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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1983

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Wednesday, May 11.

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

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 103-83(1): Ferry Operation On Liard River

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister responsible for Public Works. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a report was on CBC indicating that the mayor of Fort Simpson, Jim Villeneuve, was not too happy with what seemed to be inactivity on the part of DPW as to getting the ferry operating on the Liard River. I wonder if the Minister could indicate precisely what the department's plans are to quickly get the ferry so that people can travel back and forth on the river now that the Liard River has opened up.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that concern and I heard the news report. I would simply want to take the question as notice now and I will come back with an answer to the Member's question as quickly as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 104-83(1): Resolute Bay Water Supply

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if this is the appropriate time to ask this question. It is for the Minister responsible for DPW of course. At Resolute Bay the water supply is not improving at all and the water tanks are not installed yet for the staff house and public housing. I do not know what the plan of the superintendent of DPW for the Baffin is but he has never told me anything up to date. Now I am asking the Minister for DPW to transfer the superintendent to another area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 104-83(1): Resolute Bay Water Supply

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there has been a concern in the area the Member referred to. I believe the regional director for the Baffin is in town. I expect that I will be meeting not only with him but with others. I would raise the issue involved, although I am not suggesting to the Member that I will raise the issue of transferring a regional superintendent from one region to another, but I certainly will raise the issue concerning the problem the Member refers to with the regional director and try to ascertain what the difficulties are. Then I would be able to respond more favourably possibly, to the Member's suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking that question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Question 105-83(1): RCMP Posting, Hall Beach

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice of the Northwest Territories. I do not know what has been done so far about the RCMP being posted in Hall Beach. Has this been given a priority because the Hall Beach people want to get the RCMP posted there? I mentioned this on several occasions. When are the RCMP going to be posted in Hall Beach?

Return To Question 105-83(1): RCMP Posting, Hall Beach

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the problem we are experiencing is with respect to accommodation for the officer in question. The position has been approved and we are attempting right now to find suitable accommodation for the officer. I will endeavour to get a more clear answer on that in the next couple of days and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 106-83(1): Installation Of Water Pipe, Cape Dorset School

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, this is a question to the Minister for the DPW. The hamlet of Cape Dorset wanted me to ask when the school in Cape Dorset will be able to get a pipe to bring water from the lake to the school. The school is very big and they have a problem with water spoilage. I wonder if the Minister can reply to me before the end of the session when they will be putting the pipe to the school from the lake. I do not think it is too much of a problem because it is not very far from the lake. This question regarding the installation of the water pipe to the school is from the residents of Cape Dorset. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, we will speak with our engineers and see if we agree with the Member's comments on the advisability. I will have to take the question as notice and file a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions, Mr. Curley.

Question 107-83(1): Clean-Up Of Old Mine Site, Rankin Inlet

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Leader of the Elected Executive. I ask this question to him as the Minister responsible for intergovernmental affairs, because this particular concern of Rankin Inlet involves various government agencies, including Canada Manpower and possibly the Departments of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Environment. This question concerns the clean-up of the old mine site. Some time ago the Commissioner and the Minister of Indian Affairs agreed to try to find funding for it. The hamlet has already presented proposals to the government for Indian Affairs in the amount \$168,000. The advisory board of the Canada Manpower program has approved funding in the amount of \$57,000 conditional to other funding being found. Could the Leader of the Elected Executive assure this House that he will now do everything in his power to try and find other funding in order that this particular project can be carried out this summer? The project is going to be dead if the additional funds are not found by the end of May.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 107-83(1): Clean-Up Of Old Mine Site, Rankin Inlet

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give the Member my assurances that I will check this immediately with other appropriate federal and territorial agencies. It would appear that given that this is an old mine site, there may be some responsibility on the part of the Environmental Protection Service or other agencies in Indian Affairs and Northern Development to accept some responsibility for the clean-up.

Within the Northwest Territories government I will have to check with my own mining safety officials, representatives in the Department of Renewable Resources and Local Government. I am aware of the proposal that has been advanced by the regional director and I think it is cleaning up that mine site and especially from an environmental perspective, ensuring that the tailings dump is properly controlled and cleaned up as it is essential for the welfare of the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, you are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Wray.

Question 108-83(1): Fuel Oil Tank Farm, Baker Lake

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister responsible for Government Services. In the winter session this House passed a motion recommending that the government immediately take steps to rectify the fuel oil tank farm problem in Baker Lake. I am just wondering if the Minister could inform me if any action has been taken on this or indeed if any action is being contemplated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I think I indicated at the time that there would be action taken on the matter. I believe that some preliminary work has been done and I will report to the House and to the Member on just what that work is before this session prorogues.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 109-83(1): Mines Ministers Conference

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development. Mr. Minister, we have just learned that you are just back from a very important and timely mines ministers conference which was held in Ottawa. I wonder if you would give this House an indication of the topics that were discussed by the mines ministers and the decisions taken. In particular was the topic of the taxation of northern allowances raised and was a decision taken by the ministers on that issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen, that is a very broad question. I will accept the last part of that with regard to northern benefits as a question. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 109-83(1): Mines Ministers Conference

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I in conjunction with my colleague, the honourable Mr. Nerysoo, did in fact attend a mines ministers conference in Ottawa with other federal colleagues and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Hon. Judy Erola. The subject of the taxation of northern allowances did come up. I think that we put forth the opinion of this government and we were supported by the Yukon government through the elected leader there, Mr. Pearson. In raising the issue it is an issue that I think is still open according to that particular Minister, that is Mrs. Erola. I think one of the things that has come about from it is that there would be a committee of officials from various provinces to take a look to see what we can do during the interim of the remission order.

I cannot at the present time indicate to Members or to the Member if anything positive will come about from it, but we have great expectations. I would propose in relation to the attendance of Mr. Nerysoo and myself at this particular conference, to maybe file or table a brief report as to what the topics were and what other things were discussed at that meeting. I would table that within the next one or two days.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions, Mr. Fraser.

Question 110-83(1): Social Service Worker, Norman Wells

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Social Services. A couple of weeks ago there was an article in News/North concerning Norman Wells -- quite a few articles. One that did concern me was the social service worker in Norman Wells. I am just wondering if the Minister has had a chance to check this out and if any action would be taken. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tologanak.

Return To Question 110-83(1): Social Service Worker, Norman Wells

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, I was only informed by the honourable Member just before we began this session, but I have arranged already that I will meet with the regional director from the Inuvik region and what action we will be taking will be considered in the light of my investigations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question 111-83(1): Building Of Recreation Complex, Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Finance. Last winter the Minister will be aware there was a meeting of both the village council and band council with himself and a number of Executive Committee Members concerning the possibility of Fort Simpson building an arena or a recreation complex. A number of sources of funding were discussed and one of these was federal funding on the basis that Fort Simpson is in a high impact area because of the Norman Wells pipeline. I am aware that the Minister has raised the matter with Hon. Herb Gray who was here this past winter. I am just wondering if Mr. Butters has had a response from the president of the Treasury Board and, if so, he would indicate the response.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 111-83(1): Building Of Recreation Complex, Fort Simpson

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I did have a response from Mr. Gray in which he informed me that he had turned the matter over to his colleague, the Hon. John Munro who will be addressing us later on today. We also pursued the possibility of seeing if we might be able to encourage the federal government to fast-track that program or include it as a capital program which could be fast-tracked but we were unsuccessful in that regard. So the last option outside of our overall capital plan would be the discretionary revenues approach which I believe I mentioned to Mr. Sibbeston and that may still be open.

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

Supplementary To Question 111-83(1): Building Of Recreation Complex, Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Munro is in town here, I wonder if the Minister would take up this matter of federal funding for an arena and recreational complex in Fort Simpson with the Minister? I can say both the mayor and chief of Fort Simpson are here and it would be very good if the Minister could raise it with the Minister as a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Further Return To Question 111-83(1): Building Of Recreation Complex, Fort Simpson

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will be very pleased to raise this with the Minister later on this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. This concludes oral questions. Item 4, written questions. Are there any written questions today? Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM NO. 4: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 112-83(1): Inuktitut Teaching Materials For Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, this is a written question for the Minister of Education, regarding the Lake Harbour School. The local education authority wants to know why they did not receive any funding to purchase Inuktitut teaching material in the fiscal year 1982-83. I think it would be more appropriate if the residents of Lake Harbour were less one English speaking teacher and the LEA were given more authority as to which area they would like to see reinforced. I would like a response to my question at the earliest opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further written questions? Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 113-83(1): Information To Parents Of Young Offenders

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, young offenders sentenced by the supreme court are often incarcerated in communities other than their own. Parents of these young offenders are not sufficiently informed on the whereabouts of their children, or the length of time their children will be away from home. Would the Minister responsible please look into this matter of grave concern to the parents of young offenders and report back to this House at the earliest opportunity?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further written questions?

Item 5, returns. Are there any returns for today? No returns.

I would like at this time to recognize the MP for the Eastern Arctic, Mr. Ittinuar, in the gallery.

---Applause

Is the House now prepared to invite the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Hon. John Munro, to address us?

---Agreed

Mr. Clerk, would you see if the Minister is ready?

Statement By Hon. John Munro

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Thank you very much, Your Honour. Mr. Braden, Executive Committee and Members of the Northwest Territories Assembly, it has been nearly six months since I last had the opportunity to talk to you right here in this hall. This is about the right amount of time to have elapsed, for it seems to me that the message that I brought in November, some six or seven months ago, warranted a great deal of reflection by us all. It would have been premature for me to intrude on that period of reflection before now, because this involves the whole area of discussions that northerners must undertake between themselves regarding their constitutional development. Now, after all these months of deliberations, you have invited me again, and I am glad to be here.

As you recall, in November I announced how the federal government sees responsive and accountable government evolving in the Northwest Territories. The elements of the cabinet's decision, of course, included acceptance of the possibility that the Northwest Territories might be divided along new geopolitical lines. I therefore described certain conditions, which conditions were discussed with you, under which the federal government would want to see division occur. These conditions were intended to guarantee the kinds of institutions and relationships which Members of this Assembly have endorsed.

I said then, and perhaps should repeat, that the federal government's choice was the choice of northerners, as expressed in a plebiscite as well as in many of the submissions made to us in the months leading up to November. In addition, the decisions about when and how division might occur are yours to make with a minimum of guidance from us. Having talked about division for a minute let me talk about devolution. Devolution of program responsibilities to you, the elected representatives of the territorial government, and development of political institutions that are accountable and responsive to the needs of northerners are objectives we share.

Reaction In North To Minister's Statement In November

From where I sit in Ottawa and from the accounts of others, I have judged reaction in the North to have been generally positive and supportive of those initiatives announced in November. There was some initial uncertainty expressed; that was natural, given the implications of such an announcement. I would be pleased to hear from any of you as the opportunities arise, in order to sharpen my own impressions of how this approach has been received here in the Territories.

Let me say, however, that we followed your reactions with great interest. James Wah-Shee remarked that the news I brought was "encouraging". He said the policy I outlined "goes a long way toward meeting the goals and aspirations of northern people". Dennis Patterson said the announcement "lifted the spirits" of the people of the Eastern Arctic, while George Braden said he was "generally quite pleased" because the announcement included many of the suggestions of the territorial government, and I would make particular note of that, that many included the suggestions of the territorial government. In other words, we did endeavour and did achieve a degree of responsiveness to your concerns.

I might add that one of the more exhilarating moments in my life as a politician was the action of Peter Ittinuar, the honourable Member for Nunatsiak, who because of the government's responsiveness to the question of division and because he and others in the Inuit community have fought so hard for that recognition, he felt it was an obligation on his part to join the ranks of the government, so that he could carry on the fight in this direction. So I find these actions and other remarks I have heard not only encouraging but reassuring that we are at last on the path toward a future that the people of this territory want for themselves. It is a future, I might add, which will be consistent, I know, with our own country's broader objectives.

National And Northern Constitutional Development Are Related

An additional word or two is in order at this point in view of constitutional developments that have occurred nationally since we last met. I have already talked about those events that occurred here in the Territories. The mid March First Ministers' Conference was a significant turning point for Canadian confederation. Its central focus was on aboriginal and treaty rights and these matters are of no small significance to the North.

