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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 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 Thursday, May 12.

Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I rise on a point of personal privilege. I wonder how long we are going to be troubled with these television lights.

MR. SPEAKER: I understand there is a request for the lights for the debate on the boundaries.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: We will be finished today.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. We can have the lights shut off until we go into committee or if you direct we will have the television cameras removed. Is it the request that we have them shut off until we go into committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: We will have the lights shut off until we go into committee. It was not a unanimous vote. I just wanted to get the reflection of the House. The majority appeared to want the lights off until we go into committee. Mr. Tologanak.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect we may have heard more yeas than nays. Perhaps we could take it to a vote.

MR. SPEAKER: The Speaker has ruled the yeas had it and the lights will be off until we go into committee of the whole. Now that is over with.

---Applause

Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 114-83(1): Request For Special General Hunting Licences

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I have a question about the hunters and trappers association. They approved and agreed to request special hunting licences but even though the hunters and trappers association have approved it before, the Yellowknife people have never approved their request. The white people concerned have Inuit wives and their in-laws are widows and they have written a letter to Renewable Resources. I wonder what action they have taken up to now. It has been said that whenever the hunters and trappers in a community can agree to come with a special request -- I wonder what is being done on this request because the hunters and trappers association in Igloodik have agreed to those persons getting a special licence. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 114-83(1): Request For Special General Hunting Licences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the Member that I am aware of this situation. I discussed the item with my deputy minister. We are in the process of reviewing the process by which special general hunting licences are issued and at the end of that review we will make a decision on issuing the four individuals in Igloodik with the special general hunting licences. I want to indicate the other point that it is a recommendation to the wildlife service, and not a final decision, that is being made by the hunters and trappers association. Again I will indicate that we are in the process of trying to resolve the problem that the Member has brought up.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 115-83(1): Decision Regarding Issue Of Special General Hunting Licences

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to Mr. Evaluarjuk's question the Minister indicated that they were reviewing it. Could you tell us when you might be able to do that or not? When?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk, would you repeat your question, please, for Mr. Nerysoo?

MR. PUDLUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Minister said that they were reviewing it right now. Could you tell us when you might be able to tell us if they might be able to get a licence or not?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 115-83(1): Decision Regarding Issue Of Special General Hunting Licences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. I am not sure if I got the correct question, but the whole idea behind reviewing the issuance of special general hunting licences is to try to improve the allocation of those special general hunting licences throughout the Northwest Territories. We have received other applications and other submissions from hunters and trappers associations in the Northwest Territories. I will indicate that I am concerned about the numbers that may be issued and that is a concern that I have. Hopefully that will be resolved in the review process.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo, I understand Mr. Pudluk to ask you when they might expect an answer. It is the timing factor that I think he is looking for.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, the decision with regard to the request of the Igloodik hunters and trappers -- we are I believe in the final process of deciding on issuing or not issuing those special general hunting licences. The problem we are encountering is, I guess, the ongoing issuing of special general hunting licences because even though the indication has been surrounding the question of the hunting for caribou, the special general hunting licences allow for total hunting, total trapping, throughout the Northwest Territories or a specific area and that is where we seem to be having the problem. We hopefully will resolve that.

The other thing is the process and how long it takes to make a final decision. We are hoping to shorten that so that first of all we recognize more quickly the recommendations of the HTA and that a decision is made sooner on issuing those hunting licences.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 116-83(1): Request From Saputik Corporation Re Sport Hunting Of Polar Bear

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. I believe the Minister and the Executive Committee Members have received proposals from the Saputik Corporation from northern Quebec who have asked for permission to be granted for them to allow sport hunting of polar bear on one of the islands of Ungava Bay which has been traditionally used and occupied as a harvesting base for people in that area. Has the Minister given any permission to allow them to do some sport hunting, in particular regarding the quota of six polar bear that they have asked for?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 116-83(1): Request From Saputik Corporation Re Sport Hunting Of Polar Bear.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker. No, we have not given them the authority to hunt at the present time. We have indicated to the Quebec government that we work together to try to ensure that a study and a survey take place in that particular region. There is a continuous problem that we are encountering at the moment, that in some instances people are saying, "Go ahead with issuing those licences", and others are indicating to us that they should not proceed. So we are in the process now of trying to resolve that particular problem. My deputy minister recently toured the Baffin region and attended a meeting of the Baffin Regional Hunters and Trappers Association and spoke as well. There was an indication at the Baffin Regional Council that a resolution should take place on it and one of the ideas is to try to get the Quebec government to agree to do studies with us so that we can ensure that they receive a quota for that particular region.

