, I had not completed the reports and therefore in consultation with other Members had asked that there be a delay. I have, as of today, completed the report of the special committee on division and would seek from this House a couple more days, or perhaps a day at the most, so that I can complete the report of the special committee on the constitution of Canada. I did not intend to not bring these reports to the House, it was just that because of circumstances, the committees where I am one of the chairmen, had not completed their work.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mrs. Sorensen. Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 87-83(1): Tabling Of Reports Of Constitutional Committees And Forums

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I am very disturbed by the fact that certain Members of this House have not honoured a resolution that had the unanimous support of the House, that they report on March 4th. This is a typical ploy of chairmen -- being a chairman myself, I have used that ploy.

We are scheduled, Mr. Braden, to be finished on the 10th, which is Thursday, and if you take two or three days that means that your report will be made on the last day and we will not as ordinary backbenchers have the opportunity to comment on your report, nor question your report, nor amend your report, if that is necessary. Therefore, I would ask that you, as well as Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. Wah-Shee, table that document, no later than tomorrow so that we can have an opportunity to discuss it in committee of the whole.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I respect the Member for her outrage at what has happened. The motion read that the special committees would report to this House under, I would assume, item 8, that is, reports of standing and special committees. Therefore there is no provision under that particular item on the agenda for debate. So, she can be outraged. I have indicated to the House that I regret the delay, and it was not intended to undermine the right or privilege of the Members of this House to debate or to get the report into committee of the whole so that there could be debate. I am sorry; I do not know what more I can say. If she wants to be outraged -- well, Mr. Sibbeston, here is an example where I will be self-righteous -- that is too bad.

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

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I did not say I was outraged. I simply said that this House had called for those reports to be made no later than March 4th. I ask for a commitment from the Minister to make sure that they would be made no later than tomorrow so that we would have an opportunity to discuss them in committee of the whole and to do what is our right, which is to amend them and discuss them. Now, is the Minister prepared to give me that commitment, that those reports will be tabled in this House no later than tomorrow?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 87-83(1): Tabling Of Reports Of Constitutional Committees And Forums

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak on behalf of other chairmen. I will attempt to do that. We will add them at the end of the list, and we will see if we get to them in debate of committee of the whole.

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

Question 88-83(1): Long-Term Contracts Impeding Business Development

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Minister responsible for Economic Development concerning future business development in the North, specifically concerning existing long-term government contracts which impede northern business from establishing itself in a competitive environment because of the existing government "sweetheart deals" which are disrupting the market place. The question is, what long-term agreements exist between the Government of the Northwest Territories and select business groups which disrupt the functioning of a normal market place environment and thereby would prevent a similar business from being developed by a northern business group? Thank you.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I have no knowledge of any particular so-called "sweetheart deals" that the government has made, either through my department or any other government departments, but I will take the question as notice and come back and file a report to him. I know of no particular sweetheart deals that will jeopardize any kind of competition among business people in the Northwest Territories, but I will take the question as notice and file a reply.

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

MR. WRAY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. An example of a sweetheart deal would be the Navigator Inn escapade at Frobisher Bay. A supplementary would be what...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray, oral questions, please.

Supplementary To Question 88-83(1): Long-Term Contracts Impeding Business Development

MR. WRAY: I am just getting to the question, Mr. Speaker. I was just giving them an example. The supplementary to the question is, what mechanism is in place whereby this government would warn the northern entrepreneur that the government already has entered into long-term contracts that could disrupt the market place and the extent to which this disruption could occur? Thank you.

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any knowledge of a sweetheart deal that this government has with the Navigator Inn in Frobisher Bay and I would be more than welcome to hear about it as he has just indicated. I do not know of any deal that this government has with the Navigator Inn in Frobisher Bay. If there is, I would take that information that he has and, again, come back with some report or some reply to his question or to the -- well, I do not want to say "innuendoes" -- the particular charges that he is laying that this government has entered into sweetheart deals with the Navigator Inn. To my knowledge there are none.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would just like to read out Rule 39, on questions. "Written and oral questions may be asked seeking information relating to public affairs from Executive Members; and in putting a question or replying to it, no argument or opinion shall be offered, nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain; and in answering a question the matter to which it refers shall not be debated." We will keep the sweethearts out of the oral questions and get on with the work of the House. Oral questions, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. I certainly do not agree with you, Mr. Speaker, that you leave the discussion out of the deal. In factual fact, if it is part of the person's question, surely, one can mention "sweetheart". On a point of privilege I feel that sometimes it is necessary to raise and state a number of facts before you eventually get to the question. I think Members should know that this is perfectly proper, that we need not necessarily get the question immediately, that it is very necessary sometimes, to state a number of facts which lead up to the question. Does the Speaker agree that this approach is possible and appropriate under the rules?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well I do not see it in the rules at all; "except so far as may be necessary to explain" is all it says in Rule 39. I am sorry. I do not make the rules. Item 3, oral questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

Question 89-83(1): Creation Of New Communities Near Existing Communities

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Local Government. I wonder if he is aware that Westmin Resources, a company that used to be called Western Mines, is actively developing their lead/zinc property near Pine Point. They have several drills out in the area halfway between Pine Point and Hay River now. NCPC has currently offered them the opportunity to extend the power line into their property and another company, ICG, has indicated they are going to extend a natural gas line from Zama to Hay River and Pine Point which will go past Western Mines. Is he aware that they are now actively pursuing the opening of this mine at an early date? The concern the people of Pine Point and Hay River have is that they do not want to have another community built between Pine Point and Hay River. They want this company to put its employees and offices in the existing communities of Pine Point and Hay River. I was wondering if Local Government has any policies about creating new communities within 15 or 20 miles of existing communities.

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

Return To Question 89-83(1): Creation Of New Communities Near Existing Communities

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the proposal from ICG to construct a natural gas pipeline from Zama to Hay River and Pine Point. It is certainly not our intention in this government to suggest new communities, particularly if it is possible to utilize other communities in the vicinity of developments that occur in the Northwest Territories. In fact, it is a policy of this government to ensure that where any communities are near or within the vicinity of a development, that the development utilize the communities that are in existence nearby. So I just want to indicate that to you.

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

ITEM NO. 4: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 90-83(1): Fuel Spills On The Ingraham Trail

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Richard Nerysoo. The press has reported that there have been fuel spills on the Ingraham Trail en route to Lupin Mine. Would the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources advise on the following: 1) What was the cause of the accidents? 2) How much fuel was spilled? and 3) Where did the accidents occur? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Tologanak. Item 4, written questions. Item 5, returns. Are there any returns? Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM NO. 5: RETURNS

Return To Question 44-83(1): Road From Fort Franklin To North Of Bear River

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I have a return, for you, sir, in regard to Question 44-83(1), the oral question that you raised on February 23rd in regard to the need for a road from Fort Franklin to Great Bear River. I wish to inform you, sir, that no funds have been identified by the department for this project in the 1983-84 capital plan. The hamlet council has not identified this as a required project during their discussions with the Inuvik region on the preparation of the 1983-84 capital plan.

Several years ago the department had discussions with the hamlet council about this issue. Our response then was that because of the high cost of constructing this road, the hamlet should concentrate on developing and improving the roads within the community. There has been no indication from the hamlet council since that time that they consider the matter a priority or wish further action on the proposal.

Return To Question 47-83(1): Water Truck And Reservoir, Clyde River

Mr. Speaker, I have a reply to Question 47-83(1), asked by the honourable Member from Pangnirtung, on February 24th. This is in regard to Clyde River water supply. In response to the oral question, I have had my Local Government officials contact the hamlet foreman who looks after the water supply.

The hamlet has taken measures, some time ago, to ensure that the water lake is not polluted from any oil or gas leaks from trucks and skidoos. The hamlet strictly controls access to the water lake and only allows the water truck and, occasionally, the bulldozer out onto the lake when it is frozen. If any oil or gas leakages do occur on or near the lake from these two vehicles the staff immediately cleans up the leak and deposits the material in the dump. The hamlet is confident that their actions will ensure a clean water supply for the community.

The other concern about small organisms in the water supply has been studied by health officials. Preliminary findings indicate these organisms are small fresh water shrimp. The National Research Council is studying water samples to confirm this finding. I have been advised that the water for the community continues to be safe for human consumption. Depending on the final results of the study and discussions with the hamlet council, a water filter may be necessary for aesthetic reasons.

I am confident that the actions taken by the hamlet and my department will ensure the community continues to enjoy a safe and healthy water supply.

Return To Question 61-83(1): Construction And Tender Dates For Hamlet Office, Repulse Bay

Mr. Speaker, I have another return. This is to Question 61-83(1), asked by Mr. Wray in regard to the Repulse Bay hamlet office. The building program for the hamlet office in Repulse Bay is proceeding according to schedule. On March 22, 1983, a meeting has been arranged with the hamlet council to review preliminary design drawings and associated cost estimates. This meeting is part of an ongoing planning process that has been undertaken with the hamlet council over the last several months.

In 1983-84, \$550,000 has been allocated in the capital plan for the construction of the hamlet office. The tender date will not be known until after the hamlet council meeting on March 22, 1983. I expect that the project will be completed in late 1983 or early 1984. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 5, returns. Mr. Tologanak.

Return To Question 51-83(1): Staffing Of Inuvik Public Health Unit

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to written Question 51-83(1), asked by Ms Cournoyea on March 1, 1983, concerning the Inuvik public health unit. Presently, there are two nurses on site with the third nurse returning from annual leave on March 7, 1983. The nurse-in-charge position will be staffed by April 5, 1983, bringing the public health unit to a full staffing complement.

Return To Question 52-83(1): Hiring Of NWT National Health And Welfare Regional Director

I have a return to Question 52-83(1), asked by Ms Cournoyea on March 1, on the hiring of the regional director of NWT, National Health and Welfare. The Public Service Commission has announced that Mr. Maurice Aked has been appointed as the regional director for NWT region. This appointment was effective as of February 28, 1983. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Tologanak. Item 5, returns. Are there any further returns? Item 6, Ministers' statements. Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM NO. 6: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On Reservoir In Pangnirtung

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 1st, during the review of the budget of the Department of Public Works, Mr. Kilabuk asked a question about the water reservoir in Pangnirtung. Mr. McCallum correctly stated that this matter was the responsibility of the Department of Local Government. I would like to take the opportunity to respond to this question.

The department and the hamlet council are aware that the existing water reservoir is too small for current and future community needs. The region has, therefore, allocated in their capital plan, a total of \$3.3 million to be spent on constructing a new reservoir during the fiscal years of 1985-86 and 1986-87. Until the new reservoir is built, the hamlet has undertaken measures to conserve the use of water. I understand the reservoir has the same amount of water in it now as it did at this time last year. However, in case serious water shortages occur, I have asked the region to investigate alternative water sources available to the community. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Item 6, Ministers' statements.

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM NO. 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 18-83(1), Establishment of Boards of Education in the Northwest Territories, prepared by the president of the NWTTA. It is for the reading of Members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 9, tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM NO. 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 19-83(1): Northwest Territories Act Amendment

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Wednesday, March 9th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay, that this Assembly ask the Executive to ask the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to consider amending the NWT Act to comply with section 4(1) of the Constitution Act 1981.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Item 10, notices of motion. Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM NO. 11: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 23-83(1): Public Utilities Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9th, 1983, I shall move that Bill 23-83(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Public Utilities Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Braden.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 21-83(1): Public Service Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9th, 1983, I shall move that Bill 21-83(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Public Service Ordinance, be read for the first time.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 22-83(1): Occupational Training Agreements Ordinance

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice that on Wednesday, March 9th, 1983, I shall move that Bill 22-83(1), An Ordinance to Authorize Agreements Respecting Occupational Training, be read for the first time.

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

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Mr. Nerysoo. Motion 17-83(1).

ITEM NO. 12: MOTIONS

Motion 17-83(1): Establishment Of A Science Institute In The Northwest Territories

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS in the summer of 1981, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs released a proposal for the establishment of a science institute for the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS this Legislative Assembly is concerned that sufficient resources be transferred to the proposed science institute so that it may undertake a reasonable program of its own science activities reflecting concerns of the northerners;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly is also concerned that the proposed science institute maximize opportunities for education and NWT student employment flowing from science activities in the North;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly is also concerned that science activities in the North be relevant to the Northwest Territories, and that means be developed for public input into priorities for scientific research;

AND WHEREAS the Science Advisory Board has been established under legislation of this House since 1975 and has been given a mandate to:

(a) assess the scientific, engineering and technological resources, requirements and potential of the Territories against the need for scientific, engineering and technological advice required by the Council to help solve the social and economical problems in the Territories and achieve the social and economic goals of the people of the Territories;

(b) initiate such investigations as are necessary to accomplish the duties set out in paragraph (a);

(c) recommend research and development programs to aid in the solutions of social and economic problems and to aid in achieving social and economical goals;

(d) advise the Council on any matter referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c), and subject to such confidentiality restrictions as may be placed on the board by the Council, publish the results of these assessments, investigations and advice.

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay, Mr. Patterson, that the Science Advisory Board of the Northwest Territories be requested by this Legislative Assembly to make recommendations on the establishment of a science institute for the Northwest Territories and means by which the concerns of this Assembly might best be reflected in the proposed institute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Your motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Nerysoo. Seconder, Mr. Patterson, to the motion.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: If I may just speak briefly, Mr. Speaker, the motion partly results from an opportunity that Members of this Assembly have had to discuss with the Science Advisory Board their concerns about the establishment of a proposed northern research centre along the lines outlined in a draft proposal submitted by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs officials. I will not go into any more detail but I think all Members will agree that the Science Advisory Board has serious concerns, and this Assembly has serious concerns, about the proposed federal science institute idea. I think we should see an opportunity to get advice from the Science Advisory Board on just what approach we should take to that initiative.