Northern political development, in the terms I used to describe it in November, is also linked now to the ongoing national process, the process First Ministers committed themselves to and one of the real successes of that conference. So there we have it, two processes, the northern political development with which we are all so familiar and to which you all contributed so much and now the ongoing national process. These two processes, therefore, are related and are mutually supportive. The respect for the cultural concerns of native people, which will surely emerge in the evolution of northern government, could well provide strong support for the concept of aboriginal self-government in southern Canada, an example of just how mutually supportive the two processes can be, though there are obviously opportunities for new departures here in the Territories that do not exist in the provinces, that will be an example for the South. Conversely, the national process, as opposed to the northern political development process, the national process may have implications for the kind of government that you have here in the North and public institutions that you will evolve here in the North. So I would like to commend the representatives of this government and other northerners for their able and useful contributions at the First Ministers' Conference.

Territorial Representation At Next Constitutional Conference

You are aware that the agenda for the ongoing national process also includes an item dealing with the repeal of section 42 of the Constitution Act, that section which among other things provides for the extension of existing provinces into the Territories and the establishment of new provinces. The Yukon and the Northwest Territories are assured, as well, that the Prime Minister will invite their representatives to participate in the discussions of any agenda item at the next Constitutional Conference that in the Prime Minister's opinion directly affects the Territories and obviously that is one.

Land Claims, Division, Northern Political Development Are Linked

The First Ministers' Conference also lent clarity to another important area of prime concern to the Territories. It lent clarity and strength to the process of negotiating land claims. It will result in an amendment, then, to the Constitution Act providing for the inclusion under "treaty rights" of rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or that may be acquired in future agreements. So there you have the link. The settlement of comprehensive native land claims is a condition of division and as I said, division is tied very much into the whole northern political constitutional strategy here in the North and the ongoing process. So the three are linked. That is how important this threesome linkage, this chain, is to the whole evolution of the Territories. That perhaps will help to clarify for all of us the important relationship between things that are happening on the national front while you in the North are working out your own approach to division and responsible government.

I might indicate that I have tried to characterize in a diagrammatic fashion this linkage and I have it in the way of a type of inverted pyramid or inverted triangle with "land claims settlement" at the bottom since I think we all agree it is a realistic condition to the attainment of division. Then one arm of the triangle leads up to "division" and the other arm of the triangle leads up to an apex with the heading "northern political development" or full responsible government, politically responsible and politically accountable government. The bridge between the two at the top of the inverted triangle, division and full responsible government, the bridge that links those two is the Constitutional Alliance discussions which you will be having that I will be referring to later. That is the discussion going on right here in the Territories and of course the ongoing process that I have talked about that will be entrenched in the constitution and which is mutually supportive of that constitutional process you have under the constitutional lines.

Achievements Of Ninth Assembly

May I now just talk about some developments since November. Among the reasons why the federal government established the constitutional development framework embodied in my November announcement was the one I mentioned earlier, division essentially is the way northerners want to go. Within this framework the federal government will encourage and support the process of

constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. The Ninth Assembly has confronted important issues during its life and has dramatically altered the speed and the direction of political evolution in the North. Innovative measures have been taken to create a blueprint for political change. Some of your more impressive achievements, in my view, include reaching a preliminary consensus on division and then holding a plebiscite; giving support and direction to the work of the Constitutional Alliance; moving toward a unique form of ministerial government -- as a prelude to full responsible government -- with elected Members taking on more and more Executive responsibilities and selecting one of their Members as Leader of the Elected Members of the Executive. Still another important measure was the creation of the special committee on education which produced a set of recommendations for the improvement of the educational system in the Northwest Territories. Finally, this Assembly is to be commended for its efforts to have aboriginal rights entrenched in the Canadian Constitution under the able leadership of George Braden at that Constitutional Conference. You will recall in March responsibility for the Departments of Information and Public Works was transferred at your request to elected Members of the Executive Committee. Another achievement. This brought two key government functions under people who are directly accountable to the taxpayers in the Northwest Territories.

Federally-Appointed Deputy Commissioner No Longer Required

Today I am pleased to announce further steps in the steady progress we are making toward the goal of responsible government in the North. Following the next territorial election -- but that has now been changed as a result of a meeting I just had with the Executive Committee, that we do not have to wait for the next territorial election -- but during the period from now leading into that territorial election we hope to achieve the announcements I am now going to make. The Deputy Commissioner will no longer be required as a member of the Executive Committee.

---Applause

Arrangements will have to be made to ensure there is continuity during any absence of the Commissioner, but it is the intention of the federal government that the position of a federally-appointed Deputy Commissioner as an active feature of northern politics will cease to exist. In his place -- it is up to you. You may wish at some stage an eighth elected Member to assume ministerial responsibilities.

Appreciation Of Mr. Bob Pilot

Before I move off to other matters, may I commend Bob Pilot who has fulfilled that role for the excellent job he has done as Deputy Commissioner. He is a man renowned for service to all the Canadian people, first, and people of the North, second.

---Applause

A proud Canadian and an able Canadian and one whom I think the Executive Committee and I, join in directing to him appreciation in terms of the job he has done. I am sure he will continue to be of real service to the North. In fact I am assured of it.

Role Of Commissioner

May I then move on to the second announcement I wish to make in the area of the role of the Commissioner? I think we would all agree that that role has changed significantly over recent years, but I must stress that he will have an important role to play in the coming years. The Commissioner represents and is symbolic of the national interest. He also acts as a direct link and avenue of communication between the federal and territorial levels of government. Until such time as claims are settled and the political arrangements in the Northwest Territories are both clarified and well-supported by northerners, the Commissioner will have to continue -- I think we all agree on this -- will have to continue to be an important stabilizing influence. However, in order to aid the transition to full responsible government, as fast as you want, it may well be appropriate that the Leader of the Elected Members should now assume the role of deputy chairman of the Executive Committee, a position now held by the Deputy Commissioner.

---Applause

Formula Financing And Discretionary Revenues

Another area in which the federal government is already working to fulfil the promise of the November announcement is in the development of a formula-based approach to territorial financing. This was critical in terms of your role of a full politically responsible government. I would

expect such an arrangement to provide, on the one hand, an incentive for increased territorial fiscal responsibility, and on the other hand, a more predictable base for your fiscal planning. This development will eventually be coupled with a mechanism to provide a measure of discretionary revenues, a commitment that we made in November and which your government will have during this fiscal year.

Officials in my department are consulting with their colleagues in other federal agencies, exploring ways to achieve these objectives. I am hopeful, incidentally, that the Prime Minister will be in the Northwest Territories during July, although it has not been settled yet, and I would hope that all that matter is resolved and that policy to which the cabinet has given its approval will be in place by mid July. I am committed, as you know, to vesting accountability for the financial activities of northern government in northern governments. I look forward to the day when the principles of territorial financing are brought into line with the constitutional principle of responsible government. To that end, and as a further strengthening of the role and responsibilities of elected representatives, I shall be directing the Commissioner to relinquish his role as chairman of the Financial Management Board.

---Applause

Progress In Negotiation Of Comprehensive Claims

So there we have it. If I may move off to another encouraging area where there is some progress, although perhaps not as much as many of us would like, in the negotiation of comprehensive claims. Two documents to guide the process of land selection were recently initialled by Nunavut and their negotiators at Cambridge Bay. The negotiations with respect to the COPE claim are proceeding and a final agreement appears to be in sight. I hope Nellie Cournoyea would agree with that. Finally, on the Dene and Metis claim, an interim agreement on eligibility has been initialled. I look forward to the day when all three claims are settled and appropriate legislation is put in place to give effect and protection to these negotiated settlements. May I indicate that another claim that does not fall within the Northwest Territories but North of 60, is the Council of Yukon Indians claim? It is very close to completion, in which this government has the determination to lead to agreement in principle and final agreement prior to the end of this government's term.

Decision On Division Of NWT

I would like now to turn to the question of division itself. Division is a difficult challenge for northerners, difficult because they will have to reach a consensus among themselves, as they pretty well have done but they will have to continue to do. Then they will have to come to an agreement with the federal government on how to define new boundaries -- that is an important second step -- and then on the distribution of powers within the Territories. All this is built on the basis of settlement of land claims.

Now one of the reasons that the government has come to the conclusion that there must be division eventually and has endorsed the principle of division is that both the federal government and territorial government have long recognized the necessity for bringing territorial public administration closer to the people it serves. Great distances are just one factor in this equation. So are the geographic, cultural and economic distinctions between the Eastern and Western Arctic and the Mackenzie Valley. Another reason, quite simply, is that it was time to move. Northerners were becoming anxious for, if not insistent on, change -- while a new, restless generation was eager to assume greater responsibility and accountability.

So the decision was taken under the following conditions, ones that you are familiar with so I will not repeat them in detail. First, northerners must reach a consensus amongst themselves and then an agreement with the federal government on boundaries. Then the land claims must be settled and then they must try to keep a majority of Northwest Territories residents in support of division.

Developments In Political Development

May I now move to the question then of talking about this linkage to further northern political development -- devolution, if you like, to full politically responsible government? In the context of the Constitutional Alliance, as many of you know, there have already been important developments on the questions of the structure and the distribution of powers between and among northern governments. I would like to commend the Nunavut Constitutional Forum for having

introduced already draft proposals for a Nunavut constitution. I look forward to and expect to see results of a similar type by the Western Constitutional Forum. This can only help facilitate the negotiations with the federal government which will eventually take place. Since November the Northwest Territories Constitutional Alliance has been building toward a consensus among the people of the Northwest Territories on the location of the boundary, and the two parties in the alliance are already debating the issues. So that is something only northerners can work out for themselves.

Federal Funding For Constitutional Alliance

In terms of federal funding this is important to show that we mean to give you the resources necessary to do the job and we will try to help where we can. Today I bring you news of one tangible contribution we have arranged. Federal funding of the operations of the Constitutional Alliance, to ensure they are able to get the job done, will total this fiscal year \$2,207,500 granted directly to the two forums in response to the needs they have identified to us.

---Applause

This year \$2,115,000 will be made available; \$800,000 to the Nunavut Forum and \$1,316,000 to the Western Forum. A further \$92,000 will be available to the Western Forum in 1984-85. The major portion of the money will be available for the early stages of public consultation and discussion. Now on top of this amount there will be a further \$515,000 -- \$250,000 of that for the Nunavut Forum and \$265,000 for the Western Forum -- once these two groups have reached agreement on the boundary and the distribution of powers among levels of government, and then are ready to proceed to ratification. In other words, on that amount of \$2,207,000 will be \$500,000 when you are prepared to move to ratification to assist you in mounting that exercise.

While I know the Nunavut Forum is hoping to have its constitutional proposals ratified this fall, I would like to make one caution, if I may, about moving ahead too quickly. The question of the boundary will have to be resolved before either ratification or negotiations with the federal government can take place. I think we all agree on that, or most of us, and that is why we made these financial resources available to you so as to enable you to meet that challenge. In the interests of building a framework for the negotiation process that will eventually ensue with the federal government I have instructed federal representatives to make themselves available to attend meetings of the two constitutional forums and the Constitutional Alliance. There is no advantage in allowing surprises to occur or unrealistic expectations to develop. I am therefore prepared to have federal officials meet informally with the forums to provide tentative reactions to the proposals that are under review.

There are other general principles of public government in the North that the federal government is committed to and I am not going to elaborate on them today. Suffice it to say they are in the appended text and we do stand behind them.

Responsibilities Of Federal And Territorial Governments

So to the Commissioner, Mr. Speaker, Your Honour, to Mr. Braden and the territorial Assembly let me just conclude by saying the following. The federal government does have ongoing national responsibilities, both in the social, environmental, cultural and economic areas, that is a fundamental proposition no one would argue with. It must ensure that appropriate standards and policies are in place, again a proposition no one would argue with. However, having these responsibilities does not necessarily require continuing federal control. If northerners are able, and they are, to maintain and develop these standards, then delegation or devolution of authority may be appropriate and we have already indicated it is appropriate.

You and the people you represent certainly have equal responsibilities to the federal government. You are the ones who can best work out the necessary balance of the unique aspirations and needs of all the people of the Northwest Territories. You are the ones who must communicate that understanding to the federal government and to Canadians as a whole. And you are the ones we count on to negotiate with us in the spirit of flexibility and compromise that will let us all build a country we can pass on with pride to future generations.