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

Question 117-83(1): Wages And Benefits For Hamlet And Housing Association Employees

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I have received correspondence from the Qarnngmalirijiit Housing Federation in Rankin Inlet asking me to raise the issue of the task force on wages and benefits for hamlets and housing associations. Can the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation indicate to the people of my riding and to this House whether or not he will now put forth a favourable report which will give certain assurances to these employees who are having difficulties in the last few years, in particular to finally improve the benefits and wages of the housing association employees?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 117-83(1): Wages And Benefits For Hamlet And Housing Association Employees

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. No, I cannot give that assurance.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

Question 118-83(1): Summer Employment Affecting Student Residency Qualification

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education regarding employment for the summer for students who are on the post-secondary education programs. As the Minister is aware the mine in Pine Point is closed and several students from my community have been unable to find jobs in Pine Point or anywhere else in the Northwest Territories. Some of them are concerned because they may end up with jobs in Edmonton or northern Alberta which would cause them to lose their residency qualification as far as the post-secondary education grants and bursaries program is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 118-83(1): Summer Employment Affecting Student Residency Qualification

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the location of summer employment is of no prejudice to a Northwest Territories domiciled student, such as the students from the Member's constituency. It would be of no prejudice to them as far as eligibility for the grants and bursaries are concerned. I can give the Member that assurance here now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Question 119-83(1): Report On Wages And Benefits For Hamlet Employees

MR. CURLEY: I would now like to ask a supplementary question. Originally I would have asked the Minister of Local Government. The Minister of Local Government indicated to the House that he would be bringing a report of the study on wages and benefits for hamlet employees. Can the Minister of Local Government tell us whether or not he will make the report public here or, if not, does he foresee any difficulty in coming forth with a recommendation that would at least resolve some of the ongoing concerns of the hamlet employees?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Mr. Wah-Shee.

Return To Question 119-83(1): Report On Wages And Benefits For Hamlet Employees

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, we have an Executive subcommittee that will be submitting a report to me very shortly and I will be making a statement in regard to that before this session is over.

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

Item 4, written questions. Are there any written questions for today? Item 5, returns. Are there any returns? Honourable Mr. Butters.

ITEM NO. 5: RETURNS

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the honourable Member for Keewatin North asked a question of the Minister responsible for Government Services as follows: "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 wondering if the Minister could inform me if any action has been taken on this or indeed if any action is being contemplated." The Member forgets the content of his own motion. The motion he made was "I move that this committee recommend to the Executive Committee that they direct the Department of Government Services to perform the necessary work on the Baker Lake tank farm within the community to bring it up to conform with present territorial and federal environmental protection regulations; and further, that plans be initiated to move the old tank farm out of the community to the new tank farm, in 1985."

In response to that motion and the Member's question of yesterday I have the following reply. Whereas Government Services capital plan does not provide funding for the removal of the tank farm within the community of Baker Lake until 1987, planning funds will be requested this year to finalize the scope of work involved. A request will be submitted to provide capital funds for 1985 to remove the old tanks and provide additional storage capacity in the new tank farm. It is not financially practical to spend money to upgrade the old tank farm to comply with current environmental standards for only two years. As an alternative, and effective immediately, Government Services will use the old tanks only when necessary. Product stored in the old tanks will be restricted to quantities required to augment the inventory in the new tank farm and will be used before any product is drawn from the new tank farm. This practice will result in the old tanks being empty for approximately nine months of the year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Mr. Butters. Are there any further returns? Honourable Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 101-83(1): Use Of Asbestos Insulation In School, Chesterfield Inlet

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a reply to Question 101-83(1) asked by the Member for Keewatin North on March 10th regarding the school in Chesterfield Inlet. The department is not aware of any asbestos in use in this school. A program of testing suspicious materials in government buildings in the Northwest Territories was conducted by Public Works and Public Services in 1980. Records do not show any indication of asbestos occurring in this building. However, I do understand that the insulation of the piping in the old Turquetil Hall residence may contain some asbestos. The building has been condemned for some time and there are no students resident in it. There are one or two temporary offices in the building but Turquetil Hall is scheduled for demolition this summer.