I have discussed the matter with the chairman of the Science Advisory Board and I am informed that it may quite well be possible for the Science Advisory Board to prepare a report on this matter for us in time for the next session of the Legislative Assembly. Since this federal proposal has now been outstanding for a couple of years and nothing much has really been happening on it, I think it is appropriate that we get this advice from our own Science Advisory Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Ms Cournoyea, to the motion.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am in support of the motion. However, I would like to caution the movers of the motion that, as well, in the negotiations of the Inuvialuit and the agreement in principle for the Western Arctic region and the Beaufort Sea, there is envisaged a research board to conduct much of the same measures that you contemplate for the Northwest Territories within this motion. In the recommendations of the Science Advisory Board, I would hope that they would not deplete those negotiations.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 17-83(1), Carried

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

---Carried

Motion 18-83(1). Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion 18-83(1): Witness On Kaminuriak Caribou Herd

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS George Calef is a noted wildlife biologist who has extensive knowledge of the caribou;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Calef's competence was brought into question, by the implication if not by direct statement, in a recent debate in this House;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Calef had no opportunity to defend himself, nor to offer information that might contradict statements made in this House about himself and other wildlife biologists or about the Kaminuriak herd;

AND WHEREAS an obvious injustice has been done to Mr. Calef;

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that this House, at the expense of the Legislative Assembly, invite Mr. Calef to appear before it in committee of the whole as soon as possible to comment on issues concerning himself and the Kaminuriak caribou herd that arose during debate on the estimates of the Department of Renewable Resources, and to answer questions.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not by introducing this motion defending the words or actions of George Calef. In fact, I do not personally know Mr. Calef. I have read his excellent book on caribou and I am aware of, and reasonably knowledgeable about, the controversy that has raged over the size of the Kaminuriak caribou herd and the number of animals that are taken each year. I am aware of and reasonably knowledgeable about the Baker Lake court case. I am aware of the issues surrounding caribou management but I do not know the ins and outs of Mr. Calef's involvement in these matters. I do not know whether he has always acted honestly, honourably and diligently in connection with these matters as a scientist and as a servant of this government should have done. What I do know, however, is that Mr. Calef has had his reputation damaged as a result of an action of this House. Not only has his reputation been damaged, his opportunities for employment have been diminished as we have seen very clearly from an answer to a question that I asked the Minister of Renewable Resources last week. In effect, George Calef has been black-listed by this government...

---Applause

...and this has happened without benefit of a hearing. Would you applaud that too?

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

Right To Speak On His Own Behalf

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I know that some of you would. So while I do not pretend to have the knowledge necessary to defend Mr. Calef's words or actions, I do absolutely defend his right to have an opportunity to be heard; to defend his own words and actions in this very same forum where he has been attacked and condemned in absentia. Too often there have been damaging personal attacks made by Members of this Assembly while hiding behind the skirts of parliamentary privilege. It is noteworthy that on some of these occasions, Members do not make the same scurrilous statements outside this chamber, where they know they will be liable to answer for loose accusations. So long as George Calef is not given the opportunity to come into this House to speak on his own behalf, so long will fair-minded people be compelled to suppose that Mr. Calef was in fact a competent employee, who offered this government the best that he was able, but whose knowledgeable judgments unfortunately did not accord with the prejudices of those in power, that he may well have been a competent and honourable employee who simply could not and would not tell his political masters merely what they wanted to hear.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Oh, nonsense.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Nonsense. Sit down.

MR. MacQUARRIE: It has been said to me by one honourable Member outside the House that if I persist in this motion that I will be putting Mr. Calef in a very difficult position; "that the truth", and I quote, "that the truth would be very embarrassing to Mr. Calef." So be it. I certainly am not afraid of the truth, because it is the truth that should be defended, not necessarily Mr. Calef or those who have accused him. I am not afraid of the truth but neither apparently is Mr. Calef, because I have been in contact with him and he is very willing to appear before this House. In that contact, I even cautioned him that by the very nature of the structure with 22 Members surrounding him and some obviously very hostile and, in addition, a meeting procedure for asking questions and making statements that would certainly not leave Mr. Calef in control of the situation, that that is what he would face. And yet, at risk to himself, he still wishes to come because he believes that there are some important points to be made, particularly about the management of caribou. So he is eager to come.

House Assumed Role Of Court

Unfortunately, in its actions a couple of weeks ago, this House had assumed the role of a court and it has already tried and condemned Mr. Calef without benefit of a hearing. I remind Members that during the debate in question, I could not even get the Minister of Renewable Resources to bring in other witnesses who could provide this House with specific and factual information that might counter -- and it might not, I recognize that -- or ameliorate statements that were being made by Members. In view of the fact that that has happened already, it is late, but I think it is not too late. There is still an opportunity to partially right a wrong. I urge Members to support the motion, and to give Mr. Calef, however belatedly, an opportunity to have his day in court. I think we owe that to him. Finally, by supporting the motion, we can let all our employees see that if they are unfortunately subject to political attack from time to time that they will, at least, have the chance to answer their accusers in the same forum where the accusations are made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Mr. Patterson, did you want to speak to the motion? Mr. Patterson, to the motion.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I only want to speak to the motion very briefly because I do not think Mr. MacQuarrie's self-righteous, if I may suggest, assertions on this matter should be the only word that is heard today in this House before we defeat this motion.

Good Reputation Will Speak For Itself

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that if judgments have been made that were unfair to Mr. Calef's judgment -- or hasty or misinformed, as Mr. MacQuarrie would have us to believe, which I dispute -- however, if judgments were made in this House and statements were said that were damaging to Mr. Calef's reputation, then his good reputation will speak for itself in scientific communities and other places where employment would be offered. I do not think people have to get the blessing from political bodies before they offer themselves for professional work.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that the whole issue underlying this very difficult subject to my mind is whether the judgment of the users of the resource is to be subordinated to that of scientists and professionals. Mr. MacQuarrie has sat here since his first day in this House and he has heard people like William Noah who is, I believe, an honest and objective man and a person with much more of an interest in the preservation and conservation of the Kaminuriak herd than Mr. MacQuarrie has ever had, or will ever have, stand up and say that the numbers were wrong, that the biologists were wrong, that the people in the Keewatin region knew what was going on and were not being listened to. We have Mr. Curley, Mr. Wray and other people who know, who live in the region, who know better than most, I would humbly suggest, telling us this. We have data which Mr. MacQuarrie has not been able to dispute that shows that the herd has at least doubled, if not tripled in size this year. Now he is asking us to waste our time in this House stroking the reputation of a person whose character, to my mind, was not specifically damaged or judged in this House -- it was rather a motion that dealt with biologists who were responsible for significantly overexaggerating a decline which appears not to have now materialized.

So I would like to say that I am not afraid of the truth either but I do not think this House has the time to waste on this issue. We have dealt with it already during the estimates on Renewable Resources; we have a lot of important business to deal with and I cannot support the motion because I am unwilling to commit the time myself. If Mr. Calef has a rebuttal that he wishes to make, there are many other forums in which he can do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mrs. Sorensen. To the motion.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have seconded the motion in the interests basically of justice and of fair play, being an independent and an objective MLA with respect to this issue because I have not been involved at all in the issue of the caribou and the numbers that have so drastically increased. However, I feel that the accusations have left me as an objective MLA at a loss on who to believe. I would like, Mr. Speaker, the opportunity to hear what Mr. Calef has to say. I have heard what Mr. Curley has had to say. I have heard what Mr. Wray has had to say. I think that it is only right that I have the opportunity to hear what Mr. Calef has to say. It is not so much that I am defending Mr. Calef but I want to get at the bottom of why the herd has increased in the drastic measures that it has. I think that is the issue that we are forgetting about in this whole debate. I am not so much championing the right of Mr. Calef to appear here, but rather of getting at the truth and the substance of why that very important herd has increased so drastically in the space of a couple of years. I think that Members should be open to finding out and to seeking that kind of information. We have had the deputy minister and his staff here tell us that it could have been the intrusion of another herd from another area and I would like to hear more about that. I think that in inviting Mr. Calef, who has been maligned and who has, certainly, obviously something to say to this House, we are only showing that we have the capacity to listen to all sides and not be emotional about something that is so important as the wildlife of the Northwest Territories. So I would urge Members, in the interests of not only justice and fair play but of wishing and wanting to get at the bottom of why that herd has increased in such a drastic way, to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Wray. To the motion.

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will just make a couple of short comments on the motion. First of all, it is interesting to note that the two honourable Members for Yellowknife appear to be more worried about Mr. Calef's reputation than they are about the reputation of the hunters and trappers...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. WRAY: ...seeing as how this motion wants Mr. Calef to explain where he stands, but I do not see anything mentioned about the hunters and trappers or the people of the Keewatin mentioned.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Regaining Credibility With Hunters And Trappers

MR. WRAY: So obviously their interests lie in different areas than most of the rest of us. However, I will not support this motion, and I will not support it on the point of view that, as I said earlier, far too much discussion about this subject has taken place in the public arena. Whether the honourable Members for Yellowknife know it or not, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the wildlife department is faced with a very difficult problem of regaining their credibility with the hunters and trappers associations. To drag this subject out into the public again will make it almost impossible for that department and for that Ministry to regain the credibility that is necessary for the government to work hand in hand with the hunters and trappers.

I would suggest that if the honourable Members want to know what Mr. Calef's position is, that they consult the transcripts of the Baker Lake court case; that they consult the transcripts of this House when the department made an appearance before them; that they ask the department to provide them with a slide show that was prepared by those people. There are numerous sources of information with regard to the positions of the biologists, and to drag this back out into the open, we will hear no more than we have already heard for the last six years. I do not consider it worth while for this House to waste its time on it. In fact, if Mr. Calef is feeling somehow impugned, I would say that his best course is to go to the Keewatin and meet with the hunters and trappers associations, and try and regain their credibility, as opposed to coming to this House.

So I would ask other Members not to support this motion because we have heard enough about it in the last six years. I think it is time we let the matter die and let the wildlife people, the Keewatin wildlife federation and the hunters and trappers associations deal with the matter in private until such time as a credible working relationship has been established once again between the people in the communities and the government. Thank you very much.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to refer the Members to the official report of the Eighth Assembly when during January 24th, 1979, Mr. Calef made an extensive presentation to this Assembly. I would think before the Members for Yellowknife South and Yellowknife Centre wished him back to the House, they should really read the debate. I think it would give them very good background because it would give them professional advice which they desperately want. Whether they agree with the figures or not is up to them.

Justice For Native People

I too would support a motion that asked for justice where it is due. I really believe that comments like Dr. Calef has made during the past few years about native hunters overkilling the wildlife in the North -- the overkill of caribou -- has really not done justice to the native people. I said in my remarks the other day that there have been headlines in, for instance, newspapers like the Globe and Mail which have degraded the respect of the hunters. I too am concerned that justice has to be brought to the proper perspective. I would welcome a motion any time that asks for representation from all professionals, as well as the users -- professionals in terms of the land use as far as the hunters are concerned. I think that would be a real opportunity to hear from the people. But to invite one person at this late stage, when we will not give them full attention, I really do not think that would be doing justice, so therefore I cannot support the motion.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin, to the motion.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know much more about caribou than the two advocates of the caribou to my left here. However, just on the principle that I would not ever like to be in a position of preventing people from being able to make appeals to committees of this Assembly, whether it be a committee of the whole or any other committee of this Assembly, I believe that when we do criticize people, we should give them a chance, and I do agree with Mr. Curley that it should not be restricted to one side of the question. However, surely if this Assembly took the move to invite Mr. Calef or anybody else here, the advocates of the other side could amend the motion to bring in their representatives or similar people.

Assembly Should Not Fear Open Debate

So I am going to support the principle that I do not believe that this Assembly should be afraid to hear arguments that maybe the majority of us do not like but should not be afraid to hear. We should not be afraid that we cannot argue with that person when they come in here. So I will support the motion on the principle that I do not believe this Assembly should be afraid of open debate.

MR. CURLEY: We are not afraid.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie, do you want to wind up the debate on this motion?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, I may know little about caribou but I know a lot about justice and about obvious injustice -- Mr. Patterson has recognized my status in that regard.

---Applause

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Let the record show that was applause.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I underline the comments made by Mr. McLaughlin that Members should not be afraid to hear from someone in this situation if he really is in error; surely, that can be demonstrated very finely in this open forum. I recognize and did recognize when the initial debate arose that there may very well have been injustice done with respect to native hunters in the Keewatin. I am concerned about that, but while I have that concern I also have the concern of a possible injustice being done to this man. Perhaps there is not but perhaps there is. It seems to me that with the Members being so reluctant to hear what the man has to say, that I must conclude, despite all the statements of rationalization, that Members do not wish to hear directly from anyone who can contradict some of the very vague and emotional kinds of statements that are made.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: What about the other side?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Better to keep him silent; it seems that is the approach that Members who have been calling for the vote all the way along seem to want to take. It is nasty, it is dirty, get it out of the way quickly.

MS COURNOYEA: Point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, what has the presumption on how other people might feel or that some are afraid got to do with the motion?