The contributions that you have already made to this process give me a great faith in our ability to work together toward this goal. The complexities of the task ahead seem to me to be a small price to pay for the satisfaction we will all be able to take in the creative solutions we will find. We are making history together.

May I just finally end with a personal note -- I have heard and it reminds me of something akin to an experience I had as a Member of the back bench during the years Mr. Clark and the Conservatives formed the government in Ottawa. As you will recall, Mr. Trudeau was the Leader of the Opposition, 1979 and 1980, and he indicated this day he was resigning as leader of the Liberal party in the House of Commons. It was a rare experience indeed to hear the Prime Minister, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Broadbent, the head of the New Democratic party, on that occasion just heap fulsome praise on the really national contribution Mr. Trudeau had made to the development of Canada, socially, politically and economically. The praise went on for literally 15 or 20 minutes at least. We were all very proud of Mr. Trudeau at that particular time. Now, Mr. Clark later, when Mr. Trudeau decided he would withdraw his resignation and re-emerge, was very woeful about his premature action in heaping this fulsome praise and so was Mr. Broadbent, to have all of those words enshrined in Hansard against the day when they would have to attack him bitterly for incompetence and whatever.

Recognition Of Hon. George Braden's Efforts

I remember that experience so I have some hesitation today in front of you all in heaping any praise on George Braden because if some of the rumors I have heard true do not turn out to be true and if he is not a member of my particular political party I will rue the day I ever said anything nice about him. But I think on this occasion just in case it is true, I do want to say to the Commissioner -- and I will get to him in a minute -- and to Mr. Braden and his Executive Committee and the whole Assembly, but particularly on this occasion, Mr. Braden, that I feel that with these announcements while he has been Leader of the Elected government and he has fought hard for them as you all have, there is precious little left to be done other than full politically responsible government itself. We have already said that the unique situation in the Territories depends upon the resolution of the question of settlement of land claims and division, so we have gone as far as we can go, pretty well. There may be a few further items that you want that are left on a very narrow shopping list and it must be a great deal of satisfaction to George Braden if he is not your Elected Leader after the next territorial elections to have been Elected Leader, to have fought in seeing through all these major, significant advancements toward full and politically responsible government in the Northwest Territories where northerners will have a very significant degree of control over their own affairs.

So thank you very much for your courtesy in inviting me again and thanks for joining me in trying to achieve many of the objectives that we set out to do.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is it the wish of the House that we resolve into committee of the whole for an open discussion with the Minister?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. SPEAKER: The House will resolve into committee of the whole with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER STATEMENT BY HON. JOHN MUNRO

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I think before we call the committee to order we will take a 15 minute coffee break and then call the committee to order.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come to order. The procedure we have been following is that we allowed each Member three questions and then move on to another Member. After everybody has asked three questions then we can go back to Members for further questions if there are any. We have the Minister now at the witness table to answer any questions and we will start off with Mr. Braden, please.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have any questions, I just have a few very brief comments and I will keep them brief because I know other Members will want to raise issues with the Minister. First I would like to thank Minister Munro for travelling to the North and for the kind remarks he has made about me this afternoon. I am not quite so sure if all of my colleagues, particularly outside the Executive, would concur with you but I personally appreciate very much what you had said.

One Step Short Of Full Responsible Government

Generally speaking, Mr. Chairman, the Executive is supportive of the statements and decisions made by the Minister concerning evolution of the Executive branch of the government. I am confident that we will be able to make significant progress in the implementation of these steps prior to the next election, so that, as we have maintained all along, the role of the Commissioner and the Deputy will not be election issues. I think there are more substantive things to have candidates discuss next November or December. Now, I believe as Mr. Munro has indicated, that the new Legislature and the new Executive Committee will be one step short of full responsible government as we understand it in the Canadian context and that step will, of course, have to do with the ultimate role of the Commissioner. I suppose the Minister could respond to this at this point, but I believe that the new Legislature and the new Executive will be able to approach the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development shortly after they are elected or in whatever time frame and be able to request that last step.

Now, I do not really want to get into a discussion at this time of what conditions may be attached to that last step, because that might involve an examination of the merits of party politics and consensus government, but I think I can safely say on behalf of the Executive Committee that we see the steps being taken as significant, as meaningful. I might add steps or decisions were made in consultation with the Executive Committee and I appreciate the Minister having taken the time to consult with us through the Commissioner to reach these conclusions.

I am not going to comment further on the matter of the Constitutional Alliance, Mr. Wah-Shee and Mr. Patterson can do that on my behalf. I would just conclude by saying thank you very much. It is a pleasure having you here and I think that we have made some remarkable progress in terms of the evolution of our Executive branch of government here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Appreciation Of Financial Support

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the members of the Constitutional Alliance I would like to state our appreciation for the financial support the Minister has announced today. The financial resources will be spent on the consultations of the communities and the people of the Northwest Territories to reach a consensus on the type of public institutions that people would like to see in place, the kind of changes they would like to see and also to co-operate among ourselves as members of the Constitutional Alliance with the involvement of the public to resolve this issue of where the political boundary ought to go as you have indicated. We will be spending the money on the research that will be required both for the Nunavut Constitutional Forum and the Western Constitutional Forum.

I would also like to indicate that the Minister's officials are most welcome to attend our Constitutional Alliance in the two forums to assist and advise the members in addressing the whole issue of constitutional development. It is indeed a challenge for the Constitutional Alliance to address not only the whole question of constitutional development, but also to co-operate among ourselves in resolving all the outstanding aboriginal claims in the Northwest Territories and we hope to do this in the spirit of co-operation.

As you know, Mr. Minister, sometimes certain issues are extremely complex and sensitive. However, we feel as leaders of the various groups in the Territories we can resolve this in the spirit of co-operation based on consensus. So once more I would like to state that we do appreciate your personal support of our efforts in the Northwest Territories. Perhaps Mr. Patterson has something to say in regard to the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Clarification Of Funding Promised

HON. JOHN MUNRO: May I make some qualification here? My officials tell me I may have inadvertently -- and it was inadvertently -- misled some of the people here on the funding of the Constitutional Alliance. It is roughly -- I do not have the exact figures in front of me, but having taken it through cabinet to get it, you will remember the last year we negotiated for the Constitutional Alliance, both the Western Constitutional Forum and Nunavut, roughly \$2,100,000 and some odd dollars. That was the figure after haggling that I went to try and get authority for and I did. That was the overall umbrella figure for both forums including the ratification process. The way I broke it out you take \$515,000 off that for the ratification process, the balance is for the process leading to ratification, and then that \$515,000 becomes payable in accordance with the split I said. But I just wanted to make it clear that we are talking about that figure we negotiated, the umbrella amount of \$2,100,000 and some odd dollars I mentioned in my speech.

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

Appreciation Of Federal Co-operation

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to briefly as chairman of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum express our gratitude to the federal government for making it possible to continue immediately with the timetable that we laid out in August of last year. We have been very active since that time. In fact most of our research has been completed with help from the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat of the Northwest Territories government and so at this very point we are poised to begin the phase of community consultation. I would like to confirm that during this session on behalf of the forum I will be tabling a proposal called "Building Nunavut" which is a discussion paper containing proposals for the Nunavut constitution. I would like to also acknowledge, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister our gratitude for the close co-operation we have had from your officials. They have attended all our meetings and been very supportive and interested, particularly Mr. Hucker and his staff and we look forward to continuing to co-operate with them again.

Because of the fact that the people of Nunavut will be out on the land in the spring and summer, our public consultation phase will not begin until the period of August through to October, but we are ready to begin immediately planning and preparing for that. In fact we have already identified the people that we would like to work for us in this most important phase of public consultation. So I am really delighted that the money has been approved. It is very timely and again I would like to thank the Minister for his efforts in that regard.

I would also like to say that I do feel that the question of the boundary issue can be resolved and will be resolved. It is the position of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum that we have to start that process by going to the communities, letting them know what kind of government they might expect in the Eastern Arctic and letting them make judgments about whether or not they would like to be part of that government. So we feel that the consultation process that will begin in August will help us get very essential advice on which side of that border the communities of Nunavut would like to be. I think that once we get that advice from the communities the border question will be a lot closer to being resolved. As I have said before, I think there is an awful lot of land and there is an awful lot of room for compromise and I am confident that we can reach early agreement on that issue. We are still hoping in fact that we can make substantial progress toward resolving the boundary issue even before the next territorial election. So thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, just to join my colleagues in thanking Mr. Munro for his announcements here today and the announcements he has made over the past years during the time that he has served as federal Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development. There has been a great change in this government in that time and changes are continuing to occur.

Discretionary Revenues

The matter of the fiscal formula is going ahead and I am hopeful that we will see serious negotiations on that begin in June and July. So there is movement being made on that subject. The one area I would be interested in hearing the Minister maybe describing a little more fully is the mechanism for establishing the process for the developing of discretionary revenues. I wonder if the Minister can expand on the remarks he made today or whether that will be left to further discussions in the near future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, honourable Mr. Butters. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN MUNRO: That is the area that I indicated we would have to put in place during this fiscal year because it was a critical commitment of the government made back in November when I came up to make that statement when the fiscal year started and it is over a month old. I agree that obviously the discretionary fund is not a discretionary fund if it means the old system of going back to the envelope to get some additional moneys, so it is not that. It would have to be a predetermined amount set aside over which the federal government does not have a say but which the territorial government expends in accordance with their own priorities and not somebody else's. It is in a sense our answer to give northerners a share in the developmental process because they have to pay some of the social costs of it. It is our answer partially to your aspirations for resource revenue moneys. So it is a very integral part of the whole operation.

Mr. Butters has fought hard for it but we will have to now determine it and we have officials working on it so that the situation can be resolved and the funds set up in accordance with criteria that are acceptable to the Northwest Territories government and you will have your mechanism in place. That is all that remains to be done, identifying that mechanism, but it cannot be one that does not resolve in a predetermined amount what is to be spent in accordance with your own priorities and does not impact upon the other moneys that you obtain through the normal process of the federal government. It is not penalized so that if you take certain initiatives and get revenues that reduces it. It is insulated from that as I indicated in my comments when I announced it.

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

Allotment Of Funds To Special Interest Groups

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just would like to ask the Minister if it is within the ability of the Western Constitutional Forum with their funds to be allowed to give some funding to the Association of Municipalities or other special interest groups that may not have the wherewithal at present to make constitutional papers available to their own memberships so that they can understand what any changes in the constitution of the territory would mean to the municipalities. Would it be allowable in your understanding for the Western Constitutional Forum to make funds available to municipalities or other special interest groups that have constitutional concerns?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, my initial reaction, subject to the qualification that as you know I have not looked at the fine print -- the argument was over the ballpark figures to get it for the Alliance -- but I would think yes, this money is passed through the Constitutional Alliance, to the Nunavut and the Western Constitutional Forums to carry on these consultations leading to the ratification process. It is a responsible body or we would not be giving them money in the first place. Presumably if they see that some other institution of the nature you described is an institution they wish to utilize according to their mandate to carry on those consultations most effectively, and in a sense the Constitutional Alliance will be delegating the constitutional type of consultation process to this body to assist them in reaching their mandate of full discussion within the Territories, I would think that that is a political decision you can make. As far as I am concerned you are still doing it but you are getting somebody else to carry it out for you.

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

Transfer Of Responsibilities

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciate the Minister's ongoing involvement in the political development of the Territories. I think that it goes without saying that the federal government has a major, I suppose, hand in giving additional responsibilities to the territorial government. I think that will more likely be a forerunner of the major issues in the Territories, whether it be this Assembly or the next. Until the day that the actual additional responsibilities are transferred from Ottawa we are going to be making announcements from year to year, Assembly to Assembly, as to who the new driver is going to be in this government. I think that is what we are doing. We are changing drivers but we really have not changed the machinery of the government.

We have all due respect for the division proposal in view which I think is important and very much a part of the evolution of our government. I am wondering, even though this might be a temporary arrangement before the division occurs, there are urgent needs I think for the government, particularly the federal government to address as to when it would start the process of transferring real responsibilities in terms of resource control, taxation and resources and, in general, the fiscal responsibilities for this area. I do not believe that just changing the drivers in the driver's seat in this government is really going to improve the standard of living and the participation of the public in this area, although they are important things to be considered.

Has the federal government or does the Minister foresee while he is the Minister of Indian Affairs, any possibility of movement to transfer, for instance, resource control or taxation to this government, which I think is the ultimate goal? It will always be the goal of this government. Or are we going to have to accept that this will never happen until we achieve provincial status? So that is one question.

Economic Incentives Needed

The second question is, I am a little bit surprised in view of the two years experience that we have had of the recessive economy in Canada that the Minister does not appear here to announce very major economic incentives for the Northwest Territories, because we have many people who are looking for work, people who are transferring to other places looking for work and the unemployment in the Territories gets bigger and bigger. We are playing around with who the new driver of the government is going to be and so on, but the people want jobs and they want the taxation benefits and whatnot resolved. I know the federal government is saying they want to equalize taxation, but we have civil servants throughout the federal government who enjoy all kinds of benefits whether they be foreign service or whatnot. In the North we have the additional costs of living which are serious and they are hurting the northern people. Why did not the Minister deal with some of these more important issues rather than dealing with the dressing up of this particular government? Thank you.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Mr. Chairman and Members of this Assembly, to answer Mr. Curley's last comment, I have a series of announcements to make at a press conference following this meeting and I have indicated to many of the people here, not to all but to a great many of them, that I would like them to join me because a good many of the announcements are as a result of the work they have done. All are designed to contribute to the capital infrastructure of the North in terms of needed facilities to support any private sector rejuvenation, and in the public sector that stimulus must be made, the infrastructure must be there for the private sector investment to be stimulated especially in the North.

So I will be making those announcements and I am praying, literally praying and believing, that they are going to have a mighty significant impact in terms of job creation in the North starting almost immediately. I will be doing that very shortly, but the preoccupation of the Assembly as a whole on constitutional questions is such that it is ironic that you are underplaying it at this particular stage when it is of such major importance for years. I felt that we should deal with that because of its overall importance for generations to come and I would deal with the other matters at a press conference. They are decisions that have been made and many of them are as a result of discussions with the territorial government -- that is true -- but the others are the result of bilateral discussions with other people in the federal government to respond to this and we will have to take our own responsibility for the initiatives.

I am advised, and as a matter of courtesy I advised the head of the government, Mr. Braden, on what these issues are and I have told him the manner in which I chose to announce them. He has consented to participate with me at that conference and so have the others directly affected, including yourself.

May I then answer your other comment? You know, the formula of financing of a type that we are committed to is in effect the same formula that is used for fiscal and financial relationships between the federal government and the provinces. So when we commit ourselves to that, as we all know in essence we are treating you in the same way as we treat the provinces, so that is the formula. The formula will be based on many of the same ingredients that go into the formula for financing with the provinces. So when you talk about aspirations for provincial status, you should be giving the federal government, I would suggest, credit for the fact that we are responding to something that you have always wanted, because the only thing you do not have that would qualify you for a province, and as you identified, is the ownership of land resources and that is why we have committed ourselves to the discretionary fund. We have also committed ourselves to some very heavy expenditures in other areas to try to meet the demand here in the Territories, here as in the rest of Canada, and as I say I will be making that announcement later.

Inopportune Time For Transfer Of Resources

In answer to your last point about why not transfer resources, ownership of the land resources, is it really your feeling, Mr. Curley, and that of all of the Inuit of the Eastern Arctic as well as all of the people here that you want us to, even if we were disposed to it? Do you want the federal government to transfer to the territorial government now, before the key question of settlement of land claims? Do you think the negotiators in the Eastern Arctic and the ITC claim would commend you or me if we were so irresponsible as to transfer it before all of the land claims were settled and before the question of division was settled? And would you agree that we cannot even cope with much further transfer of responsibility of the Territories until you have settled the question of division? Because it would now involve -- as Mr. Braden alluded to, the only thing that is stopping it now is maybe it would be a party type of situation that would develop here in order to have the type of continuity in a government here that would lead to that final stroke of full responsible government, unless you have some other technique that you have not told me about that would ensure the stability to permit that last step to be taken, which step we are quite prepared to take.

So I just want to say quite seriously, and I do not want to throw a lot of questions back at you, Mr. Curley, but I do think I would be open to some rather severe criticism from a tremendous number of the native groups in the Territories and it would polarize the situation rather badly if we took such a step as you are recommending.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. One more question, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to be very brief and I am not trying to implicate any of the land negotiations, but I believe that people in the Northwest Territories and those who will be elected to the Legislative Assembly are better able to make decisions for the people in the North. I think it is about time that you transferred these responsibilities quickly rather than have those traditional bureaucrats making decisions for us in the North. That is what resource ownership and control means and therefore we would be able to make settlement of land claims if it were our responsibility, rather than having to change our minds once a new lobbying comes from some other group from southern Canada. You are dealing with 300,000 native people in southern Canada and therefore the Northwest Territories is only a small percentage of your total daily responsibility.

What I am saying is I think we are going to have to start to look at the North exactly as it is and we are trying to be all things to all people in the North and I do not think that Ottawa can be that way. I think it has to accept the fact one day that it is not able to administer and run things for the North forever. We can do it up here. We can make an agreement and I think possibly even better than the one you are dealing with with your federal officials. That is what I am talking about. Thank you.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: I indicated that even if we were disposed to, Mr. Chairman, I would have to talk to the ITC people if they wanted us to withdraw from the table and negotiate directly with the territorial government in Yellowknife on the assumption that at some future time we will transfer all land resources. I would want to hear from the ITC on that score.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One comment with respect to a question Mr. McLaughlin asked. I know that within the budget of the Western Constitutional Forum there was a component of funding for municipalities or groups of municipalities. I would hope that, although the budget has been reduced somewhat from what we asked for, there still would be a component for that purpose and I will be interested to see whether in fact there is.

Minister's Efforts Appreciated

Just generally, Mr. Minister, we do not have a party system in the Northwest Territories, this is not a party House and therefore thankfully we do not feel obligated to be critical and cynical when announcements are made and I would simply like to be complimentary about what I heard today.

---Applause

I believe that the Government of Canada has a sincere interest in seeing political development occur in the North along the lines, as far as possible, that northerners would like to see it occur. I believe that the government has adopted that attitude, Mr. Minister, largely or at least in large part because of your own efforts. I personally have seen over the last three and a half years...

---Applause

I have seen the manner in which you have worked in order to grasp the issues in the North. I remember very well the summer of 1980 when you attended the Dene Nation Assembly in Fort Good Hope and were at that time working hard to understand the issues. I believe you have a good grasp of them and you are representing them well to the Government of Canada and as a result some good things are happening, particularly in the area of constitutional development. I recognize that we still have some very tough ground to go over with respect to economic questions. There is no doubt that over the years you will be hearing a great deal from us on those matters, but nevertheless in this area we really appreciate what the government is doing. The announcements that you have made today, the steps that you are taking are very significant. I had a quick look at the guidelines that you have laid down for principles of public government in the North and I think they will be very useful guidelines for our work.

I would like to say finally that last November when you made your announcement here you did say that some people were uneasy with what was said. I was one of those people. I said at that time that if the federal government meant what it said I would like to see it commit resources to make it happen and obviously you are doing that, so I appreciate that. Over the months since that time I have come to recognize that the conditions that you associated with the question of division are absolutely brilliant. I will use that word. I do not know whether it was yourself or some of your advisers who developed them, but I see that they are precisely the kinds of qualifications that should be put on that matter and they will be very useful to us.

So just generally thank you very much for taking the trouble to come to Yellowknife to make these announcements and certainly thank you for having convinced the Government of Canada to enable you to make them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. The Minister has other commitments so we will ask the Members if they will be brief in their questions. Hon. Arnold McCallum is the next Member.

Constitutional And Political Announcements Welcomed

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I will be brief. I do not know that I have any questions. I simply want to be associated with the words of my colleague Mr. MacQuarrie that I welcome the news of the constitutional and political developments the Minister has indicated here today. I think they are direct answers to the requests this Assembly has put forward. There have been great strides made by the Minister, Mr. Munro, very quickly I guess to the chagrin and, very

possibly, to the surprise of some of our MLAs. I think there are many things to be done, not the least of which may have to be amendments to the Northwest Territories Act in various places so that it could strengthen the government as it now exists in the Northwest Territories and put into place the kinds of things that will have to be there for the new governments that will develop.

I am pleased to hear that the Minister said the federal government, and the Prime Minister of course, accept the principle of full and responsible government for this territory and I look forward with a great deal of optimism -- perhaps I have to be very careful here by using the word "progressive" -- to a very progressive and liberal reassessment of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I want to thank the Minister as well for his remarks and I think that what Mr. MacQuarrie has said I would only want to echo. I think it is due to a great degree to Mr. Munro's efforts and his appreciation of the kinds of concerns that have been voiced here and have been voiced in this particular Assembly and that I have heard over the last eight years.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, honourable Mr. McCallum. I have Mrs. Sorensen next.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to join with my colleagues in singing your praises, Mr. Minister. As you know, I do have a bias unlike Mr. MacQuarrie, but I am pleased to see, one, that you have come North to make your announcements and two, that you have come so quickly after our most recent budget session where we called for further political and constitutional development for the Northwest Territories.

I remember back to the first days of the Ninth Assembly and the cry of northerners in particular for parameters on constitutional and political development from the federal government. I have seen over the past three years and in particular in the last year a move toward setting up those parameters first with your paper on, I believe it was called, in all fairness to land claims, "Comprehensive Claims". Secondly, the approach to division that you took that had with it four conditions and I agree with Mr. MacQuarrie's observation that those four conditions are brilliant, but brilliant in a fair way and not in a particularly biased federal government way. They throw the ball back into northerners' hands and that is something we have consistently said we wanted, to solve our own problems on our own.

Four Principles Will Provide Parameters

Finally today in your announcement with respect to your principles for public government, I think we needed those parameters and I think these four principles that you have outlined in your speech today, the principle of federalism, the principle of compliance with the national constitution, the constitution of Canada, the principle of protection of the rights of aboriginal peoples in the North and finally the fact that there should not be too much government in the North are principles that all of us can agree to and certainly will give us those parameters.

Mr. Minister, my question is I detect a lot of help here from the Prime Minister. I feel that the Prime Minister has taken a personal interest in the Northwest Territories, particularly in the past year. Without his personal interest I do not feel that we could have moved as quickly and as far in some of these areas as we have, and particularly with respect to the money that you have announced today because we know that the dollar situation is very tight in Canada today and that without the Prime Minister's solid support we would not have seen the dollars to the magnitude that you have just announced being given to us for political and constitutional development. I wonder if you would carry to him our personal thanks and would you invite him to come north as soon as he can, particularly before the next election so we can give him our personal thanks?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Well, thank you very much Mrs. Sorensen. Let me just say to everyone who spoke prior to Mrs. Sorensen -- and then I will deal with your comments if I may -- to Dennis Patterson, to Mr. MacQuarrie, to Arnie McCallum, I hope I have not missed anybody, to Jim Wah-Shee, your comments have been very kind and if I studied hard and watched every line I even detected the nice things that Tagak said. I want to tell you that I appreciate your comments very much. I really do and I found it a moving occasion and I have had real pleasure dealing with you all.