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: I am beginning to think that there is a record playing over there on that one. I did not make any presumptions at all this time. People have made statements and what I am saying is that the man who is feeling the impact of them should have a chance to sit here and refute them if he can and that has been denied to him. Mr. Wray said that he does not wish this issue -- or he rather belabours us for having dragged the issue onto the floor. That is absolutely incorrect; it was those who introduced the motion that dragged the whole matter onto the floor. The thing is they would like to drag out, to make visible, only as much as suits them. I say if you are going to drag it out, then drag it all the way out so that we can see, entirely, what the situation is.

MR. WRAY: Then why did you not ask for the hunters and trappers?

Meting Out Justice Is Not A Waste Of Time

MR. MacQUARRIE: Again, Mr. Patterson used the phrase "wasting our time" with respect to this. He did not use that phrase when the motion was brought in to condemn the man and others in the first place. Surely, if it was not a waste of the time of this House in order to do that, then it is absolutely not a waste of time to give that person a chance to defend himself. Is it a waste of time, I would have to ask the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay, is it a waste of time to attempt to mete out justice? You in effect said that in your remarks and if that is what you believe then it seems to me you have chosen the wrong profession.

I really believe, as a matter of principle, that people who are put in this situation -- first of all we should not be condemning employees in this way in this House -- if they are departmental employees and if they are not doing their jobs properly, there are ways in which that matter can be handled. Their affairs should not be dragged onto the floor in this way. But if they are, which I can see may have to happen once in a while, they should definitely be given the chance right here to defend themselves. I urge Members to support this motion and, Mr. Speaker, I ask for a recorded vote.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie, a recorded vote. Mr. Patterson, the motion has wound up and is finished. He closed the debate on the motion.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of privilege, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, since my professional integrity was questioned and since I was asked a question by the MLA for Yellowknife Centre would you give me an opportunity...

MR. MacQUARRIE: I did not ask you a question.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: You said, "and I ask the Member for Frobisher Bay to tell me, is it a waste of time to mete out justice?" I am seeking an opportunity to answer that question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The debate is closed. Mr. MacQuarrie closed the debate and question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Down. Opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Tologanak, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, Mr. Wray, Mr. Braden.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Abstentions, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Sayine.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Are you a fourth category?

---Laughter

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: He has to say one way or another.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Abstentions?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Butters, Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: May I understand how Mr. Sibbeston voted on this, Mr. Speaker? I am serious; he has only got three choices.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, do you wish the record to show that you were not in the House?

MR. SIBBESTON: No, I was here.

Motion 18-83(1), Defeated

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to vote one way or another. You have three choices. I consider it to be an abstention if you -- thank you. Just a minute until I get the results here. The motion was defeated nine to three with seven abstentions.

---Defeated

We will carry on with the orders now. Item 13, first reading of bills. Mr. Braden.

ITEM NO. 13: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, could I have unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 21-83(1)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

---Agreed

Proceed, Mr. Braden.

First Reading Of Bill 21-83(1): Public Service Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Fort Smith, that Bill 21-83(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Public Service Ordinance, be read for the first time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Question being called. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? Bill 21-83(1) has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Nerysoo, item 13, first reading of bills.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 23-83(1).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any nays?

---Agreed

Proceed, Mr. Nerysoo.

First Reading Of Bill 23-83(1): Public Utilities Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 23-83(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Public Utilities Ordinance, be read for the first time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? Bill 23-83(1) has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Patterson, item 13, first reading of bills.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I would like to seek unanimous consent for first reading of Bill 22-83(1).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do I hear any nays in unanimous consent for Bill 22-83(1)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Patterson.

First Reading Of Bill 22-83(1): Occupational Training Agreements Ordinance

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 22-83(1), An Ordinance to Authorize Agreements Respecting Occupational Training, be read for the first time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? Bill 22-83(1) has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 14, second reading of bills. Mr. Braden.

ITEM NO. 14: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, may I have unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 21-83(1)?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bill 21-83(1), unanimous consent requested. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Braden.

Second Reading Of Bill 21-83(1): Public Service Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 21-83(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Public Service Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the ordinance to define more thoroughly the forms of political activity permitted by public servants.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? Bill 21-83(1) has had second reading.

---Carried

Item 14, second reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Could I seek unanimous consent to deal with second reading of Bill 22-83(1), An Ordinance to Authorize Agreements Respecting Occupational Training?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unanimous consent requested.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Agreed.

---Agreed

Mr. Patterson.

Second Reading Of Bill 22-83(1): Occupational Training Agreements Ordinance

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that Bill 22-83(1), An Ordinance to Authorize Agreements Respecting Occupational Training, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to allow the Commissioner or the Executive Members responsible for Education and Economic Development and Tourism to enter into agreements respecting occupational training.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? Bill 22-83(1) has had second reading.

---Carried

Item 14, second reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 23-83(1).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bill 23-83(1). Unanimous consent.

MR. SIBBESTON: What is it?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Public Utilities Board.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do I hear any nays?

---Agreed

Second Reading Of Bill 23-83(1): Public Utilities Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 23-83(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Public Utilities Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the definition of franchise to include natural gas and natural gas liquids; to add the term natural gas liquids to paragraphs 2(d) and 21(a); to increase the number of board members from three to five; and to change the board quorum from two to three.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do I hear question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? Bill 23-83(1) has had second reading.

---Carried

Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

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

Bills 1-83(1), 2-83(1), 3-83(1), 4-83(1), 5-83(1), 6-83(1), 7-83(1), 8-83(1), 9-83(1), 10-83(1), 11-83(1), 12-83(1), 13-83(1), 14-83(1), 15-83(1), 16-83(1), 17-83(1), 18-83(1) and 20-83(1).

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now this committee will come to order. Let us take 10 minutes for coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The Executive

Total 0 And M, Commissioner's Office, Agreed

The Chair recognizes a quorum now. Mr. Minister, do you wish to invite your Deputy Minister?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, he is not the deputy minister; he is the deputy secretary for the Executive and he has some of the technical information that I might have to rely on from time to time. So could I ask the permission of the committee to invite Mr. Abernethy in?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is this House agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Sergeant-at-Arms. We are on page 2.02, Commissioner's Office, \$565,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total 0 And M, Ministers' Offices, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 2.03, Ministers' offices, \$1,461,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total 0 And M, Executive Committee Secretariat, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 2.04, Executive Committee Secretariat, \$1,976,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total 0 And M, Priorities And Planning Secretariat, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 2.05, Priorities and Planning Secretariat, \$307,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 2.06, Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, \$475,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Energy And Resource Development Secretariat, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 2.07, Energy and Resource Development Secretariat, \$666,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Audit Bureau, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 2.08, audit bureau, \$1,122,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Regional Operations Secretariat

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 2.09, Regional Operations Secretariat, \$3,364,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the Commissioner -- I think he is responsible for regional operations -- I am not expecting any changes, but has the government revealed at all the role of the regional directors, whether or not these days they are actually needed in the regions? Do not misunderstand me, Bob MacQuarrie, I am not trying to undermine the civil servants' role. What I am saying is that if the regional councils are going to be formed, the role of the regional directors in the regions will be more like your role in this area -- more like symbolic. It is becoming more and more imminent whether or not there should be a thorough, in-depth review. If the regional councils are going to be formed, should we not be thinking about changing that role? For instance, you have a regional director in the regions, you have assistant regional directors and the regional director may, in some cases, have an executive assistant. On top of all that you have regional superintendents in the program review areas. So has there been a thought to giving a lesser role to the regional directors, thereby transferring some part of that responsibility to either the speaker of the regional councils, or something like that?

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

Role Of Regional Director

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the role of the regional director has evolved over the years to the present situation whereby the regional director acts as the person in the region who co-ordinates all of the territorial government activities and works closely with the deputy ministers in headquarters to deliver the programs of departments. As the role of the regional councils evolves and is confirmed -- and clearly you will have more on that when the Hon. James Wah-Shee makes his statement -- as those councils are developed and certain agreements are reached with them for them to carry out certain government activities, then of course, the role of the regional director and the assistant regional director will have to be reviewed, and clearly their terms of reference adjusted. It is difficult to say how quickly that process will take place, but it is certainly a process that will be under way.

The government will, I am sure, continue to have programs that will not be devolved; that must be carried out by government people, or that are not appropriate to be carried out by others or non-government people on a contractual basis, or whatever basis is decided for regional councils. So there will always be a role. But I would certainly agree with the Member that at each step where there is any change, the role and the duties of the regional directors and their assistants and, indeed, the superintendents will have to be reviewed and kept up to date.

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

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are not at all trying to undermine the important roles of regional directors or their assistants, but what I am trying to get at is we have these positions permanently, as well as the regional superintendent programs. I do not question them at all. I think they are needed; whether or not they eventually transfer to the regional councils in terms of accountability, they are going to be required, the program regional superintendents. However, when you look at the Executive branch of the regional operations and the position of the assistant regional director, although the positions are permanent, they are not permanent in terms of a person who is occupying that role. So they are revolving, in terms of personnel; they leave after two years. We really never get a sense of any importance to the regional director positions or their officials because of the fact that people who are permanently in a community continue to observe them as a temporary transient arrangement. So when we look at the performance and accountability and status of the government, it is never really too high in terms of the community's respect for the government.

Developing Better Relationships In The Regions

I think certainly in Yellowknife, there is no question that the government is regarded very highly and respected; your position as well as the Ministers and deputy ministers. However, in the regions that is not the case, so if I were in your position, I would be I think assigning someone to try and see how we could develop better relations with the government and the public, particularly the native aspect where they are a majority. I am not going to make any recommendations because I am not sure we are going to accept any major revolutionary changes. However, if I was in the position I see the possibility that I would do away with the assistant regional director's position and appoint an important local figure, a native person, to occupy that post, not as an administrator but as a representative of the government, and pay him either one third or half of the salary of the assistant regional director's position. So he would be appointed for a number of years to assist the regional director in his relations with the communities, because at this moment you can have a person occupying the assistant regional director, but really his role is not even respected or taken advantage of by the communities.

I am not at all trying to suggest that the role of the MLA should be undermined as a result of this kind of idea. But I think if we are serious about improving the image of the government and community and government relations, surely some day we are going to have to appoint somebody permanent for a few years, specifically to improve the image. If at all possible, I think we should work toward that. These are just some kinds of concerns that I have. I am going to leave it up to you to improve that because I think it will require an extensive discussion with your people. How willing you are for changes I do not know, but I think the image of the government is one we should all be concerned with. Thank you.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Just briefly, Mr. Chairman. I understand what the honourable Member is saying, and what he has described is a slightly different role for the assistant regional director, who would be more an administrative-type representative of the people who would lend a considerable amount of continuity because he would be prepared to stay in the job for some period of time. It is a very interesting proposal, and I think it is one that all of us would want to have a look at. We have one person in that kind of a role now. He is fully competent, but he has been a resident of the area a long time, a lifetime resident of the area, and I think that he brings to the job the kind of attributes and experience that Mr. Curley has mentioned. So I think we would all like to have a chance to think about the approach that he has outlined to us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mahsi cho. Mr. Chairman, I just want to raise the subject of the Fort Smith region again. It is a subject that I had raised in my young, early days of being a Member of the Assembly in the early 1970s. I refer to the subject every two years or so, and it is the second year so it is time that I raised it again. It has to do with the organization of government as far as the Fort Smith region is concerned.

Basically, I have always thought that it was not necessary in our part of the North to have a Fort Smith region, because the Fort Smith region takes in the Deh Cho area, the Simpson area, the Great Slave Lake area and the Rae-Edzo area -- and at one time the Kitikmeot region but Kitikmeot area has now broken away on its own. I have always thought that there was no need to have a

Fort Smith region as such, because the area which constitutes the Fort Smith region is really all close enough to Yellowknife that administratively it may not really need to have a regional office in Fort Smith, and that all these areas could very well simply report to the headquarters of government. It would do away with a whole level or tier of government.

I am just wondering whether now the time has come in the North to re-examine that. The political debt that was owed to Fort Smith when they lost the capital maybe has been paid, and this is the time now to develop and increase the area government offices and, as I said, simply do away with the Fort Smith regional office. Seriously. I mean, we are supposed to be an enlightened and progressive group of people. I can understand that when government was brought into the North in the 1960s regional governments were established. I can very well understand the need for regional governments in the remoter parts of the North, but in our area of the North where we are all so close, I think it just makes more sense to simply deal directly with the headquarters. Certainly it would save millions and millions of dollars, and have more money for services and programs, if we were simply to do away with the Fort Smith regional office. Are we at this stage now?

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

Administrative Changes Tied To Political Development

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, with Fort Smith being established as a higher education centre and undoubtedly as a centre for a very major electrical power development, its future, of course, is secure. With regard to the regional office there, I think that when we are all engaged in a time of review of both political and administrative development -- because the development of any administration or continuation of any administration is tied intimately to the political development -- it would not be an appropriate time right now to say what kind of administrative changes should be made. With the moves toward division and the establishment of a different kind of territory, the shape of which has not yet been determined, all of these things indicate to me that we have to keep a very watchful eye as to the level and nature of the administration that is provided, but it would not be appropriate to move very quickly to change the style of administration until some of these decisions are taken on the political front, and it seems that those decisions may be moving along fairly quickly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. SIBBESTON: I think the response is that we are into time of changes. We do not know what type of government is going to be set up in the future. There is the division question with us, and Mr. Parker is suggesting that we do not do anything at this time.