Interest And Support Of Prime Minister

I do want to mention something that Mrs. Sorensen referred to, and thank you for raising it. I think I was speaking for us all when I directed my comments to George Braden. I feel like doing the same thing for the Prime Minister. If he does not lead the political party I am a Member of into the next election I may not have -- I hope I do but I may not -- have an occasion to give him the credit he too deserves in terms of this process, in terms of all the cabinet documentation which has been horrendous which I have been bringing in with regard to the Northwest Territories over the last couple of years. Because of his great interest in constitutional matters that we all know about, because he really does love the North -- and I guess we would all have to agree he probably comes up here more than any Prime Minister since confederation -- and because it involves that type of nation building that is such a lure to him, he has been mightily supportive and so when you get the heads of two governments of the nature that we have, both wanting to do something constructive and leave a lasting mark, you get beneficial results that make the life of a Minister that much easier, a Minister of Northern Development. So, yes, in all seriousness and not just because he is a member of the same political party as I am, I think Mr. Trudeau deserves an awful lot of credit for what we have been able to achieve because of the backing he has been giving this particular Minister over the last couple of years. I think that he is going to exemplify his concern and backing for your aspirations here in the North but I am hoping, although as I said, Mr. Chairman, it is not confirmed that he will be coming at Tom Butters' and the mayor of Inuvik's urgent invitation to the 25th anniversary. Certainly he has been invited to participate in the 25th anniversary around mid July in Inuvik and I think the tentative plans are to spend two or three days in both the Western and Eastern Arctic to discuss where we go from here type of thing and to lend whatever beneficial advice and support that you would care for him to do, but his attitude has been extremely constructive and certainly will be on that occasion. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Honourable Mr. Nerysoo next.

Review Of Mandate Of Department

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Minister, I too would like to echo the sentiments expressed by Mr. MacQuarrie. I think that I just have an additional concern and it has to do with not only your efforts to enlarge and improve the responsibilities of the government and the Executive Committee of the Northwest Territories, but one of the areas that I am concerned about is reviewing, you might say, in conjunction with you, a change to the responsibilities of the Government of the Northwest Territories, reviewing the overall mandate for the department. I am referring to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

---Applause

Particularly as I indicated earlier in light of the kinds of progressive steps you have taken and have led the Government of Canada through over the past few years, I think it would be most helpful if that review would take place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, honourable Mr. Nerysoo. I have no other speakers. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I have three questions in relationship to some issues that are vitally important to the area that I come from and generally in the Northwest Territories. First, what is the federal government position and process that they have set up in regard to supporting the hunting and trapping economy as it relates to the problems we are having with the anti-trapping groups? Second, Mr. McCallum, Minister of Economic Development for the Government of the Northwest Territories has written a letter to you in regard to the exclusion of the western and the Beaufort Sea areas from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation agreement and I am wondering what has taken place to see that process finalized so that we may be able to develop our fishery industry in that area.

Taxation Of Hunters And Trappers

The third question relates to the taxation of hunters and trappers. Just a comment that I was very upset that the trappers who were facing taxation on up to seven years prior to today's date have been asked to pay taxes on taxable revenues and they have not had the ability to produce the necessary background and paper to have a meaningful exemption or to be put in a category

where they would not have to pay a great deal of money. However, we are working on that process but I would like to say I was very disappointed that the few people who were in that category were not able to be exempted, especially in view of the fact that many of the government and Northwest Territories northern benefits programs have cost the federal government a lot of time and trouble and that we were not able to see to the few people who really and truly live and make their living from hunting and trapping. So in regard to the first two issues I would like to know what the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is doing about those two issues.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the first issue, the economic development agreement of \$21 million, that is over a four year period, addresses in certain aspects, especially in the natural resources area, how crucial this area is and that includes hunting and trapping in terms of economic support. I would very much like it if you could attend with me at the conference with respect to the political will the government is prepared to exhibit with respect to the support, I might add, of the Department of Fisheries. Relative to your second question, the basic economy that is regarded in this whole area of hunting and trapping for the Northwest Territories will be addressed through that particular agreement and the funding commitment we will be making at the conclusion of this meeting. I will come back to your second point in a minute because it relates to what I see as a role for yourself.

On your third point, I believe and I do not want to be in the position of painting a colleague or a department in a bad colour, but the situation is that I think that my officials have supported me mightily in terms of marshalling all of the arguments for a remission order of some kind relative to hunters and trappers in the past and not go back retroactively to the degree that you and the hunters and trappers find so offensive. The arguments have all been mounted on numerous occasions now with the Minister and his officials over at National Revenue. I thought that I had a negative response to my last submission. I then indicated that I wanted you to come down and meet with the Minister and I just have not had an opportunity to tie that in. I would like to talk to you about doing so very soon within the next couple of weeks to see if we cannot get a reconsideration by National Revenue with respect to this particular item. I think it is critical and I think the Minister does have the power to give a remission for the past.

I could be faulted perhaps for not being able to politically persuade the Minister, but certainly the officials of Northern Development cannot be faulted, because the copious submissions that I have received have been well researched and well done, I can assure you, and that is a fact.

Freshwater Fish Marketing Agreement

On the other point, the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation agreement, again that is a situation that has met some reluctance from Fisheries and perhaps when you come down to Ottawa on the taxation question, if we can arrange it within the next couple of weeks, we could arrange for you to again argue the case at the political level with the Department of Fisheries. Certainly we made your views known to that body to the extent that we can and I am suggesting perhaps a political route on both issues be resorted to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I do not have any more Members wishing to speak, so could we thank the Minister for his time and for coming to address the Assembly. Thank you very much.

---Applause

I will now report progress. Is it agreed that we report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON STATEMENT BY HON. JOHN MUNRO

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been discussing an announcement made by the Minister, a question period took place and I would like to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. We will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Fraser): I call the House back to order. We are dealing with Item 6, Ministers' statements.

Item 7, petitions.

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

ITEM NO. 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with paragraph 60(10)(d) of the Elections Ordinance, 1978, I wish to table the Candidate's Return Respecting Election Expenses of Mr. Gordon Leslie Wray of the electoral district of Keewatin North, Tabled Document 29-83(1).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 9, tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion. Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 34-83(1): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 3, 1982-1983

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 13, 1983 I will move the first reading of Bill 34-83(1), Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 3, 1982-1983.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 12, motions. Item 13, first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

ITEM NO. 13: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in order to expedite the business of the House, I wonder if I might have unanimous consent to move first reading of Bill 34-83(1), Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 3, 1982-1983, at this time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member is asking for unanimous consent for first reading of Bill 34-83(1). Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 34-83(1): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 3, 1982-1983

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 34-83(1), Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 3, 1982-1983, be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of those in favour? Opposed? Bill 34-83(1) has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 13, first reading of bills. Item 14, second reading of bills. Mr. Braden.

ITEM NO. 14: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 24-83(1): Fair Practices Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 24-83(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Fair Practices Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to give the Executive Member the power to appoint an officer under the ordinance, to consider the report and recommendation of the officer in respect of a complaint and to make an order in respect of the complaint.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question being called. All those in favour? Opposed? Bill 24-83(1) has had second reading.

---Carried

Second reading of bills. Mr. McCallum.

Second Reading Of Bill 27-83(1): Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 27-83(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of the bill, Mr. Speaker, is to increase the number of members of the board of directors of the corporation from 10 members to 12 members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed? Bill 27-83(1) has had second reading.

---Carried

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

Second Reading Of Bill 28-83(1): Societies Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Central Arctic that Bill 28-83(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Societies Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to allow the fees payable for the incorporation of a society to be prescribed by regulation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To the principle of the bill. Do I hear the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All those in favour? Opposed? Bill 28-83(1) has had second reading.

---Carried

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

Second Reading Of Bill 29-83(1): Advisory Council On The Status Of Women Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, that Bill 29-83(1), An Ordinance to Establish an Advisory Council on the Status of Women, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to establish an advisory council on the status of women.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The principle of the bill. All those in favour? Opposed? Bill 29-83(1) has had second reading.

---Carried

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

Second Reading Of Bill 33-83(1): Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1983-84

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River that Bill 33-83(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1983-84, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to increase the amount of money which the Commissioner may borrow under the ordinance from two million dollars to five million dollars.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed? Bill 33-83(1) has had second reading.

---Carried

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

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I wonder if I could have unanimous consent of the House to return briefly to Item 11, notices of motion for the first reading of bills? I missed giving notice of first reading of Bill 31-83(1).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unanimous consent requested. Are there any nays?

---Agreed

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 31-83(1): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1, 1983-1984

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on May 13 I will move that Bill 31-83(1), Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1, 1983-1984, be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Are we still then on Item 14, second reading of bills? Mr. Butters.

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 13: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if I might have unanimous consent to move to Item 13, first reading of bills, and I could give first reading to the bill I just gave notice of.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unanimous consent requested to go to Item 13, first reading of bills. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Butters.

---Agreed

First Reading Of Bill 31-83(1): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1, 1983-1984

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 31-83(1), Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1, 1983-1984 be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Butters, I am sorry. Did you have unanimous consent to deal with that?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I thought I did, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think unanimous consent was just to go back to Item 13, first reading of bills. Unanimous consent is requested. Are there any nays? All those in favour of first reading of Bill 31-83(1)? Down. Opposed? Bill 31-83(1) has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 14, second reading of bills.

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

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

Tabled Document 26-83(1), Report of the Northwest Territories Electoral District Boundaries Commission, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER TABLED DOCUMENT 26-83(1), REPORT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ELECTORAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The committee will come to order. I believe Mr. Nerysoo tabled this document. I wonder if you have any opening remarks and after that I will take it to the House for their general comments and opening remarks. Honourable Mr. Nerysoo. Would the committee like to go to general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Agreed? General comments. Nothing. Let us go to page six, recommendations. Do we have any discussion on the recommendations? If not, does somebody wish to move a motion? Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: I am prepared to move a motion at any time. I believe the majority report is certainly acceptable to us and if there are no general comments or any response I am prepared to make a motion. If the Members wish that I go ahead, I will do so, but I think to be fair I would just have to say that I think all the reasons that were given by the debates certainly suggest that it was reflected in the report. The two biggest areas, the Central Arctic and Mackenzie Liard ridings require additional representation and therefore that has been met. That was the contention mainly I think when we dealt with the motion to set up the Electoral District Boundaries Commission. If it is the wish of Members, I am prepared to move a motion to accept the report, but I would like the benefit of the comments from others on the recommendations before I do so.

I would just like to say that the minority report in my view is contentious because we at least have asked for additional representation in the Keewatin and that was not met and so it would be difficult for my colleagues and I to support the minority position. I will just stop here for now and comment on the recommendations a little later.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I would like to remind you that on page six somebody will have to move the motion to accept the recommendations and the other recommendations on page 15. We are going to page six first and then we will go to page 15. Mr. Braden.

Comments From MLA For Yellowknife North Re Boundaries Commission Report

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not quite sure if we proceeded with the recommendations on page six whether or not it would be of any use to go to page 15 because it would appear that if we decide on the recommendations on page six then we obviously adopt the schedules and I think we would have a hell of a time trying to come to any decision on page 15. I take Mr. Curley's suggestion that perhaps we might spend a bit of time talking about the report and provide some general comments on it.

In respect of the details I do not presume to know the constituencies as well as the MLAs, so it is difficult for me to comment on specific proposals that have been made in respect of the proposed Deh Cho constituency, Keewatin, High Arctic constituency, Great Slave East and so on and so forth, but I suspect that perhaps Members may want to spend a bit of time commenting on these proposals for change.

In respect of Yellowknife and my constituency in particular I am pleased that the Boundaries Commission recognized the need to extend the boundaries of the current Yellowknife North constituency to cover the lakes north and northeast of town that are along the Ingraham Trail. I find that a number of people are starting to live permanently all year round on these lakes and some of them have had difficulty in registering in a constituency in Yellowknife and being legitimately recognized as a voter, a recognized voter. None of them to my knowledge have rushed to register in Mr. Sayine's riding or Mr. Wah-Shee's riding as the case may be.

I am concerned however that the Boundaries Commission has suggested that the Yellowknife North constituency be changed to Yellowknife East. I recognize that while geographically this may be somewhat more accurate the constituency has been named Yellowknife North for a number of years now, so I would have a problem with accepting that name change. I do not really see why we should have to at this time. I think Yellowknife North is suitable for the constituency and who knows? Maybe some of my opponents in the next election have already gone out and bought buttons and pins and posters and signs and we would not want them to have to go to all the extra expense to change to Yellowknife East.

There is another concern that I have and I will register it for the record. When I appeared before the Boundaries Commission I indicated that the current population of my constituency has in it a substantial number of residents of aboriginal descent and my argument was to leave Yellowknife North as it is, so as to allow for that portion of the population in my constituency to continue to have the kind of impact that they have and should continue to have over the years. What concerns me, Mr. Chairman, is that proposals for change in the Yellowknife North boundary under schedule B, I believe it is, would add in my estimation a substantial number of non-native voters to the Yellowknife North constituency and correspondingly reduce the proportion of aboriginal people living in that constituency and presumably reduce the influence or effect that they may have in any election and on any MLA that represents them after 1983. So I will register that at this time as a concern that I have. I have addressed this matter of redrawing the boundaries in Yellowknife with my two colleagues, Mrs. Sorensen and Mr. MacQuarrie, and I think it is safe to say while there was some reluctance to tamper with what the Boundaries Commission has suggested I still think that they recognize my concern about the impact that it could have on the balance of the population in Yellowknife North.