My general feeling is that it will be quite a few years before division occurs, and that there is a government that everybody is agreeable with within this part of the North. So we are looking probably at four or five years yet. I was actually hoping that the government would be a little bit more open to re-examining the Fort Smith regional office concept, because certainly in our part of the North, it just seems unreasonable that in dealing with government you have to deal with Fort Smith when we are much closer to Yellowknife. Rae-Edzo is closer to Yellowknife. The Hay River area is closer to -- well, I should not say closer to Yellowknife but reasonably close to Yellowknife, and from our parts of the North anyway it seems like going through Smith is an unnecessary channel and bottleneck.

As I say, I do understand why Fort Smith was made a region. It lost the capital status and so it made some political sense to have a certain number of government people; there are offices in Smith. However, it just seems unreasonable that we are going to be losing thousands and maybe millions of dollars for the next four or five years because there are so many government officials in Smith that serve as regional officers; we have regional superintendents, there are certain regional staff, and of course a regional director. It is, I am sure, costing millions of dollars every year.

Surely we should not wait for the next four or five years to deal with that anomaly in government, in terms of government administration. I feel it simply is not needed, that government would function much more efficiently by simply building up the area offices of Deh Cho, the Dogrib area, the Slave Lake area, and then simply having all these areas report to Yellowknife. So I simply do not accept that suggestion of waiting now until all the political changes and constitutional changes are made in the North. It just seems to me that we still have four or five years and we should not waste all this money in the meantime.

So I would like to make a motion, Mr. Chairman, that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it re-examine its Fort Smith region with a view to building up the area offices and have these offices report directly to headquarters here in Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Can I have a copy of that motion, please?

MR. SIBBESTON: I had it sent up to be typed, and I was just trying to go by memory, but that will be down very shortly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Okay, let us take five minutes. Mr. Commissioner, I do not know if you can speak to the motion right now. Does this committee agree that you wish to make general comments at this time, before that motion comes down to us?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I was hoping to respond briefly to what Mr. Sibbeston had been saying before he advanced the motion, but thank you for giving me the opportunity just to say a few words in that direction.

The setting of a time when political change is likely to move rapidly was not something that I was trying to do. It is the honourable Member who said it might be four, five or more years. I had been given to believe by the actions in this House that there was an expectation that change might come more rapidly than that. However, if that is the kind of time frame that even after a few months or a year appears to be the case, then of course the Executive Committee on an ongoing basis always looks at its administrative procedures, and I am sure would want to do that.

Factors In Review Of Administrative System

However, there is just one thing that the honourable Member should understand, and that is by an action to take a regional office out of service does not mean that that is a total net saving by any means, because the headquarters of the territorial government is not set up as an operational unit. It is set up as a policy unit, and the operations are set for delivery from the regional centres. So there would have to be some change in the capability in headquarters to handle that sort of thing.

The other problem of course, that has to be kept in mind, is that we have been cautious in the past not to try and run with two different systems. There is a clear need for the regional offices because of the great size and diversity of the Northwest Territories, and so we need regional offices, and do we want to have two systems, then? Headquarters running part of the North as an operations centre and the regions running other parts of the North? Those are things that would have to be contemplated in any kind of a review of the administrative system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Honourable Member for Deh Cho, could you repeat your motion, please?

Motion To Review Fort Smith Region For Reorganizing Areas To Report To Headquarters

MR. SIBBESTON: The motion is that the Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it review the organizational structure of the Fort Smith region with a view to reorganize the hierarchy of government into area government offices reporting directly to headquarters administration in Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Your motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. SIBBESTON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am not very familiar with various types of government hierarchies or structures. I just see things generally from the lower levels of government, people out in the field and trying to get services and programs to people. I do not know whether we must necessarily have a regional office and then also a headquarters office, but that is the way the territorial government is presently organized. They are organized into a central office here in Yellowknife and then regions throughout various parts of the North.

I understand very well in the North here, with the territory being so big, there is need to have a Baffin regional office, a Keewatin, Inuvik and Kitikmeot, but all I am saying is in this area of the North we do not need a regional office in Fort Smith. It would not be so bad if it were located somewhat centrally to the area that it serves, but it is simply on the fringe of the region. I know in the Deh Cho area, Simpson, a lot of our dealings are directly with Yellowknife, and I do not know whether we are by-passing the Fort Smith region or not, but a lot of people when dealing with governments deal with Yellowknife. I know in my own case, when I try to deal with problems for my constituents, I invariably phone headquarters, phone government Ministers and people here. I hardly ever phone Fort Smith.

So there is a whole big region, thousands of dollars, millions of dollars, being spent on people sitting in Smith that we feel is not justified. All I am saying as an alternate form of organizing government, as an alternate hierarchy of government for our part of the North here, is that we simply do away with a region, do away with one level of government and establish or build up the area offices. It makes a great deal of sense to build up the area offices, because there are different areas within the Fort Smith region. There is the Deh Cho region, which takes in 10 communities; there is the Rae-Edzo area; there is the Hay River or South Great Slave Lake area. It makes sense to build up those areas and maybe transfer a lot of the people that are sitting presently semi-retired in Smith to these area offices, and then have the link from these area offices right to headquarters in Yellowknife. This seems to me a more efficient method of organization. I do not have a doctor's degree in terms of government, but commonsensical approach from the community of Fort Liard or Wrigley. This is the way we see things; simple and straightforward and uncomplicated and so this is the basis for this.

As I said, really I think there is no need to have Fort Smith as a regional office any more. We have telecommunications too, and the political debt has been paid to Smith, and let us start afresh and have a much more organized, much more efficient hierarchy of government. I should not think that the government feels that it must continue or support Smith as a regional office for ever and ever, that times have changed and we have got to save money and try to use the money in a better way than it has been spent so far.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I feel that I can support the motion. The area that Mr. Sibbeston talks about seems to be relatively close to Yellowknife and the fact that the territorial government is supporting regional councils. There is a Deh Cho regional council; as well, I presume, other councils will be formed in that area. I do not see it as necessarily saving us money or cutting down on expenses, but rather to take the positions and transfer them to the regional bodies that are coming to take over more control and responsibility in the areas that they represent. I see that in many areas that there is a duplication. If the regional councils are doing an effective job then there is no reason why the staff could not be reorganized to support those regional councils and the ongoing process of learning how to deal with the central body becomes their responsibility. I would like to see support for the territorial Executive Committee to look at the organizational structure. As in our area, with the proposal on the Western Arctic regional municipality we do not see a duplication of a regional office if we are successful in putting a regional council in place. Thank you.

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

Attitude Of Town Council In Pine Point

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The problem of having the regional office in Fort Smith has come up at various times that I have been on town council in Pine Point. We have found a lot of the times, it really depends on who the regional director is in Fort Smith. The present incumbent and his predecessor, Mr. Gilberg, I think, raised the profile of the Fort Smith office quite a bit and were very responsive to people, but I do think that in the long run the territorial government has to look at changing the system and not having the regional headquarters in Fort Smith. I think that, previously, the city of Yellowknife and Rae-Edzo used to report through the Fort Smith office but now, I think, they deal directly with headquarters because it just makes more sense. Sometimes it is more difficult if the people in the regional office are not very good advocates for you; you find it is just a lot better just to come across the lake and make your case yourself, where the final decision is going to be made. Now that we have Legislative Assembly Members in nearly every one of the major communities in this area and we are here frequently for sessions, it makes it even more realistic to have Yellowknife operate as the regional headquarters in our area.

I do, also, believe at the same time that this government and the federal government do have some obligations to the people in Fort Smith, some of whom have invested their life savings in their homes and businesses. I suggest that what they should look at is moving some of the functions of government to Fort Smith. For example, they could, maybe, move tourism there or possibly the whole Department of Education or at least a division of one of the departments, in order to make up for this because I do believe that the government has some obligation when they make a move in a certain direction and the people follow that move; they do have an onus upon them to help those people out. I do believe that in the long run having Fort Smith as regional headquarters is not something that we should maintain but what we should be doing is looking for some way to, maybe, make that up for Fort Smith by doing something else for the community, so I am going to support the motion that the Executive Committee investigate this idea. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few concerns about this motion although it is really far outside my particular area. It seems that the Member wishes to see area offices of this government have a direct pipeline to headquarters. They would report directly to headquarters administration in Yellowknife, the motion says. To my mind, and I could be misunderstanding its intent, this would result in the Simpson area, which I think he is speaking for particularly, becoming kind of a region unto itself, with a direct reporting relationship ultimately to this Executive Committee. My own bias is that we should be strengthening the regions. I think the regional director is the key contact point of the government in every region and the division actually is kind of the deputy ministers of all departments, who is responsible for the day to day aspects of the operation and administration of all programs within the region. I am kind of concerned at a motion that would say that headquarters responsibility is sort of amplified by having a number of small areas reporting directly to headquarters, rather than a rather large region having its considerable autonomy to operate programs once they are established by headquarters.

I agree with the notion of building up the area office wherever it might be but I am not sure that the answer is to have the area office reporting directly to headquarters. It seems to me that the effect of the motion would be to be building up the headquarters operation at the expense of the region by making a direct reporting relationship there. I think what is really underneath it is that the Member wants Fort Smith changed as the regional headquarters and I am not sure that he should not be addressing that directly in a motion rather than in this manner, but it may be worth, as Mr. McLaughlin suggests, having a look at. I just wanted to put that two cents in from my perspective, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Danger Of Decentralizing To The State Of Bankruptcy

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I think the real issue here is one of jobs and economic stimulus. Mr. Sibbeston wants it for each community in his region and he wants to take it away from that region that the honourable Member from Fort Smith represents...

MR. CURLEY: What about you?

MRS. SORENSEN: ...and I think that there is some merit, certainly, to wanting as many jobs and business opportunities in each community as possible but we really do have to remember that there is a whole industry and a whole population that has built up around Fort Smith, as a result of the fact that it is a regional area. I would be very hesitant to begin the process of dismantling that without a great deal of thought and without a great deal of consultation with the people that live there.

Not long ago I heard on the radio that Mr. McCallum stated that he was running again to make sure that Fort Smith remained a regional centre. Now I know exactly what he means because obviously it is quite true that there are those here that would wish to take that away from him. I believe that decentralization is very important but I think that we have to be very careful that we do not decentralize so much that we bankrupt ourselves. That is the risk that we run in going beyond regional centres and building up area offices to such an extent that we just simply cannot afford them.

MR. SIBBESTON: We already have them. They are built.

MRS. SORENSEN: I think that there is no doubt that the reporting relationships must be re-evaluated but focussing in on the Fort Smith region is certainly not what I would like to see. I would like to see that we focus in on all the regions and do a review as has been called for by other MLAs in this Legislature as far back as two and three years ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SIBBESTON: Look at all the regions, are they all the same? Is Baffin the same as Smith? Use your head.

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

Political Evolution Of Regional Governments

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe the motion really seeks to support a political evolution by a group of people. It seeks to have the Executive Committee try to reorganize to support that political evolution. I do not see this motion as taking away anything from someone because I really do not see political evolution as trying to set up a system whereby we cannot move because we must maintain and support the entrenched bureaucracy and the entrenched past to make sure that no one gets moved around too much or too uncomfortably.

The political evolution of regional governments is very seriously in the mind of a lot of people and I believe that Mr. Sibbeston probably is thinking of Deh Cho and how that would be organized in order to support the aspirations of the people to begin negotiating at a higher level to look after their region. If, in fact, the political revolution has to organize itself around the bureaucracy then we should decide that is exactly what this present government is desirous of doing. Perhaps many of the people who have been involved in a bureaucratic level would like to move in a political regime that would allow them to be more expressive of their views and to support the group of people that they have been working with over a number of years to realize the more responsible government action within their region.

I think that we have worried too long and too much about how many people we are going to take away from Yellowknife or how many people we are going to take away from Inuvik or how many people we are going to take away from Fort Smith or Frobisher Bay. What we have to recognize is that the real people who we as a government are trying to relate to and represent are living in the regions. This government is supposed to try to represent these people's views and support them in their political evolution. I do not see that this motion tends to do anything else but to recognize that and ask the Executive Committee to look at the ways that this political evolution can be accommodated. I am sure all the people living in Fort Smith who are involved in furthering the will of democracy and regional responsibility could not help but support this motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Fort Smith Not In Centre Of Region

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, what I am asking the Executive Committee in this issue is; for heaven's sake, have an open mind. This government was established 20 years ago and we know why Fort Smith was made a regional centre. Everybody in the North knows that Smith had been a capital and the capital was moved to Yellowknife so the government had to leave something in Smith so they made it a regional centre for an area of the North, even though it was not in the centre of that region. The regional organizational structure of government does make sense for the remote parts of the North. I support the Baffin region 100 per cent because it is so remote from Yellowknife here. All I am saying is that there has been a system, a hierarchy of government set up. Fort Smith is a regional centre, even for the people here in Yellowknife. A person comes in from Rae-Edzo, a person comes in from Lac la Martre into Yellowknife here, their direct dealing with government is Fort Smith. All I am saying is that it does not make sense to continue this system of having to refer people from this area to Fort Smith.

I cannot understand some people like Lynda Sorensen, on a question like this saying "Well, we must look at all regions", which is asinine, in my view, I am not saying that there are problems with government in all regions of the North. I am saying that there is a particular problem in the Fort Smith region. I think I told you why; because people are told when they come into Yellowknife that the direct line or the line of authority is from the area office here to the next higher up level of government offices in Fort Smith and then from there, eventually, back to Yellowknife. I am saying that in practice, people probably come into Yellowknife from the outlying areas and deal directly with the government here and bypass the regional office in Fort Smith.