In respect of other remarks I made in my statement to the Potts commission I am pleased to see that the Central Arctic is recommended to be divided into Kitikmeot East and Kitikmeot West. I believe that most Members to my understanding supported such a move. Further, I am pleased to see that Mackenzie Liard is going to be divided up or it is recommended that it be divided into two constituencies. I am sure this will please the current sitting Member and residents of his constituency. I would note again that I believe my colleagues from Yellowknife all supported the Mackenzie Liard division as well as the Central Arctic division. I see Mrs. Sorensen nodding yes. As I said earlier on I am not really in any position to comment on some of the suggested changes in other constituencies. I would leave that for my colleagues to comment on as required.

Fourth Seat In Yellowknife

Now in respect of the most contentious issue, the minority report, my colleagues and I and other representatives from Yellowknife and as I understand it even some other MLAs made the argument that Yellowknife should be considered for a possible fourth seat. We made all kinds of arguments. I do not propose to go into them now. However, I would urge all Members to consider the minority report. Perhaps it is a case that good arguments can be put on the table as to why Yellowknife should not have another seat, but I think at the same time it is important for Members of this Assembly to reflect upon some of the arguments that have been made by myself and Mrs. Sorensen and Mr. MacQuarrie as to why Yellowknife should have a fourth seat, so that in the final analysis if a judgment is made, it is made on the fact that yes, Yellowknife should have a fourth seat or for a good reason Yellowknife should not have a fourth seat. I would hope that we do not leave discussion of this particular item with the impression on the part of the three Yellowknife Members and perhaps the residents of Yellowknife that voting down the minority report or not accepting it is just a way to get at big bad old Yellowknife and I do not think that we are going to be doing this.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am looking forward to general and specific comments that Members have to make. I commend the Boundaries Commission for having done some hard work and for giving some thought, deep, sincere and meaningful thought to a very, very difficult issue. I am pleased to see that many of the Members are now in agreement that the size of the Assembly should be increased. I understand that it was the case during the debate leading up to the establishment of the Boundaries Commission that there were some MLAs who thought that there should be no increase. I think we have resolved one very difficult issue in that the majority of the Members now would seem to agree that there should be an increase in the number of Members, so we will not have to rehash that one and I am pleased that that appears to be the case.

I do not really have anything more to say at this time, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if the subject of Yellowknife comes up I might add a few extra remarks. I would just say now that I hope we would not rush into a motion to approve the recommendations stated on page six, because I really have fundamental problems with, as I said, calling my constituency Yellowknife East. I really believe it should remain Yellowknife North. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments, Mr. McCallum.

Comments From MLA For Slave River Re Boundaries Commission Report

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just want to briefly comment in total on the Boundaries Commission's report and indicate that at the outset when we were discussing the setting up of the commission, I indicated then that I was in favour of reviewing our present allocation of seats and I indicated as well that since we had the authority to increase our representation to 25 so that there would indeed be a proper representation of peoples of the Territories in this Assembly, that we should take advantage of that and that to do otherwise would be irresponsible. I still hold to the same particular viewpoint. I believe that since we have the right by law to increase our membership to 25 that we should in fact have 25 Members.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: If I recall correctly I had indicated that we should take a look at the particular factors that go into making the rationale for such an increase.

I believe that fundamentally representation by population is a particularly valid factor in ensuring that the people are represented in the Territories. It may not be the only factor, but it certainly is as important as the others, if not more so, so that in the report that we now have before us my only concern is that the report indicated that we should only go to 24 seats. Now, I believe, as I said, that we should have our 25 Members and not to take advantage of the opportunity at this present time to get 25, I think, does some disservice to the people of the Territories.

The commission certainly went to various communities. It heard many different particular statements from either Members of this House, other Members -- or other people in communities as to what they should be and I am pleased to see that there are recommendations that were made by witnesses to the commission, that the commission took these into consideration and in fact made the recommendations. Mr. Braden referred to one or two of those recommendations, in point of fact, the creation of two seats out of the Mackenzie Liard constituency, the creation of two seats in the Central Arctic, Kitikmeot East and Kitikmeot West. I know that there are other particular representations that have been made. I am not sure that I can say much about taking out some area of my constituency, but I am not sure that very many people, if any, are living there so I guess I can go along with that.

I believe that the realignment in other areas is something that I would accede and appreciate the concerns that were raised by people who made those representations and who know more about the areas than I. Obviously I would refer to the realignment of the Keewatin North and Keewatin South areas. I have some concern as to why that recommendation was made, but there is nobody to raise the concern with, so I guess that I would have to accept that as being some kind of representation or something that was said by people, but it seems to me that to go from Baker Lake down to Eskimo Point via Rankin Inlet one is now running through another person's constituency. But if that is what the people of that area put in their representation and that is what they want to have, then I would be prepared obviously to accept it. I do not understand it, but that does not mean that that is a good enough reason not to go along with it.

I had a concern in my representation before the Boundaries Commission that the present distribution of seats in Yellowknife itself should not be realigned or renamed unless there was to be an additional seat. I think that there is good reason because of the representation by population to indicate that there should be another seat in Yellowknife.

So, Mr. Chairman, I guess what I am saying is that I can basically agree with the recommendations that are put forward by the minority report, but I also agree with the majority report and I also agree with the minority report as well, because I believe we should have 25 seats in this Assembly. We have law that will enable us to do so and I think we should take advantage of getting those. I do not think that it does anything to disrupt things. I think that what it does is to recognize a very important part of our representation is the representation in this House of the population that we particularly serve.

I would want to commend the commission and its members for doing the job they did and being able to get around the Territories in the manner in which they did within the time that was required of them. I found when I appeared before them, all three members were more than open to listen to particular recommendations from people who appeared before them and I believe that they are to be commended for the responsible way in which they did their job. With those comments, Mr. Chairman, just as a general comment on the report I have nothing further to say at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Wray.

Comments From MLA For Keewatin North Re Boundaries Commission Report

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having not been involved in the original debate on the boundaries, I suppose I come in here with a clean record in terms of anything to say or commitments made. However, by way of a general comment and I assume that we will have time at a later date to go into specifics, I have to say that I am bitterly disappointed with the recommendations made by this commission. They do not reflect the wishes of the Keewatin people as was expressed to that commission. The realignment that is proposed for the Keewatin was not one as far as I am aware that was ever presented to the commission in the Keewatin. I do not know where it came from, but it is there.

My predecessor in this position resigned from this Assembly and I think one of the major reasons was the difficulty that he had himself in trying to represent the diverse interests and the vast area that was the Keewatin North or still is. I must admit that having been now a Member of this Legislative Assembly for three months, I can well appreciate the difficulties that he encountered, because I find myself after only three or four months extremely tired in trying to represent my constituents effectively.

The commission, I believe, has perhaps left us with questions to answer that had previously not been brought up and I think I would have liked a little bit stronger direction from the commission. The majority/minority report aspect of it disturbs me because a split occurred and I will be quite blunt about it, along white/native lines, and I think that is extremely dangerous grounds for us to be starting to enter on at this present time.

I will make further comments later with regard to specifics of realignment in my particular constituency, but I have to go on record as of now, saying that I am disappointed in the recommendations and I do not think that these recommendations reflect at all the constituents of my area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. MacQuarrie.

Comments From MLA For Yellowknife Centre Re Boundaries Commission Report

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make some general comments and perhaps direct them particularly to Members sitting on the other side of the House who come from the eastern part of the Northwest Territories. We see that this majority report is recommending two additional seats. For very good reason in both the Central Arctic and Mackenzie Liard they have recommended that those ridings be divided into two so that there will be four seats where there were only two before. They are good reasons and I for one have supported that all along and will continue to support it in this House, but I ask Members to recognize that there are other good reasons contained in that report as well. We see that there is a minority report written by Mr. Justice Potts recommending that this Assembly exercise the authority that has been given to it and use that authority to alter the majority report to include an additional seat for Yellowknife.

Every day when we begin this session a prayer is read. I am not a religious man at all. Nevertheless I still am inspired many times by words that are included in prayers such as that and this one every day asks us or tells us that we ought to set aside prejudices and private interests and partial affections and attempt to do what is best for all of the people that we serve. I say that this is one of those times. The Assembly has an opportunity to do something that is eminently right and that is to recognize, affirm and uphold the principle of representation by population. That alone is not the whole substance of democratic government, but it is a very important element and it should not be ignored or disregarded without a great deal of thought.

I would ask, particularly, Members from the East to see that this is the case, that by upholding that principle you would be doing something very worth-while. You would also be adding a 25th seat at a time when it probably is needed. If we are going to expand at all, we should expand to the limit that we are allowed. It is very possible that in the next Assembly there will be eight Executive Committee Members rather than seven. We want to have strong committees, we want to have enough people to fill those committees and to fill the positions on the Executive Committee so that the best possible job can be done for the people of the Northwest Territories. If Members from the East were to support an additional seat for Yellowknife and affirm the principle of representation by population, you would not be jeopardizing your own position. I ask you to consider that this Ninth Assembly supported the report of the special committee on unity. It supported the holding of a plebiscite. It supported asking the federal government to consider division of the Northwest Territories. All of these things that were very important to Members from the Eastern Arctic.

I remind those Members that they do not have a majority in the House and therefore those things could not possibly have been done without the good will and support of other Members in this House and, I would say, the vast majority of other Members in this House who generally support the aspirations of the East and want to see you fulfil those aspirations, so you could support this additional seat without putting that in jeopardy at all. There is no reason to believe that there would be a sudden turnaround and an attempt to reverse everything that has been done if indeed that could even happen now, having heard what we heard from the Minister today. So that by supporting this you would not jeopardize your own position, but you would in fact act in fairness.

I ask you to note in Mr. Justice Potts' report that he does use the word "fairness". He is asking us to in fairness exercise our authority and alter the majority report in order to include that additional seat for Yellowknife.

At some point there is no doubt that a motion or an amendment to a motion will be made in order to try to effect that and again when it arises I do ask you very sincerely to put aside your partial affections and private interests and support fairness and the principle of representation by population and by doing that you will not hurt your own interests but you will serve the public good.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any other general comments? Mr. Patterson.

Comments From MLA For Frobisher Bay Re Boundaries Commission Report

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I always listen carefully to what Mr. MacQuarrie has to say in the House. I heard him say in the last session that he would be willing to accept the results of the Boundaries Commission and I quote from the Hansard. "Mr. MacQuarrie: I am willing to take the chance of appearing before that commission and trying to demonstrate to them that if there is an increase in seats that there ought to be, on the basis of population, one for Yellowknife. If I fail to persuade them of that and the commission recommends three new seats and they are somewhere else, I say now that I will accept that." I would just like to publicly remind Mr. MacQuarrie of that public commitment he made and he is a man of principle. He was a man of principle.

MR. CURLEY: He used to be.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I wonder why he has reneged on that position. I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, in response to Mr. MacQuarrie that first of all, I think the Boundaries Commission was established with a great deal of anguish on our part in this House, a great deal of strong feelings about whether or not it should exist, be established, whether or not it would have enough time to do a good job, whether we could afford it. That is all water under the bridge now. We decided to establish a Boundaries Commission and I respect democracy, I respect the majority rule. I did not vote in favour of its establishment, but I am not now going to pretend that we should try to oppose making changes. What I would very sincerely like to urge on Members of this House today is that now is not the time to have the same kind of antagonisms and divisions emerging by unwillingness to accept the well-considered recommendations of the majority of the Boundaries Commission.

I would like to say here that although I am not completely happy with the Boundaries Commission report either, I had recommended after what I think was a fair amount of careful research based on natural increases in population, particularly amongst the Inuit compared with the other

interests in the Northwest Territories, that there should be a third seat established in the Keewatin. I also recommended against a seat in Yellowknife and I gave reasons to the commission why. I gave reasons using the same statistics that Mr. MacQuarrie used and using the same examples of other urban ridings in the country that Mr. MacQuarrie used. I would respectfully suggest to him that I was able to persuade the majority of the Boundaries Commission, using Mr. MacQuarrie's own figures, that even the argument of representation by population in the Canadian context, particularly in comparison with how the situation of urban ridings is handled in our sister territory to the West, in the Yukon, said that Yellowknife is quite well placed now with three seats, even in a 24 Member House.

Fourth Seat In Yellowknife Should Be Reserved For Aboriginal Person

I would like to say that I was impressed with the submission that Mr. Wah-Shee made to the Boundaries Commission, that if there should be a seat created for Yellowknife it should be reserved for an aboriginal person. I think there is a significant interest in the city of Yellowknife composed of aboriginal peoples who seem not to be enjoying some of the fruits that this fine city seems to offer its residents. I think there is an excellent case to be made that if there should be another seat in Yellowknife it should be reserved for an aboriginal person. I would like to say that this is a subject on which Mr. Wah-Shee and other native leaders in Canada are working hard in the First Ministers' Conference. The subject of guaranteed representation has had a very favourable endorsement by the Prime Minister himself and is part of the subject of the ongoing process of the aboriginal rights meetings in connection with amending the constitution of Canada.

I am quite confident that provisions will soon be put in the constitution of Canada, in time for the territorial election after next, which would permit the concept of guaranteed representation to be established in the Northwest Territories and in Canada and I would think that we would be rash to now create a 25th seat in a manner which would foreclose the opportunity of guaranteed representation for aboriginal persons which I think constitute a significant but sometimes unheard from interest in the city of Yellowknife.

I would say that what this House should do is reserve the opportunity to establish the third seat in Yellowknife, if Members are convinced that this is a good idea, for an aboriginal person -- I think that this is a matter that was seriously considered by the Boundaries Commission, but they found that there was a constitutional impediment to that. I think that that constitutional impediment may well disappear over the next four years, before the next territorial election, and we should not do anything now which will prevent that possibility from taking place.

I would also like to say, Mr. Chairman, just generally that there are many reasons why I think the long-term residents of the Boundaries Commission decided to go for two seats. I think they recognized that this was a potentially explosive issue, a potentially divisive issue. We saw how the subject of the very establishment of this commission tore the House apart at the last session and I predict that if there is not agreement from the Members here over the next few days, to accept the recommendations of the majority report, that we are going to have another dogfight. This is a consensus government, the rules do allow for opportunities to obstruct swift passage of legislation which might follow from any recommendations agreed on by this House and I will say here and now that unless every one of us agrees to give a little, unless we have agreement from the Delta that it is not any more feasible to establish an extra seat in Inuvik than it is any more feasible to establish an extra seat in Yellowknife than it is any more feasible to establish an extra seat in the Keewatin, unless there is that willingness to compromise in this House, the gloves are going to be off and we will tear ourselves apart in public over the next weeks and months if necessary.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Then there will be an election and we will get the gloves off.

Boundaries Commission Did Superhuman Job

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I do not want to see that happen. I think we should accept that the Boundaries Commission members did visit a phenomenal number of communities and did hear from a very large segment of the population in the Northwest Territories considering their short time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I am sorry, Mr. Patterson, your time is up unless the House agrees for you to continue.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Proceed, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not be too much longer. I do feel that the Boundaries Commission members did a superhuman job. I am staggered at the number of communities they attended in such a short time and I think better than any of us, as Mr. MacQuarrie himself said at the last session, let us trust that they have done a good job and for very good reasons they have decided not to move ahead with this issue of a third seat.

I am trying to say as clearly as I can that this is not a matter for this House to resolve at this point in time. We can easily wait until the election after next to decide where the seat should properly belong. I believe that some of the major issues that are now being discussed on a consensual basis by this House will have been resolved over the next four years and that once we decide how the Northwest Territories are going to be divided, Yellowknife can have 50 per cent of the seats in the western territory if they want, or two per cent. It will be a matter for that House to determine, but at the moment the addition of another seat in Yellowknife I suggest will pose a serious threat to the present balance of the House.

I think the Boundaries Commission proposes two seats which are balanced between the East and the West and we should not tamper with it. However, it might disappoint some of us and I respect Mr. MacQuarrie's carefully reasoned arguments in favour of representation by population, but there are also strong arguments to be made in favour of overrepresentation of the remote communities and underrepresentation of those who are disadvantaged culturally and linguistically, whose access to government is inhibited for those reasons and I am pleased that the majority of the Boundaries Commission accepted that reasoning and also accepted the fact that it would tear this House apart if we were to start an ugly debate over where this third seat is going to be located.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, the Boundaries Commission has compromised. Although there was a considerable amount of support for moving to 25 seats they recognized that they must make a decision which continues to balance the present different interests between the eastern and western parts of the Northwest Territories. I ask Mr. MacQuarrie and others who have spoken for a third seat for Yellowknife or a third seat for anywhere to recognize that we have accomplished an enormous amount by consensus and compromise and in the same spirit we should accept these recommendations the way they are, pass them. I am willing to accept advice from the MLAs from Keewatin if they feel that the proposed boundaries between Keewatin East and West should be amended. I do not think that that is a substantive issue which many of us would quarrel with if we got recommendations for reasonable changes from those MLAs.

Let us in a spirit of harmony and in a spirit of seeking peace and avoiding further confrontation on this issue, let us pass the recommendations of the majority, let us pass the recommendations of the two long-term residents of the Northwest Territories on this commission and recognize that they have had a lot more chance to think about this and to hear from people in all parts of the Northwest Territories than any of us have had since this commission was rather hurriedly established and I put my faith in David Alagalak and Jim Antoine. I think they did a darn good job and we should pass the report without confrontation and get on with other very important items of business before this House.

I do not want to be threatening or alarmist, but I will say this, that if this turns into a dog-fight over the third seat there is going to be nothing but trouble on my part anyway. I think we all want to avoid that kind of ugliness in the last few months of what I think was a very successful Ninth Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, if there is no one else to speak.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Butters.

Comments From MLA For Inuvik Re Boundaries Commission Report

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I regret that the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay is already seeing clouds of war on the horizon. I do not think that that is the case and I say it is regrettable that he is already identifying these clouds. I guess I was one of the Members of this House who like Mr. MacQuarrie publicly accepted or agreed to accept the recommendations of the committee and I am still willing to do that.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. TOM BUTTERS: While I agree with the Members who have spoken with regard to the work that has been accomplished and the settlements visited within the very narrow time frame, I am disappointed with the report generally. Maybe my disappointment reflects on the fact that the recommendation that I made to the commission did not gain much merit with the commissioners, and that was that Inuvik be awarded a second seat.

I do not agree that the population figures that are published in this report are accurate. I think that Inuvik right now ranks at the same level as the Yellowknife seats and if Yellowknife were to be granted a fourth seat the imbalance would be even greater, that the 2600 for Yellowknife would compare with some 3200 for Inuvik represented by a single Member. So I am disappointed that the Justice would make such an argument in his minority report with regard to the situation of the Yellowknife population and ignore completely -- maybe that is my fault, maybe I did not make sufficient representation to him -- ignore completely the fact that Inuvik is in the same situation.

In looking at the minority report I guess I tend to agree with what the good Justice has quoted Mr. Patterson as saying. "Yellowknife MLAs have only to walk across the street to have access to Ministers and senior bureaucrats." I would say that the people of Yellowknife have been ably and commendably represented in this House as long as I have been a Member, initially by David Searle and later by David Searle and Dave Nickerson and by the three current Members Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. MacQuarrie and Mr. Braden.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. MacQUARRIE: Flattery will get you nowhere.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Very, very ably represented. I do not see Mr. Ballantyne in the House, but I feel that the arguments for one more seat in Yellowknife really do not apply. I very much regret the fact that the writer of the minority report could not see that the same situation applied in Inuvik. I too welcome the suggestion of the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay that one seat be left floating and that that seat may find an occupant during the life of the 10th Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. TOM BUTTERS: It is entirely possible that the population that is enjoyed by Inuvik could grow considerably in the next two or three years and the justification could be made to this House at that time to give positive consideration to the requirement of that constituency for a dual representation. I think that that to me makes a very attractive solution to the problem, if it is a problem, and this is what I would support and look forward to by Members of the 10th Assembly granting the request which I was not able to have received when I put it before the Potts commission some two months ago. So those are my opening comments, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): General comments. Mr. Appaqaq.

Comments From MLA For Hudson Bay Re Boundaries Commission Report

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak to the Members of the Legislative Assembly concerning the Electoral Boundaries Commission. They did not visit the community of Sanikiluaq but I was able to go to Cape Dorset on April 6 to represent the people of Sanikiluaq. The Electoral Boundaries Commission did a really good job and listened to the opinions of the people. One of the main concerns of the people of Sanikiluaq was Sanikiluaq was almost avoided by the general population and they wanted to have at least one seat in the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. One of the issues was the islands and they wanted to have to know if they did not have a representative somebody else would take Sanikiluaq either by Quebec or Ontario or Manitoba. They thought if they did not have a representative in the NWT Legislative Assembly Sanikiluaq would be taken by some province in Canada.

You can represent your people and their concerns but I can only talk about my own jurisdiction. I have tried to be very open to the people I represent, whenever I come back I tell the people what has been going on and I tell them what the Government of the Northwest Territories is doing. I would just like to say thank you very much to the commission. It is unfortunate they were not able to go to Sanikiluaq, but I was able to attend in Cape Dorset. I was flown to Cape Dorset by charter. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any general comments, Mrs. Sorensen?

Comments From MLA For Yellowknife South Re Boundaries Commission

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have listened with great interest to the comments of other Members and in particular those comments -- rather, threats made by Mr. Patterson. Before I comment on his comments I would like to take this opportunity to thank the commissioners for their work. Mr. Justice Potts, Chief Antoine and Mr. Alagalak certainly did put a lot of effort into the work or the job that we handed to them a few short months ago. Their report indicates that they travelled in excess of 12,000 miles and that they held 31 of 35 scheduled hearings and eight additional communities in addition to the 30 communities that they visited participated in the hearings.

I am pleased to see that the commission did make a comment under its background notes with respect to the proposal for guaranteed seats for aboriginal peoples. I believe that presentation was made by the Dene Nation at the very last hearing here in Yellowknife. I note that they did not reject the concept out of hand but, rather, that they rejected it because of legal ramifications and the problems with instituting such a measure now with respect to our constitution.

We note that the question of guaranteed seats is a topic for the subcommittee of the standing committee on Indian affairs and northern development and certainly an item for aboriginal rights negotiations and we expect to hear much about that concept over the next two or three years. I think it is really important and very ironic, Mr. Chairman, to note that the Boundaries Commission report is only a majority report as opposed to a consensus report or an unanimous report. In a Legislature that claims to be built on consensus we have yet again another indication that even a commission that we have established to go out to seek representation cannot make a report based on consensus, but can only come to us with a majority report.

The other ironic thing about it is the fact that the controversy again revolves around Yellowknife and Yellowknifers. I agree with the comments that Mr. Wray has made that it appears that even the commissioners ended up breaking down along white/native lines and I am very, very sorry to see that that has happened because I really feel that the people of Yellowknife, particularly the people in my constituency, but all the people of Yellowknife, at least the majority of them are loyal and hard working northerners who live and work in the NWT because they wish to make it their home, because they wish to raise their children here. I am sorry we continually get into these white/native controversies in this House and particularly sorry that it appears that the commission as well broke down along those lines.

Before I comment on the minority report itself and my disappointment that the commissioners could not agree on a fourth seat for Yellowknife I would like to comment on some of the other recommendations. I too agree that even if they could not agree to a fourth seat for Yellowknife they should have found another area to put that remaining seat in. In other words, we should have taken advantage of the opportunity to go to 25 seats. They have failed to do that and have left us with a vacant seat.