Waste Of Time And Money

I know that regional government officials sometimes come to the Deh Cho area and it is a one-day drive from Fort Smith so it is a waste of one day. Or if they go through Yellowknife here, they have to fly here one day, spend the night here and then go into Fort Simpson the next day. It is unnecessary. Whereas if the regional office or the direct line of authority was right here in Yellowknife you could be in Simpson within an hour. I am saying too that there is a whole bureaucracy set up in Smith that may have been politically accepted at one time but in this day it is not any more because we are in the process of re-examining, looking at our moneys. There is less money available for government and people are becoming a little more sophisticated and want government services and programs.

Three years ago people in my area did not want government and would not have talked about having more civil servants in Simpson, but now we have changed things around sufficiently that there is merit in having a larger and better area office in Simpson to serve the area. There are approximately 10, 11, 12 areas around Fort Simpson which could be very handily and sufficiently serviced out of Simpson, so build up that office and have officials deal directly with Yellowknife. Forget about Fort Smith, it is just an extra channel or bottleneck and waste of money. We should be concerned about the waste of government funds.

I am surprised that nobody in the North has ever really challenged the government about its regional office in Fort Smith. Millions of dollars have been poured into Fort Smith unnecessarily because of political reasons and I do not think that the Commissioner and Executive should feel any time you raise concerns like this that it is a personal affront, as if you are cutting them with a knife -- their own personal flesh and blood, you know. We are talking of better, more efficient government for people of the North. From my perspective, the people I represent do not want to deal with a regional office that is so far remote, in Fort Smith. It is much more handy and direct to deal with government and officials in Yellowknife and that is what we want to do. I suspect that the people of Rae and Edzo also find it much more convenient to simply deal with government officials in Yellowknife. There must be millions of dollars wasted in government officials semi-retired in Smith, travelling to Rae-Edzo area and the Fort Simpson or Deh Cho area. All I am saying is let us cut this waste out and set up a more efficient system of government and do it quick.

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

Government Not Reluctant To Look At Regional Government

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I guess I would be more than remiss if I were not to make a comment about the resurrected motion of Mr. Sibbeston's -- as he says, he resurrects it every two years or so. I do not think that the government has been reluctant to move away from a regional form of government. Certainly, one simply has to look at the build-up of the area offices in the places that are more central, perhaps even dead centre of the area -- Deh Cho and Simpson and Rae-Edzo and Hay River. However, I think government has moved into area offices and the recommendation is for government to take a look and to review the regional offices. I say that contrary to what Mr. Sibbeston says, it is necessary to possibly take a look at a review of our regional form of government, not simply to exchange it or replace it with the kinds of other forms of regional government that others may hold dear to themselves. Regional government is going to be regional government regardless.

The recommendation to the Executive Committee is to review it. I would expect that all Members of the Executive would review the regional form of government, whether we just continue with what we have now or whether we even consider going into new forms of regional government. I think that we have built up the area office -- there is not much sense of my getting into an argument with Members about how they feel about the residents of particular communities. Certain people have weird and wonderful viewpoints of the people that are employed by the territorial government -- that is their evaluation and I take it from whence it comes. I do not think this government employs a great number of semi-retired people, unless you are talking about people who have passed a particular age. I would like to come back in a few years, and quite possibly only about 10 years, for certain people to see whether they would be semi-retired and still involved with things as well.

MR. SIBBESTON: You do not see many of them.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: You do not see too many of them in Simpson either. You come back in another 10 years and see how you are at 50 when you pass the big mark, too. So I take it that individuals have particular viewpoints. I do not think the government has ever been reluctant to take a look at the regional form of government. We have just heard criticism early this afternoon but where is the government representation, and where are the government plans for new forms of regional government?

MR. CURLEY: To the motion.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: No, I will not.

MR. SIBBESTON: Forget it. Just give up.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: No, no. I never give up, dad. You know me better than that.

MR. SIBBESTON: You have to be reasonable.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Of course, you have to be reasonable, I would agree with Mr. Sibbeston that one should be reasonable. I wish he would practise it a lot more. I think that in terms of government taking a look at the total regional prospect -- I think that is why there has not been anything coming out at the present time for whatever kind of regional form of government. In terms of the Executive, I know it well and I take the recommendation as such. In all of it I think that we are well served and have been well served by a great number of people who have been involved with the government.

I do not want to get into an argument about the relevant merits of people in terms of communities because I am afraid if I did there would be a lot of other communities come out second best. So that I would suggest that we get to the question and take it as a recommendation to the government to take a look at it, and never mind getting all hepped up about a simple motion that says we should get going. Do not get too carried away with it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

Fort Resolution Served Well By Fort Smith Regional Office

MR. SAYINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say a few words on this subject because I am in the Fort Smith region and the motion simply says just to view the organization of the Fort Smith region. I really do not have too many problems with that. However, I just have to point out my views on this. I guess two or three years back I would have no question but to say the Fort Smith region is no bloody good and it is not needed, but within the last two years now, Fort Smith region has served my area really well. What has happened within the last year or two is that I think the government has brought itself more in line with the communities that it is serving, rather than in the past where the communities had to be reaching out to the government all the time and then they were in a sense always out of reach of the people.

MR. SIBBESTON: That is right.

MR. SAYINE: However, within the last year and a half, I think it has improved a lot. I do not know about Mr. Sibbeston's area because it is further from the area that I am in. I am closer to Fort Smith than he is, but we have always said, since 1979, that it was so hard to come within the doors of Yellowknife, the headquarters. My point of view is that I think it would be just as hard to deal with Yellowknife today as it was back in 1979. I really do not know whether we are accomplishing anything by suggesting leaving out a regional centre like Fort Smith. However, in my view the region is serving the community much better than before, but I think there should be more positions created within the communities or within the area offices to serve the immediate needs of the community. If we just say do away with the whole region, I do not think we are accomplishing too much. We are getting ahead of ourselves a little. Maybe Mr. Sibbeston should look at what Mr. Tologanak did and create another region within the Deh Cho area.

Mr. Chairman, I just thought I had to say something on this because I feel that we are finally getting somewhere in the Fort Smith region, within my area anyway. I should say that for the record. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. SIBBESTON: I cannot say much more, but I appreciate the view of my good friend here on my left because he does live very close to Smith. I am glad to see that he feels the government is getting better, and so I think it is a credit to this government that that is happening. I can say likewise that the government has improved but we do still feel in our area of the North that we are very remote from Fort Smith and that it is much more convenient to deal with Yellowknife. I am sure that the people in the area around Yellowknife feel that way. I would ask the Executive Committee to take this motion very seriously, and to be very watchful of our good friend from Fort Smith that he does not misguide you or delay...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I cannot misguide you or him.

MR. SIBBESTON: ...and use his influence on the Executive Committee to delay what this motion wants to happen.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion To Review Fort Smith Region For Reorganizing Areas To Report To Headquarters, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour, please raise their hand. Down. Opposed if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Total O And M, Regional Operations Secretariat, Agreed

Regional Operations Secretariat, \$3,364,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I see that the preamble to the estimates states regional directors are informed of decisions and program requirements impacting on the regions. In view of the fact that the proposed regional educational centre is going to have a great impact on the people in the region, could the Commissioner tell us what role he is playing in the development of that proposed centre or lack of development, and could he give us some information on how soon he foresees the eventual completion of that proposed educational centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the regional director plays a very important role in the plans that are being developed for that centre, and he is in a very good position to do so because he is also a former educator. The Hon. Dennis Patterson will be discussing with this House the details of the development of the educational centre that the honourable Member has referred to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Regional Operations Secretariat, \$3,364,000. Are there any further questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Detail of grants and contributions, \$426,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Detail of capital, \$300,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

---Agreed

O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 2.01, total O and M, \$9,936,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Capital, \$300,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. I would like to thank the witnesses at this time. Now we are going to go on to the Department of Information. That is the Hon. Dennis Patterson's department. I wonder if Mr. Patterson would like to make short opening remarks.

Department Of Information

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Not short remarks, Mr. Chairman, but I have some opening remarks. We have a lot to be proud of, so I do not want to be confined to -- if I may Mr. Chairman.

The Department of Information's 1983-84 budget estimate of \$3.1 million is an increase of \$476,000 over the previous year. Almost all of that amount will be spent on the NWT language bureau and its programs in response to the direction of this House and the Executive Committee. The department's capital budget of \$90,000 is a decrease of \$306,000 over the previous year.

The development of the language bureau has been the department's most important activity in the past months and this will continue into the new fiscal year. The bureau will provide interpreting and translating services and audio-visual communications in all the native languages of the Northwest Territories. As this House has recognized, native languages are a vital method of informing all people of the North about this government's programs, services and activities and encouraging communication between residents and their governments. The bureau is an extension of the department's responsibility to inform residents of the NWT, as well as other parts of Canada, about the government's programs, services and activities.

The Department of Information also assists all other departments and the Legislative Assembly with such services as public affairs, translation, printing, graphic design and publishing. The department plays an important role in encouraging and supporting broadcast communication systems throughout the Northwest Territories. The bureau was developed late last year by reorganizing the interpreter translator corps. It consists of Inuktitut and Dene language sections supported by a full-time training officer, linguistic positions and clerical positions. The bureau's Dene language section began its training program in mid-September and are expecting to complete the course early next month. Work assignments have been dealt with so that trainees can concentrate intensively on their course materials without interruption.

Much work has also been done in developing a comprehensive, continuous training program for all language bureau staff. This program, when it is completed in the new fiscal year, will make sure that training opportunities are continuous and consistent and will encourage a high degree of professional opportunity in the interpreter/communicator progression. When the interpreter/communicator has completed the program he or she will be equipped for management positions within the department, in other parts of government, or organizations outside government. Staff from the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, Dene Nation, Inuit Cultural Institute and Native Communications Society have been briefed on the program and to varying degrees have taken part in many of the workshops.

As well as providing interpreting and translating services the bureau also plans to carry out linguistic research using microcomputer data bases to word bank, word process and publish native language word equivalent lists in co-operation with the work under way through the Department of Education. Audio-visual materials will be produced to inform Dene audiences about government programs and activities and the department is designing delivery systems to make sure local communities have the necessary monitors and playback facilities to use these program packages. The department is also reviewing the total involvement agencies and organizations, both inside and outside government, in the area of languages and culture, to make sure language programs are co-ordinated. Preliminary research is being done to provide a basis for the possible implementation of a language policy within the Government of the Northwest Territories. I have a significant interest in this in my capacity as Minister of Education as well, Mr. Chairman.

Other areas of the department's work I am sure are also of interest to Members who are likely to recall their desire to extend satellite radio and television communications programs to communities with populations below 150. During this current fiscal year we have completed the program of serving communities in the 150 to 500 population range. The department is including a request for capital funding for sites with populations below 150 in its five year capital forecast beginning in 1984-85, at the proposed rate of two each year. Estimated cost for servicing the communities is \$45,000 to \$50,000 per site. Presently there are four communities under the population criteria that have electrical power supply and would be eligible for the service. They are: Grise Fiord, Arctic Red River, Nahanni Butte and Jean Marie River. Because of its extreme geographical isolation, we will be making every effort to advance the program so that an installation can proceed at Grise Fiord this year, depending on overall government capital expenditure patterns once the new fiscal year begins April 1.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I feel that it would be best to entertain questions the Members might have concerning the departmental budget and I would request that Mr. Sorensen be given permission to enter the House in case I may need his assistance in answering any questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you for your opening remarks. Now, let us take 15 minutes for coffee and when we come back Mr. Sorensen can go to the witness table.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): All right. I will call the committee to order. I believe the Minister had finished his opening remarks and our witness, Mr. Sorensen, is in the House now. We are on page 6.01, Department of Information, general comments from Members. Are there general comments? Mr. Sibbeston.

Dene Language Program

MR. SIBBESTON: Just to say that a year has passed since we last talked about this important subject. I am pleased to see that the government has gone ahead with its Dene language program of training a number of native persons to be interpreters and so forth. I believe they have just finished their training as of a couple of days ago, and now they are trained and presumably able to function and provide service to this government and the people of the North. I am glad to see that something good has arisen out of "irrational, emotional outbursts" that other people say emanate from this side once in a while.

I do not know whether this is the appropriate place to deal with it or not, but I would like to see the department tell us a little bit about that aspect of the department and maybe even give them some recognition, have them stand up and parade in front of us, or get in the box to see how they can interpret over there. They have been working at providing interpreters and I think they have been successful. I think the government ought to be commended for that. Now let us see the product, is what I am saying.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have any response to Mr. Sibbeston's remarks?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to thank Mr. Sibbeston for his kind remarks. It is true that the training aspect is almost complete, although I understand there is still a week or so left. The Dene interpreters have just finished an important part of their training, having visited the offices of the Government of Canada's interpreting section and had a chance to take some training there and see how it is done by those federal interpreters. As far as recognition is concerned, I believe we may have seen some members of the Dene interpreter corps here in the House today. I would be glad to ask them to stand but I think it might be more appropriate if I arranged for them to be in the gallery at another day, all of them. It would be very easy to do if that is what the Member is suggesting. I would be happy to do that.

I would like to say that the plan with the Dene interpreters is not just to allow them to begin work immediately as interpreters, but rather to allow them to play the key role in developing a proper approach to Dene language communications at the community level. They are going to be the vehicle for developing an audio-visual approach to Dene language communications at the community level, based on community needs. So we will be relying on that core group of people to now implement a meaningful program at the community level, and they will be entering that community phase of their work very shortly and developing it over the summer. However, I will make sure that they are here in the House so they can be recognized by us, I think tomorrow, unless it is impossible for them to do so. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do other Members wish to make general remarks? Mr. Kilabuk.