When I made my submission to the Boundaries Commission I did suggest and support the fact that should areas bring forth name changes that the commission should entertain those name changes and certainly implement them if there was an indication the majority of people in those areas were in support of that. I see that they have followed up on that recommendation and have come up with some very interesting and obviously northern names. I would like to see more of the ridings reflective of northern names. I was supportive of the Mackenzie Liard division. I agree the Mackenzie Liard constituency is and was a large constituency and it deserved to be divided and I as well agreed and supported the division of the Central Arctic riding.

I find it very interesting to have listened to Mr. Wray's comments with respect to the decision to divide the Keewatin into East-West and change some of the communities around, particularly in view of the fact that he says that to his knowledge no one made representation to that effect or it does not seem to be supported by the residents of his area. I wonder, therefore, where that recommendation came from. I think that we should perhaps get a further explanation from Mr. Wray about that because I think that we wished our commissioners to come back to the House with changes based on what people indicated to them in the constituencies and what they felt was in the best interests. With respect to the minority report I find it interesting that Mr. Butters would have quoted that minority report and not have continued on with the second part, the very important second part of that quote and to make sure the record is clear I will do so now.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

Role Of MLA Is To Represent Constituents In The Legislature

MRS. SORENSEN: He said and I quote "As the Hon. Dennis Patterson put it, "Yellowknife MLAs have only to walk across the street to have access to Ministers and senior bureaucrats". Mr. Justice Potts went on, Mr. Chairman, to say "There is no question but that it is much easier for a Member of the Legislative Assembly from Yellowknife to serve his or her constituents. But the role of a Member of the Legislative Assembly is not merely to serve constituents in the sense of ensuring that they receive from government everything to which they are entitled. The other and probably the more important role is to represent constituents by speaking and voting for them in the Legislative Assembly."

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is the significant point.

MRS. SORENSEN: "The Member of the Legislative Assembly is the voice of his or her constituents and when he or she votes in the Assembly he or she is exercising political power on their behalf. This is what democracy and representation by population is all about and why it cannot be ignored." That was precisely the point that I believe all three MLAs brought up as well as the mayor of Yellowknife on behalf of the citizens of Yellowknife when we appeared before the commission.

That is what brings me to the comments that Mr. Patterson made, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the threats that were we or I to raise issues of a controversial nature surrounding this report that we would be causing ugliness and perhaps the gloves would come off. Well, I submit to Mr. Patterson that that is not sufficient reason for me to fail to represent my constituents. Your threats that it may cause ugliness in the Legislature is no threat to me because I am here to represent the citizens of Yellowknife.

MR. CURLEY: Do not argue.

MRS. SORENSEN: I am not here in a popularity contest. You are not the person who votes for me. The citizens of Yellowknife are.

MR. CURLEY: Do not argue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I am sorry, Mrs. Sorensen. Your 10 minutes are up. You may proceed if you get unanimous consent.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MRS. SORENSEN: Finally, Mr. Chairman, there was very strong representation from Yellowknife for a fourth seat and I believe that the representation was sufficient to have had the majority report indicate to Yellowknifers why they felt we should not have that fourth seat. I think the commission owed the citizens of Yellowknife more than just the statement that it makes in recommendation 11 and that is that the boundaries shall be changed. That is one of the greatest sources of disappointment to me, because I think that had the commission indicated in its report the reasons that it felt we should not receive a fourth seat that perhaps there would have been enough reasons there to convince me and my constituents that perhaps it was not the thing to do at this time and I think that the commission, in particular the majority members, Chief Antoine and Mr. Alagalak, abdicated some of their responsibility by not doing that and I sincerely regret that, because I think they avoided a difficult situation and I sincerely regret that. In any case, Mr. Chairman, I do wish to see a fourth seat in Yellowknife and I strongly support that. I feel that I have an obligation, particularly as a result of the minority report, to attempt to seek that fourth seat and to attempt to convince my colleagues in the Legislature to vote with me on a fourth seat for Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Comments From MLA For Foxe Basin Re Boundaries Commission Report

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, my decision will not change and this has been a topic and we wanted to have 22 seats but we were defeated so I automatically thought that 24 seats would be sufficient for the next election. I am not saying that the Boundaries Commission did a poor job. Looking at all of the NWT, it is very huge, and maybe the Yellowknife people wanted an extra seat. If we look at the whole of the Northwest Territories and the people who wanted an extra seat in Yellowknife, the people were not as many who wanted an extra seat in Yellowknife. I know that you are expressing your views, but I do not believe that you should go according to population.

For this reason or if somebody could tell me, and if an MLA from Yellowknife could tell me, if you have a constituency meeting and maybe you could try to get a bigger building because of the large amount of people that you are representing. I do not believe this and I do not think that you ever have a full house when you have a constituency meeting. I do not believe that. For 25 seats, like in this report it does not say that we should have 24 seats, it just says that we can go over to 25 seats. It is just that I am supporting this recommendation in this report. That is all I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any more general comments? Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to move a motion for those people, the people who live in the Keewatin, for the Keewatin Regional Council, that they would like to set up a chairperson and they wanted to hold a general meeting in the Keewatin. That was supported and for those the Electoral Boundaries Commission went to Eskimo Point. I told them since the 1950s there have been MLAs in the NWT, from the North, and from the Keewatin we have been having an MLA from the Keewatin. I talked to them and they suggested more MLAs from the Hay River area and the Yellowknife area and not from the Baffin region or from the Keewatin region.

Looking at the amount of seats that have -- it was not like that before, it was okay and that was the thing that I told them when that Boundaries Commission went to Eskimo Point. In the NWT the population is growing and also the government is there to have the government go up to the amount of seats and I do not think right now we are having that much power.

We have talked about Yellowknife, also those three MLAs from Yellowknife and also the mayor, that they were four people and those four people were just looking for one more seat. For this reason, I was not supporting this. We were defeated by one vote and if we can get an extra seat -- the Eskimo Point and Baker Lake people could get together because they have the same problems. (Translation ends)

Mr. Chairman, I do understand the strong position by the Members of the Assembly from Yellowknife for the case to put in an additional seat for Yellowknife, but I think we have to look at the historical development of the Territories, not just the present-day politics. I do not think the present Ninth Assembly is a real example to how the devolution of the political realities will eventually stabilize. I think this is probably the beginning of the instability before it gets down to a real possible representation by party politics. I say that because we were not able to compromise during the debate whether to form an Electoral District Boundaries Commission. I think that is why in my view the commissioners were not able to make a majority, a unanimous report to ask for additional seats and therefore they give the benefit to the next Assembly to deal with the ongoing political development and as well a possible responsibility to deal with the extra seat.

For instance, in my riding when I made the presentation I indicated to them that it was only a matter of time before Keewatin really should be given an additional seat if they were not able to do that now, because the region is developing. If there had to be one community with a seat for itself, in my view in Keewatin I suggested to the commission that it should really be Rankin Inlet, because it was growing more rapidly than any other community, but that was the second option that I had for them. In view of the fact that they were not able to meet my recommendation, I accept a majority report. I said to them at that time that I give them my confidence that they would come out with the best possible recommendation to the present ridings in Keewatin.

So I do feel too that unless we accept a majority report I think there is going to be a long debate, whether anybody else uses that as a threat or anything to me, it is not, because I am not sure we would be prepared to support at this time an additional seat to Yellowknife in view of the ongoing political development and realities of the present Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Before I recognize Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Wray I would like to ask is there anyone else who has general comments? Mr. McLaughlin.

Comments From MLA For Pine Point Re Boundaries Commission Report

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to repeat what I said before the Electoral Boundaries Commission was formed in the first place. I believe it was a good move for us as an Assembly to take full advantage of creating 25 seats in this House, which we are presently allowed under federal legislation. I think it is unfortunate that the Boundaries

Commission did not take this full mandate. Obviously they did see that the Assembly should be expanded. I will put it to you this way, if Yellowknife already had four out of the existing 22 seats, the Boundaries Commission would have created a 25th seat somewhere. It would not have expanded to just 24, they would have expanded to 25. But because there were only three seats in Yellowknife, and it was so glaringly obvious if you look at even the basics of representation by population that the third seat should have been put in Yellowknife to give it four ridings, they chose to do nothing rather than do something. I think that in that way they have failed in their mandate.

I really believe that there are criteria and it is traditional throughout the history of Canada that small urban ridings have large populations. They are difficult to represent and you can see it right across all of the provinces, the agricultural and urban areas in Canada, that there are sometimes four and five times as many people in some of the federal ridings to compensate for the fact that a Member with a large area has a lot more work to do. But there also comes a point where representation by population -- which is what democracy is all about in the first place, it is the very core essence to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and going back to the Magna Carta when everybody was supposed to have a chance to vote.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: What is the population of Pine Point?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I will tell you, Mr. Patterson, it is a heck of a lot harder to represent 1500 people who are suffering from nearly total unemployment than it was to represent 2200 people when they had full employment.

The other thing is, you have to realize representation by population, being one of the bases for electoral boundaries creation, I think was neglected in this area. There was just a great reluctance by two of the Members to put a seat in Yellowknife just because it was Yellowknife, not because of the principle.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Shame, shame!

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I think it is a shame. I think the main principle was left out and Mr. Justice Potts pointed out that one of the main principles and mandates for democracy is that people should be represented on a one to one basis. Within reason, a vote cast by an elector in Yellowknife should be equal to a vote cast elsewhere. I think giving Yellowknife a fourth seat is within reason.

When I made my presentation I suggested to them that I thought that the third seat should go to Yellowknife but if they thought representation was too close then they should put it in Inuvik because that was a growth area. But in their wisdom the Boundaries Commission obviously saw fit not to put it into Inuvik, which leaves me once again to determine they were just bound not to put it in Yellowknife and so they did not. So I support putting a 25th seat in this Assembly and I support putting it in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Fraser.

Comments From MLA For Mackenzie Great Bear Re Electoral Boundaries Commission

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to commend the Boundaries Commission for a job well done in such a short time. I think they had to keep moving. They did not have much time for themselves and I think they got a pretty good report. Looking at the report and reading it and talking to some of the Members I agree that 24 seats would be sufficient at this time.

---Applause

However, after the threats made by the Member from across the table, I am interested now in what kind of gloves I am going to take off. I would now go for the 25 seats if it does come up. Prior to that I was willing to go along with the report, but when you make threats like that in the House, somebody is bound to get interested and I am interested to see what happens, whether we all get buried at the same time or we live to see the next election. With those words, Mr. Chairman, I think I will just sit and listen and see what happens. If there is something that comes up to include another seat, whether it is in Yellowknife or Inuvik or wherever, I think that we should take advantage of the full 25 seats that we have been able to obtain for further use. I am not particularly concerned whether it goes to Yellowknife or not, Yellowknife seems to get everything, but I still will listen very closely and make my decision on that basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there further general comments? Mr. Sayine.

Comments From MLA For Great Slave East Re Boundaries Commission Report

MR. SAYINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too just think the commission did a great job and as far as my constituency was concerned, most of the recommendations that they put forward were met. I think this is why I think the commission did a good job, not only that but the amount of time that they had for doing it. I support the report as it is. I would go along with 22 seats at the present time but if the majority of the House recommended we go to 25, then I think I would also go along with it, but I would say that I think right in Yellowknife it is very well represented as it is, so I would not vote for Yellowknife getting an additional seat.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SAYINE: But I would look at Inuvik very strongly, I think. I would support Inuvik getting the extra seat if 25 seats are recommended by the House. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further general comments from those who have not previously spoken?

MR. FRASER: Report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is that a motion?

MR. FRASER: Right.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): All those in favour that we report progress raise your hands. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 26-83(1), REPORT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ELECTORAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering the Tabled Document 26-83(1), Report of the Northwest Territories Electoral District Boundaries Commission, and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Are there any announcements from the floor this evening? Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise on a point of privilege. During the committee of the whole debate this afternoon I perhaps got a little bit carried away and made a reference to taking gloves off and I would like to assure this House and particularly Mrs. Sorensen that I would never hit a lady.

MR. MacQUARRIE: You also made reference to a dogfight. Each to his own nature.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): There is a reception this evening starting at 8:00 o'clock.

ITEM NO. 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, Thursday, May 12th.

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: Tabled Document 26-83(1); Bills 24-83(1), 27-83(1), 28-83(1), 29-83(1), 33-83(1)
16. Third Reading of Bills
17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Thursday, May 12th, 1983.

---ADJOURNMENT

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