Funding Of Local Radio Stations

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I do have a question on the Department of Information. Do they provide funding for the local radio stations? When the radio stations get a grant of \$5000, does it come from the Government of the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer to the Member's question is yes. The \$5000 grant for community radio societies comes from the Government of the Northwest Territories on application by the communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I was told from our community that CBC takes care of or tries to control the radio stations when there are 500 people or more, and I was wondering if the CBC could help fund the radio station, because this was brought up by the local radio committee. Can anybody answer this question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): I do not know whether the Minister can answer that question, but if he is willing -- Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the CBC has a role in providing certain help at the inception of a community radio station. I am not sure if population criteria has anything to do with our support, but I would ask Mr. Sorensen to explain in more detail the role of the CBC and the role of our Department of Information in community radio stations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Mr. Sorensen.

MR. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, every non-profit community radio society in the Northwest Territories is eligible for grant money under the Department of Information's radio grant program, and it does not matter whether they are affiliated with CBC or not. That is not a prerequisite or that is not a requirement of our grant program. The society that you are speaking of is eligible for the grant and all they have to do is apply for it. It is a matching grant program; for every one dollar they raise they get five dollars in return, up to a maximum of \$5000 a year. We have in the budget \$100,000 available for radio societies throughout the Northwest Territories, and so it is available. CBC's role, simply is that they have a program where they will provide radio equipment for community radio stations that is accessed to their transmitters in the communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): More specifically, are you aware of whether they provide additional grants later, too?

MR. SORENSEN: I am not aware of any grant money that CBC provides to community radio stations. However, they do help financially in sponsoring training seminars and matters like that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I understand. Now can you explain to me? If they make a dollar, they can get money. For example, does it have to be one dollar? Sometimes some radio societies have a hard time with finances, and if they do not make any money, what would be the best way? If they made 50 cents, would that be suitable? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Mr. Sorensen.

MR. SORENSEN: I suppose for 50 cents, with all due respect, you would get \$2.50. Seriously, I know the problem you speak of. There are situations. You do not have to raise the full amount of the money. If a community raised \$100, it would get \$500 in return and it could apply for further money later on in the year. So it could apply for the money two or three times throughout the year, but in no one year can it exceed \$5000. If a community has \$500, then it would be eligible for \$2500.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Do other Members wish to make general remarks or ask general questions? If not, is it agreed that we begin item by item through the estimates?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Total O And M, Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Page 6.02, directorate, \$525,000. Mr. Sayine.

MR. SAYINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask a question. I understand Mr. Sorensen already knows about the situation of TV reception in Fort Resolution. I got a letter from the community council in Fort Resolution and maybe I will read it out just for the record. It is addressed to me and all it says is: "TV reception in our community is very poor. We have been writing letters and complaining to CBC and nothing has been done to improve the system. We are receiving CBC channel from Pine Point and the reception we are presently getting is the best we are ever going to get because that is all the transmitter in Pine Point can put out. The residents of Fort Resolution deserve a better system than what they are presently getting. There are earth stations that are available that can improve the system and does not cost that much, the total cost of the package is approximately \$8000 and can include additional channels. We would like the Legislative Assembly to convince the CBC to install an earth station in Fort Resolution as soon as possible to improve the system or the Assembly can purchase their package and get CBC to install it. The community cannot purchase the package because it is very difficult to raise the money in a small community and the economic situation is very poor. Television is presently the only source of recreation in our community and your co-operation and assistance on this matter would be greatly appreciated by all in the community of Fort Resolution." I would like to ask the Department of Information what can Fort Resolution do to get the problems that they are having with TV improved?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have a response to that?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: It is a technical question, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Sorensen to answer that, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Mr. Sorensen.

MR. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, we are aware of the problem of reception. Mr. Sayine and I spoke about it on Friday and a number of months earlier on the matter. Apparently the problem is with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's transmitting power between Pine Point and the community. They have a low power relay transmitter that tries to get it there in a little better shape -- it is not doing the job, apparently. I have suggested that Mr. Sayine may wish to have us arrange a meeting for him, and we would be happy to sit in, with the local management of CBC and depending on his commitments that offer still stands this week. The only resolution to the problem is increasing the power that is transmitted in Pine Point. That is a financial obligation that CBC has to carry.

A number of months ago we also outlined to the community what the cost would be because there is a concern down there as well that they would like alternative channels to CBC. At that time, they spoke in terms of the CanCom package and financially it is difficult for a community of that size to bring in an additional channel. Our program does not provide second channel choice in the Territories; that is an individual community choice. I guess, the bottom line on what I am saying is that we will continue and, if Mr. Sayine would like us to, we would certainly arrange for a nice get-together with CBC while he is here this week and see what progress they have made in examining the technicality of the situation. Thank you.

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Chairman I understand that, but the other best solution to solving the reception problem, especially the one with the CBC channel, would be getting a dish, and the community is asking this government to please purchase a dish. At least it is a start, and then maybe by other means, they can raise the money for a transmitter or whatnot that can be added later on for additional channels. I think what they ask in this letter is for the amount of \$8000 to purchase a dish and make better reception at least on the one channel that they are getting at the present time and then from there they would be looking at other means of trying to get other channels.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): That is not necessarily a technical question so I will refer that to the Minister, perhaps. Mr. Minister.

Funding Of Earth Stations

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think the issue of communities providing broadcasting services for transmission of other channels through earth stations has just been the subject of a major announcement by the Federal Minister of Communications and I know that if there is any question of profit involved that the new federal policy would prevent those things from occurring without prosecution, as I understand it. If the Member is looking to us to look at ways of improving the quality of CBC reception to the community, I think we would be more than willing to do what we can through our good offices with the CBC to make sure that the situation is improved.

I think we would have to study very carefully, the possibility of funding an earth station particularly in light of the new federal policy on that subject. So I guess all I can say is that I am not prepared to make any commitments at this point but I would be willing to look into it further and see what might be permitted by the law. But it would be a major change in our policy if we were to set this kind of a precedent and I have to indicate that it would have to be looked at very closely because I can see a flood of similar requests, perhaps, coming in whereas our priority is to try to assist communities in other ways. I suppose in the coming year it is our first priority to assist the smaller communities by getting reception into them. I hope that gives some answer to the Member's concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Mr. Sayine.

MR. SAYINE: Can the Minister assure me that he can call a community meeting with Fort Resolution and CBC and maybe even some people from CanCom within the very near future to at least, start the ball rolling on this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I think it was already indicated that we would do what we can to solve the problem in Resolution with CBC by whatever means may be available. I am sure that if CanCom or any other organization that may be able to get a licence hears of this interest they may well be interested in responding and I certainly would be glad to do what I can to alert them to the concern in Fort Resolution. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Mr. Sayine.

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Chairman, maybe it would be better if I put that in the form of a committee motion to request the Executive Committee to arrange a meeting between the Department of Information, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and CanCom cable to have a meeting with the community of Fort Resolution as soon as possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Can we have a copy of your motion, please? While we are getting a copy of that I believe Mr. McLaughlin wishes to speak to the same subject so I will recognize him now.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: To the motion, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to speak in favour of the motion and in doing so I would like to advise...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): I have not yet accepted the motion but if you have general comments, then go ahead.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I will speak to the subject then. The transmitter in Pine Point was built when there was no satellite signal coming to the Northwest Territories and it was built to serve Pine Point, Fort Resolution and Hay River at the same time. Now that there is a satellite transmitting the signal, the use of the reception dishes in Hay River and Fort Resolution might be more economically viable for CBC in the long run rather than trying to supply power to a transmitter that uses quite a bit of power to send a signal that far. Locally, in Pine Point, we bought our own dishes. So I would suggest that when they look at this whole situation they could look at not using the transmitter at Pine Point at all any more and instead, using satellite receivers in the three communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): I am still waiting for the motion. Are there any other comments that any Members would like to make on this same general topic? The motion is worded slightly differently from the way it was put verbally earlier. I will read it out.

Motion To Arrange Meeting Between CBC, CRTC And Fort Resolution Re Television Services, Carried

I move that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that the Department of Information initiate a meeting between CBC, CRTC and the settlement of Fort Resolution for the purpose of finding ways of providing better television services to the community as soon as possible. The motion is in order. Mr. Sayine, would you like to speak to it?

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Chairman, as I pointed out earlier, Fort Resolution has been having a lot of problems with their reception of their CBC station, their channel, and since they are getting only one channel, it is really frustrating to see a snowy picture and sometimes it is a double station so you cannot really see anything. It is very, very hard, especially when you cannot

switch channels and watch another one. So for years now, since the early 1970s, since Pine Point has put in their system, it has always been the same. The reception is getting worse. These interferences are getting more frequent. So that is the reason why the community is requesting that something be done about it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): To the motion. Are there other Members who wish to speak?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacQuarrie): Question is being called. All those in favour, please indicate by raising your hands. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Directorate, \$525,000. Mr. Curley.

TV Program Schedule

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether this is an appropriate section or not. I was just going to ask the Minister what he is prepared to do about some of the TV stations that normally are not in tune with the community time system. The late night movies normally carry on until about 4:00 o'clock in the morning. I wonder if his department is trying at all to advise the CBC to try and adjust those programs so that the kids will not have to stay up all night when they should be going to school the next morning. I am particularly concerned with Whale Cove. Whale Cove has two stations; one coming in from the West and one is similar to the one that is used by the Keewatin region. Is the department keeping track of those and if so, does the government have any concern with the all-night movies because they create attendance problems for students. I am wondering if you keep track of the hours of TV programming at all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: When this subject was discussed in Coppermine at a meeting of the special committee on education which the Member may recall attending, and parents complained that Star Wars or Battleship Galactica or something like that, I believe started at something like 1:30 or 2:00 in the morning. Parents expressed great concern about this and about the difficulty of getting children to school. I recall a teacher standing up at the back of the meeting and saying "Well, there is always the off button on the television set." I think that has to be something that we cannot neglect, the fact that parents do not have to allow their children to watch TV at 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 o'clock in the morning, and there is a certain responsibility there.

As far as the scheduling is concerned, I certainly am aware of the problems, and we have tried to persuade the CBC that there are serious problems being imposed on the people because of their scheduling. They come back and say that their distribution system covers several time zones, and that these anomalies result because of the way they feed the programs across several time zones in the Northwest Territories. I would certainly undertake to use my offices to try to persuade the CBC once again to address this problem, and I am glad the Member has brought it to my attention here. Ultimately, it is in the hands of the CBC and I will certainly hope that we can get some response from them on this again, particularly with reference to the problem in Keewatin the Member referred to. Thank you.

Total O And M, Directorate, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Any further questions? Directorate, \$525,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Public Affairs, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Public affairs, \$464,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Publications And Production, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Publications and production, \$706,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Language Bureau

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Language bureau, \$1,412,000. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I just want to ask the Minister now responsible for this department -- the federal government or somebody in this government must have deemed this department a particularly sensitive or difficult department to handle, and thus was not transferred to elected officials until just a few days ago. Does the Minister feel he has the capability and whatever else it takes to run a department like this? Does he feel that he is capable and able to handle what obviously must have been a very touchy, difficult department to handle up to now?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: He will not be allowed to hang election posters on the school fence.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will say that in a way I think that Members who are going to expect great changes in the operation of the Department of Information as a result of my becoming Minister should not hold their breath, because I think we can all recognize that there is not a great deal of time left in our mandate. However, I do feel that there is a great deal of logic to having the Department of Information under the same Minister as is responsible for Education, because so much of the thrust of the Department of Information in the coming year is going to be on implementation of the Dene language interpreting and communications program, particularly in the western part of the Northwest Territories.

One of the things I think I can offer to this Ministry is to make sure that the work that is being done under the indigenous language development fund of the Department of Education, which is trying to assess the state of health of Dene languages, which is trying to promote the mere speaking of Dene languages and learning of Dene languages at the community level -- both for adults and children -- that the work that is being done in the Department of Education and in the language bureau has to be co-ordinated so there is not a duplication and there is not redundancy. I would hope in the coming year as a result of that work, to be able to make some real progress on the development of language policy and a communications policy for the government with respect to native languages in the Northwest Territories. I think that Information and Education are the two departments that are most concerned with these issues and so it is appropriate that they be under the one Minister -- although there are other departments of government which are obviously concerned about communicating with people and doing work related to language and culture.

As to whether I have the capacity, that is a pretty tough question for me to answer, but obviously I did not turn down the appointment. I suppose many people would have different views about my abilities as a Minister, but I think that you know I will have to rely pretty heavily on the officials in the department, as most Ministers do. Particularly because I am going to have to work with the Department of Information so closely anyway in the language development work that is going on in my department, I feel it is appropriate that I have this same responsibility, and I do not really know why it might not have been transferred from the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs earlier. He would have to really comment on that. I think it is a significant responsibility, but I am up to the challenge, unless I get instructions otherwise from this House, of course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Curley.

Travel Assistance To Interpreters During Sessions

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister what policies he has for providing travel assistance to interpreters to return home to meet and unite with their families during long sessional duties?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am going to have to rely on Mr. Sorensen to tell this House what policies we have in place. Maybe we can start off with that, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Sorensen.

MR. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Thomas Tiktak's wife was over on the weekend, because of the policy that came up following the last session and that we do have in place. The Member and I discussed it early on and we followed through with the development of a procedure with the language bureau so that when members come across to Yellowknife and after a specified period of time, there is an eligibility for them to have their spouses join them in Yellowknife. The expenses for air fare are absorbed from the departmental budget, and meals and accommodation become a responsibility of the person themselves -- similar to the Legislative Assembly plan -- not quite as generous but we have talked it out throughout the language bureau and this is the formula that we are using right at this moment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Language bureau, \$1,412,000. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would think that one of the primary responsibilities and obligations of the language bureau would be to provide information in Dene languages, but also to tell the truth. I am just wondering if the Minister would re-examine page 6.05 and see if what is provided there is precisely the truth. It seems to me, that the Dene language part of the bureau is just in its infancy and really not providing any service whatsoever to the government or to the people of the North. It is just in its infancy and just beginning to function. So I wonder if the Minister would re-examine page 6.05 and make sure what is written there is the truth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am not sure, Mr. Chairman, what the Member is getting at. The first sentence is that the language bureau provides native language interpreting and translating services to all government departments, the Legislative Assembly, regional councils and other groups and agencies. It may well not be true that at the moment we can provide interpretation in all native languages but I think we have been working very hard to get the Dene language interpreter corps operational so that we could provide those facilities in all languages in the Northwest Territories. The first sentence implies that we are already doing that; of course that is not strictly accurate, but I think it will very soon be the case that we will be able to provide interpreting in all languages.

The second sentence; the bureau also fills a communication role by providing information on government programs and services in native languages and encouraging and assisting native residents to communicate with the government. Perhaps, this is a statement of goals not yet fully implemented and I would certainly acknowledge that we have a long way to go in the Dene communities but we are well on the road in that direction and I certainly hope that by the end of this coming fiscal year we would have, in fact, implemented a program to all Members' satisfaction. I think that the strategy that we are proposing, which is to rely on audio-visual communication rather than written forms of communication, is going to be a very vibrant dynamic medium and we are going to test it before we decide it is the optimum method but it seems to me that it could and should work very well.

I would also say, Mr. Chairman, that I think we have an excellent corps of trained or almost trained communicators now in the Dene language bureau and they are going to be very valuable in implementing this program. So I think that page 6.05 is true, although it may not completely reflect the reality, which is that we have yet to really implement fully the communication services in the Dene communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Sibbeston.

Progress Of Dene Interpreter Corps

MR. SIBBESTON: I guess my point was that perhaps the writing on the page is true as far as the Inuktitut languages but I think that it is not quite true as regards the Dene languages. What I wanted was for the government to state here that the government has just recently initiated a Dene languages interpreting and translation training program and that it is in its infancy and the government presently does not provide interpreting services to the Legislative Assembly in the Dene languages or to any government department or to the people in the community. Sometimes the government does things and before it is completed it says that it is doing it, so I think it is just a case of, maybe two or three years from now this would be true. You have to admit that these statements, if read without any explanation or further elaboration, give the impression that this government was really communicating with all the native people of the North, which is not true. It is doing a good job for Inuktitut but as for Dene languages it is just starting. They just started training the interpreters in September and I have not had interpretation services in the Assembly by them and they are not providing any services that I am aware of to the regional council in my area. There is nothing wrong with the government admitting that they just started the program a few months ago, but do not give the impression that you are providing a wonderful service, that everyone is really in tune with one another in communicating and that everything is just hunky-dory.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Do you want to respond to that, Mr. Patterson?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman I thought that my introductory remarks indicated that I thought we had made a lot of progress with the Dene interpreter corps but there is still some distance to go yet, but if the words description should have been the language bureau aims to

provide native language interpreting, etc., to all departments rather than provides, I certainly accept that. We have yet to fully implement the program, but I think that a lot has happened, that a lot of money has been dedicated when it has been a very difficult year to find new funds. I also think that the corps of Dene interpreters who are now in training have worked as hard as their capacities would permit them. Quite frankly, I think that even if we had instructed them to provide simultaneous interpreting at this session, that it would have been an unfair expectation, because this is a very demanding skill that requires a great deal of training and experience and self-confidence.

I think that their experience with the federal simultaneous interpreters in Ottawa is something that has been made available to the Inuit interpreters before they were thrust into this situation -- the pressure of having to interpret simultaneously. Although it may not have occurred in time for this particular session, we all should have a little bit of patience because there is a human dimension to this too, in addition to dollars and policies and the rest of it. I think they will achieve that goal in the coming year. I do not mind admitting to the Member that there is a long way to go yet but I hope to encourage as rapid evolution of the Dene interpreter corps as may be humanly possible in the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Sibbeston.

Government Should Not Try To Mislead Public

MR. SIBBESTON: Maybe I am not saying it clearly enough; please do not misunderstand me, I am forever grateful, I am the one that initiated this whole Dene language interpreter program and I am the greatest supporter of it, but all I am saying is let us not have this government bullshit the peoples of the North and the peoples of the South and tell them that they are providing -- it says here, "The language bureau provides native language interpreting and translating services to all government departments, the Legislative Assembly, regional councils and other groups and agencies." All I am saying is that this is simply not true and all I am asking the department is to be truthful; in the Dene languages this is not true. Maybe the government is doing this in the Inuktitut language and what I am saying is change this so that what is written here is truthful. What I am suggesting is instead of native languages, you say Inuktitut language interpreting and make a special provision for the Dene language.

Say something to the effect that the government has just recently begun a program of training Dene interpreters and translators and that it will be a number of months or years before the program or the bureau will be fully operational in providing services to the Assembly, regional councils and all government departments, but do not give the impression that you are providing Dene language interpreting and translating services to this whole government. All I am asking is to change the wording to reflect the truth. Surely, if this government does not tell the truth how can you expect other agencies in the North to be truthful? It seems to me it is incumbent for our government to be very truthful and do not try to bullshit the public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Sibbeston, while we are on the subject of language, we would have to ask you to watch your language a little bit.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Maybe you could use a different word -- it is unparliamentary.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Especially since we are dealing with the language bureau!

MR. SIBBESTON: Okay I will change it to baloney, then.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Maybe that is more acceptable.

MR. SIBBESTON: Then, is he agreed?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I have tried to say all along that I do not pretend to have a Dene language interpreting system available to all agencies of the government yet. I thought from my opening that I indicated that the training was still not complete and I regret that the description of the language bureau on page 6.05 would give that impression. I agree with the

Member and it certainly was no attempt to fool the public or else I would not have said that the training was not complete when I introduced this information. So I agree with the Member and I agree that the Inuit or the Inuktitut translating services are better.

I would respectfully correct the Member in saying that he has established the language bureau, it was the Executive Committee that did that with some advice from him and support from this House. I have no difficulty with criticizing the wording of this particular section but I would object that it was designed to mislead the public. If the Member wishes to provide more accurate wording that would better reflect the true state of affairs then I am sure we could amend that description but, quite frankly, I am not sure how many people rely on the paragraphs in the main estimates to understand what the government is doing or not doing. I am sure that now that it has been pointed out that this language is perhaps a little more goal-oriented than expressing the state of reality, no one will be under any delusions henceforth. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Language bureau, \$1,412,000. Mr. Curley.

Communicating Information On Government Programs

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I certainly concur with the preamble of the last part that says that it assists the native residents to communicate with the government but I would like to give the Minister and his director some ideas as to how to communicate with the government.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Good, good.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you. I think we have an excellent program that comes out through the CBC, the free-time announcements and also some of the announcements that come in from the Public Services about safety and so on and alcohol prevention stuff. But I think it would also be helpful to assist all the other departments like Renewable Resources to have a program announcing some of the financial assistance programs. For instance, energy is one. I have seen it in English but I have not heard it in the Inuit language. I am particularly interested in the hunters and trappers incentive grants announcements that have not been aired by TV in the Inuktitut language. I wonder if the Minister and his director would try to improve these on all the assistance programs. You probably do not have much problem out here but in the East we do and I was surprised that Renewable Resources has not communicated the programs to the extent possible. I wonder if you would take that advice and see what you can come up with.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think that is excellent advice and I certainly appreciate it as a relatively new Minister and responsible for this department. I would just say that I agree completely with the Member that we should be taking maximum advantage of the CBC television and radio as an opportunity for communicating to people information about government programs. I think it was Mr. Ward, director of Northern Services, who observed that the CBC has a very expensive delivery system in place in the Northwest Territories. I think from my discussions with Mr. Ward at that session and privately afterwards, that CBC is more than willing to receive information spots from the Government of the Northwest Territories for radio and television. I think we have done something in that area and we can do a lot more. I think that is good advice that I will follow up on and particularly with the Minister of Renewable Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Language bureau, Mr. Sibbeston.

Financial Assistance To Native Communications Society

MR. SIBBESTON: I just want to ask the Minister if he has received a proposal from the Native Communications Society requesting some financial assistance to upgrade their photograph section and also their production equipment area. I can give him a copy of a proposal that has been given to the territorial government, and this proposal is dated February 15th. You or your officials would have had some time to consider the application and proposal. Is the government prepared to assist the Native Communications Society in their quest to get better equipment for the publication of the Native Press in the North?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I have received the submission from the Native Communications Society and I have had a chance to study it. I have passed it on to the Department of Information for their advice on the proposal. A decision on what we can do to respond to the proposal would have to be dealt with by the Executive Committee, and I will be bringing it forward to them. However, I recognize that the Native Communications Society has done some important work in assisting the enhancement and preservation of native languages. I was impressed with their presentation. They are not primarily funded by the Northwest Territories government, of course, but I am sure that my colleagues will do what we can within the financial constraints that are upon us to help them, as we have done in the past. So we will look at this but I can make no commitment at this time on behalf of my colleagues, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Total O And M, Language Bureau, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Language bureau, \$1,412,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we go back to page 6.02?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The committee agrees to go back to 6.02. Mr. Kilabuk.

Local Television Programming

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask whether they have thought about the local people giving information or airing things from their local communities. Sometimes we see films from communities and I think this would be a good idea if they could show their culture on TV. Have you ever thought about this, or would you be able to suggest it to the CBC? If the population is 500 or over -- to help a local television station -- so that they could learn more about the community. Have you ever thought about this, or would you be able to suggest this to the CBC people? This is my suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the subject of northern programming on CBC television, I think was discussed rather extensively by Mr. Ward at his appearance during this session of the Ninth Legislative Assembly, and I think it was pretty clear from Mr. Ward that priorities for programming would be what they call panarctic or pan-northern current affairs programming, such as Focus North and the Northlands series. Their funds were rather limited to not doing much more than that, although they indicated they would continue to provide support for Nunatsiakmiut society producing Inuitut programs out of Frobisher Bay. I would say that based on that, the possibility of CBC funding local programming would not be very good, but I would remind the Member that the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation is now established, and to my mind might be an even better means by which the aspirations of the people of Pangnirtung might be met, if they wish local input into television.

I was pleased that the major announcement made by the Minister of Communications, Francis Fox, just a few days ago on the whole thrust of broadcasting policy in Canada, did identify a northern broadcasting policy as one of the major thrusts and indicated that there would be major funding initiatives provided to meet certain goals. One of those that I think is quite clear, is the enhancement of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation. So it may well be that IBC is the best means of providing community programming, and I would be happy to discuss that with IBC for the Member and just see what might be available.

I know that several years ago, a local community television station was established in Pond Inlet, called PIC-TV, which did precisely that. It interrupted the CBC programming and allowed for local television programming in Pond Inlet; but that was funded by the federal government through

the Ministry of Communications and the Secretary of State. Again, that might well be a possibility for Pangnirtung, although I must note that PIC-TV has, I believe, folded because of lack of further support. So it may be a difficult time to actually start local television stations, although I think IBC may well be able to offer something to Pangnirtung. I will be glad to explore that for the Member on his behalf with IBC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Detail Of Grants And Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Grants and contributions, \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Detail of capital, \$90,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Page 6.01, 0 and M, \$3,107,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Capital, \$90,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): I would like to thank the witnesses Mr. Patterson and Mr. Sorensen. Is it agreed that we go on to page 1.01, Legislative Assembly?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Legislative Assembly

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Page 1.02, Legislative Assembly, \$2,913,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, in the absence of the Speaker for accountability, who do we have? Is the Commissioner speaking for the Assembly's budget at this time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The Clerk has no voice in the House, I understand. The Speaker is the only one and he is not here.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, possibly someone on the Members' Services Board could answer the questions.

MR. SIBBESTON: Surely the next in line in authority, since the Speaker is not here, is the Deputy Speaker and I suggest that he be asked to come forward to answer questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Can we recess for five minutes and try and get the Deputy Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The committee will come back to order. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the budget for the Legislative Assembly is next on the agenda. I am the Deputy Speaker, sure, but I had nothing to do with putting this budget together...

---Laughter

...and the Member who suggested that I come in and speak to it better think again, because if I had anything to do with it the figures would be up a lot higher than they are right now. I am not a member of the Members' Services Board who put this budget together and the only one that can speak to it is the Speaker himself because he is the chairman of the Members' Services Board. So I would suggest Mr. Chairman, that we go back and bring in Education or Local Government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I feel that there are some critical questions that must be asked on the Legislative Assembly operation and some questions that should be answered in regard to certain rumours that are going on in terms of the plans for purchases and the operation of the Assembly. I believe that the Speaker should be here and I do not believe that we should deal with the budget until he is here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Defer Legislative Assembly, Bill 1-83(1), Carried

MR. MACQUARRIE: I had wanted to make that motion and I will. I move that we defer consideration of the Assembly estimates until the Speaker is here to speak to them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

We have two departments that have been deferred. Department of Local Government, Mr. Wah-Shee.

Department Of Local Government

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, there was an amount that was deferred in regard to the Sport North contribution of \$290,000. I have asked Mr. Al Delmage, who is the president of Sport North and at the request of the committee, he is now available to appear before the committee to answer questions in regard to the operation of Sport North. So I would like to ask the committee if I could have the president of Sport North appear as a witness before the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Is it agreed that Mr. Delmage appear as a witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Go ahead. We will go back to 12.09. I will have the Clerk read the motion again.

CLERK ASSISTANT (Mrs. Baldwin): The motion is: That this Assembly invite the Sport North organization officials to appear before the committee of the whole and that this committee defer consideration of grants and contributions under the Department of Local Government which includes \$290,000 to Sport North until we have a chance to hear from Sport North officials as to why the Northwest Territories athletes staff and contingent presently at the Canada Winter Games do not include residents from all over the Northwest Territories and people from all cultures from the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Delmage, do you wish to make any statements? Go ahead.

MR. DELMAGE: Thank you for this opportunity to appear before this session of the Legislative Assembly, I am sorry I was not able to appear when the Department of Local Government budget was first presented for approval but I was representing Sport North at the 1983 Canada Games.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Delmage, you will have to slow down a little bit for the interpreters.

MR. DELMAGE: Mr. Chairman, before I answer the specific questions from the honourable Members I would like approval to provide a very short statement about the Sport North Federation, its history, its objectives and services and programs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Agreed. Go ahead.

History Of Sport North Federation

MR. DELMAGE: Mr. Chairman, Sport North was incorporated under the Societies Ordinance of the Northwest Territories in October of 1976. The federation is a non-profit, non-government organization representing amateur sport in the Northwest Territories. There are 28 territorial sport governing bodies, representing nearly 12,000 NWT residents, which are affiliated with Sport North and are dedicated to the promotion and development of amateur sport. Sport North is funded from two sources; a territorial grant which we are hopefully going to approve this afternoon, and fund raising through donations and proceeds from the Western Canada Lottery.

To carry out its goals and objectives the federation works in close liaison with the Government of the Northwest Territories, through the sport and recreation division of the Department of Local Government. Some of the goals of the federation include the development of sport in the Northwest Territories to encourage and support the development of sport governing bodies and to assist in the organization, development and implementation of amateur sport programs.

The federation has specific programs and services which are provided to members or governing bodies and have been developed with approval and liaison with the sport and recreation division of the Department of Local Government. The programs include: financial assistance for annual general meetings, coaching technical clinics, officiating clinics, player development clinics, and travel assistance programs. As well, we have our awards program, sport bulk fare program, Arctic Winter Games, Jeux Canada Games, sport and administration certification program, Royal Bank Junior Olympics and Western Canada Lottery. Services to the members include communications, fund raising, consulting services, liaison services and secretarial services. That is the general make-up of the Sport North Federation, and if you wish I will answer the question from the motion that was deferred.

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

Participation In Canada Games

MR. DELMAGE: The Canada Games were conceived with the goal to provide a national development competition of high calibre for a maximum number of athletes from all provinces and Territories. It is the responsibility of the host society to invite the Territories by way of letter to the Commissioner, to participate in the games which they are hosting. Indication of their intent to participate in the Canada Games obligates the Government of the Northwest Territories to select individuals and teams to represent the NWT, in consultation with appropriate territorial sport governing bodies assuring athletes eligibility rules are followed.

To carry out its responsibilities, Sport North has established a Canada Games committee responsible for finances, logistics and administration of team selection. The Government of the Northwest Territories sport and recreation division appoints one staff member to sit ex officio as a liaison officer on the Canada Games committee. Responsibility of the Canada Games committee include preparation and selection of NWT Jeux Canada Games teams within the guidelines established by the Canada Games and the NWT policy and management groups. By establishing, in co-operation with NWT sport governing bodies and your sport and recreation division, standards for selection of NWT athletes, including minimum performance standards and training requirements and methods for evaluating same. By reviewing training and selection proposals submitted by the NWT sport governing bodies the financial assistance that is provided enables the implementation of approved athlete training programs. Monitoring approved training programs to ensure that directives are achieved and the financial accountability maintained and selecting final NWT team athletes and coaches on the recommendation of the involved NWT sport governing bodies.

In the 1983 Canada Games, there was representation from seven different communities in the Northwest Territories. We had a total contingent of 53 members. If there are any other questions I would be happy to answer them if I could.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Thank you, Mr. Delmage. Are there any further questions? Mr. Wray.

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to get the 53 athletes, was there a form of regional playdown considered, or was in fact a form of regional playdowns carried out in order to get the final selection? Just how exactly did the athletes who go, how did they get there? Were there regional playdowns and then selections were made from various regional teams, or what? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Delmage.

Sport Governing Bodies Communicators With Isolated Regions

MR. DELMAGE: There were no regional tight playdowns for this event. Canada Games is unlike the Arctic Winter Games. There is a much higher calibre of athlete that is selected to go to the Canada Games themselves. The selection is left up to the sport governing bodies to select the team based on certain criteria and minimum standards for competitions. This does not preclude anybody from the Northwest Territories, any of the communities, from participating. They do have to be proven athletes in their sport and it is a fairly high selection standard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Wray.

MR. WRAY: Just to mention, Mr. Chairman, over here in this area you have a fairly intense system of league competition and you have a fair amount of travel between the communities in this area, so you are aware of the athletes and of their competitiveness and I guess of their abilities. But in the Baffin, Keewatin, Central Arctic and probably even the Western Arctic, where any type of league competition, any type of meeting between teams is almost non-existent because of lack of funds, how does the Sport North body know that, say, in Arctic Bay there is not an excellent volleyball player or an excellent badminton player? How is that form of communication established between the various isolated regions and the central body here in Yellowknife? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Delmage.

MR. DELMAGE: The sport governing bodies are the groups that represent us and select the teams. They have members, affiliated members, throughout the Northwest Territories, and they are in the position to know what quality of athletes are throughout the North. As an example, on the ladies volleyball team there was selected a young lady from Pangnirtung to participate on the team. They really are quite knowledgeable, the sport governing bodies. They have come a very long way and have grown up in the last 10 years that I have been here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Sibbeston.

Few Native Athletes Involved In Canada Games

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that the motion requesting the Sport North officials to appear before us really arose out of a very sincere concern about athletes representing the Northwest Territories. It became obvious when we saw the list of the Northwest Territories team to the Canada Games that really most of the athletes were from Yellowknife. Of the 55 or so athletes, it seems 46 or so of them are designated as Yellowknife residents, and it would appear too that most of the officials also are from here in Yellowknife. There was concern that we were sending athletes to other parts of Canada from the Northwest Territories and these athletes may not have represented all the different peoples living in the North. I know that there are very few or no native people as part of the sports team. As I said, most of the athletes were from Yellowknife. You mention that there were athletes from seven communities, but I suspect that they are mostly from the larger communities.

This sincere concern is that people representing us, athletes and the staff representing us here in the North were only of one type of people and maybe from one large centre in the North. This was the basic concern along with the hope of having discussions with Sport North to see what could be done to change that, so that in future when athletes go south, although it may not be the best team that the North could put together, it at least represents all of the different peoples of the North and that we have representatives from all corners of the North. Maybe I am idealistic. Is that a reasonable possibility in terms of the way that athletes and the staff are picked for the next Canada Winter Games?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Delmage.

MR. DELMAGE: As in any of the other sport development programs in the provinces, where they are asking for participation from all cultures, I think that the biggest problem in the Northwest Territories, again, is the lack of funding to do this. Just as an example, in Ontario, the bowling team that represented Ontario, they spent something like \$110,000 just on that one team, and they provided teams in the various sports. If we made a decision to provide more funding to Local Government which would or would not filter down through Sport North, I think we would have success. For instance in the cross-country skiing program the obvious success of the Firth sisters was one of the major things that did result in additional funding for the ski program and TEST in the Inuvik region. I think it is through additional funding that we will be able to involve more of our native people on the games.

Unfortunately, right now the majority of the population is in Yellowknife, in terms of percentage, and it appears that for a lot of the team sports, the better athletes have the chance for training in Yellowknife. As you know, we have a lack of facilities throughout the North. They simply just do not have the opportunity to compete in some of the sports that are available for the Canada Games. As far as the officials go, we did advertise across the North for the various positions, and we simply did not get any response from anybody outside Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, when you talk about sports in the North, I take it it is not just Sport North that is responsible for sports and recreation in the North. Local Government, I see here, in its sports and recreation budget, have over three million dollars provided for sports and recreation in the North, and they have a staff of 9.5. So when one talks of sports, I guess it is not just Sport North that is responsible and involved in sports. I do appreciate what you say, that there is an emphasis or desire to send the best athletes south to these games. I guess what I was hoping to accomplish as a result of Sport North coming before us, is that they would be conscious of this Assembly's views that there be really greater emphasis, greater consideration or mindfulness of the need to send athletes from all ethnic backgrounds and to send people from all parts of the North rather than just send an exclusive Yellowknife contingent composed only of white people.

My sincere hope is that, as a result of your appearing before us, you could know our views and in the future, for the Canada Summer and Winter Games -- really any time athletes from the North represent us in the South, that there will be more native people involved, both as participants and in the staff. My view and I think the view of many of the people on this Assembly and I am sure many of the people in the North is that the important thing is not necessarily to send the absolute best or to win, but that the more important consideration is to send a good cross section of athletes from the North, and that the experience that they go through in the games and the social and the educational aspects of going south to these things are also very important, and that this opportunity should be given to as many different people in the North as possible. I guess, that is my hope that we could impress this upon you so that you could maybe change some of your policies or practices so that the next time you attend our Canada Winter or Summer Games, that you do see some native people there and that you do see people from all parts of the North, not just Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Delmage.

Participants Should Not Be Exposed To Needless Embarrassment

MR. DELMAGE: I am sorry, Mr. Sibbeston. Did you expect a response? I guess I concur with your thoughts and I too would like to see more native people involved in sports across the Territories. My only concern is that when we do send teams to the Canada Games it is a bit of an embarrassment to the athletes themselves when they do not do well or get beaten very badly. I agree there is an educational exposure and certainly to see what the rest of Canadian athletes are doing, but I would like to still see the standards set so that we do not actually embarrass the athletes themselves when they participate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think the problem here is that when we held open competitions in the Arctic Winter Games last year, something like 60 or 70 per cent of the athletes who went to the games were from outside of Yellowknife, and now when they pick an all-star team, just a small percentage are from outside Yellowknife. I realize that in some situations there were playdowns. I know in the junior curling, it was held in Pine Point, and whoever won got to go to the games this year, so that was very clear, but I do not know if that was true in all the sports.

So what concerns me, and I believe it probably has something more to do with funding than anything, is that there are athletes out in the smaller communities that are capable of being on these teams. My question to Mr. Delmage is why does he think they sort of get lost? They were in Fairbanks last year; where are they now, and what can this Legislative Assembly, what can he maybe ask us to do? Is it financing? How much financing is needed to help this to be corrected so that we can bring these athletes into Yellowknife, if that is what has to be done, to come in to train with these teams?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Delmage.

MR. DELMAGE: I think that financial problems, of course, in the Territories are much greater than in the provinces because they are closer knit and they can get teams together much more easily than we can. I do believe though, that if there is additional funding available -- and I truthfully cannot say how much it would take -- but in the ski program where we did devote some funds, we did develop a team of native origin that was competitive. Whether we do that on an individual sport basis so that we can bring a sport along and develop the people in the North in that one sport and then do another one for another games is only my own theory of how it might operate. But again the funding that is going to be needed for this is really quite large because of the transportation, of which everybody is aware.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): The time being 6:00 o'clock, what is the committee's wish?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): I have to rise to report progress.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Thank you, Mr. Delmage.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Is Mr. Delmage excused, or should he try to be back tomorrow first thing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): I still have some people with questions, so I will expect him back tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sayine.

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

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-83(1), and wish to report progress.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sayine. Are there any announcements from the floor?
Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be leaving tomorrow and I wish to make a short statement. I would like to say that in the letter of the territorial boundaries commission, there is no mention of Sanikiluaq being visited by the commission. I have heard that the Electoral District Boundaries Commission will not be going to Sanikiluaq, and I have heard in the Legislative Assembly that they want to take my Hudson Bay constituency out.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Just Lynda. She is the only one!

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) I do not think that it should be mentioned in the House like that.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) When people want something, it is very hard to change their minds. The Commissioner is not here, but if the Electoral Boundaries Commission could go and talk about what they think, could they go to Sanikiluaq? If they want me to go to the Baffin regional

hearings, I could attend those hearings too. That is all I have to say right now. I will be leaving tomorrow to go back home, because I am forgetting my children, as I left on January 28th. I will see you again in the spring. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Any further announcements? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a caucus meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. in the caucus room.

ITEM NO. 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, Tuesday, March 8, 1:00 p.m.

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), 2-83(1), 3-83(1), 4-83(1), 5-83(1), 10-83(1), 19-83(1), 9-83(1), 22-83(1), 6-83(1), 7-83(1), 8-83(1), 11-83(1), 12-83(1), 13-83(1), 14-83(1), 15-83(1), 16-83(1), 17-83(1), 18-83(1), 20-83(1), 21-83(1), 23-83(1)
16. Third Reading of Bills
17. Assent to Bills
18. Orders of the Day

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March the 8th, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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