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

I also have a reply to Question 103-83(1) asked by Mr. Sibbeston, the Member from Deh Cho, regarding the Liard ferry. Although the ferry is ready to operate, launching of the vessel cannot take place because when the river broke it deposited a significant amount of ice on the east approach. This situation is normal, although the amount of ice deposited, I think the Member will agree, is a little bit extraordinary. We have machinery on site attempting to clear the ice. The size of the ice pieces, in some cases, is too large to handle so we had to get larger machinery in from the Hay River area to clear this site. The department officials are making some progress in removing the ice from the approaches, but because of the volume of the ice and resulting restricted working site conditions, we have had more problems than we anticipated. However, we expect to be able to blast the ice loose by the use of explosives and we will be commencing that as soon as possible so that the ferry should be in operation very quickly. I think in the normal run at this time of the year it is usually about May 15th or May 16th. Normally I think it will be operating by that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further returns? Item 6, Ministers' statements. Mr. Butters.

ITEM NO. 6: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On Matters Arising From Budget Debate

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, during the budget review on Government Services in early March certain information or action was requested by Members and I wish to report on that at this time. A motion was made by Mr. Pudluk on March 1, 1983, that action be taken to move the tank farms at Grise Fiord away from the powerhouse. The old fuel tanks located near the NCPC power plant are owned by NCPC and not by the GNWT. However, NCPC has been notified of the community's concern and asked to investigate the matter.

Mr. Kilabuk asked that something be done about the surplus tankage in Pangnirtung. Capital funding has been identified and approved by the Financial Management Board to be used this summer to dismantle and remove the surplus tanks in that community.

On March 2, 1983, Mr. MacQuarrie asked a question concerning a capital assets inventory for the GNWT. The department has recorded its own inventory. Inventory control forms were designed by the records management section and the inventory has been recorded by section and by individual position. At the present time, it is in a manual state and there are a number of areas still to be developed. An inventory package is presently being evaluated by the systems and computer services division to determine the feasibility of adapting the inventory to our word processing system.

One further report, Mr. Speaker. On February 7, 1983, the Member from Pine Point presented a petition on behalf of 300 NWT residents requesting that motorcycle licence plates be designed in the distinctive polar bear motif that car plates are. It is feasible to manufacture a scaled down version of the plates for issue to owners of motorcycles. Adaptation of the polar bear plate for this category of vehicles will then see all vehicle licences displaying the same design.

Mr. George Morin, believed to be the initiator of the petition, has been contacted to review his proposal. Following resolution of the design specifications, a supplier will be contracted to manufacture sets of motorcycle polar bear plates for issue in February of 1984. Normal licence renewal fees will be assessed.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Item 6, Ministers' statements. Mr. McCallum.

Minister's Statement On Housing Corporation Rehab Contracts

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to indicate to Members that the Housing Corporation has awarded certain rehab contracts for various communities to look after particular units. The total number of units is over 100 and a lot of these units are in the Kitikmeot region, in Tuktoyaktuk and Holman Island, in the Mackenzie Valley and Fort McPherson and Fort Norman, as well as Frobisher Bay and at Rae-Edzo. I am very pleased to announce to this particular House that in all cases, for all these units on the rehab program, the total contract we have just recently awarded is over two million dollars. In all cases northern firms have been awarded the contracts.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, Ministers' statements.

Item 7, petitions. Are there any petitions?

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 9, tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 12, motions.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

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

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

Tabled Document 26-83(1), Report of the Northwest Territories Electoral District Boundaries Commission; Bill 24-83(1), Fair Practices Ordinance; Bill 27-83(1), Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Ordinance; Bill 28-83(1), Societies Ordinance; Bill 29-83(1), Advisory Council on the Status of Women Ordinance, with Mr. Fraser 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. Fraser): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with the report of the Northwest Territories Electoral District Boundaries Commission and we are still on general comments. Most of the Members have spoken once and Mr. MacQuarrie was next on the list when we adjourned last night. Mr. MacQuarrie, general comments.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if there is not anyone who would like to speak for the first time, I would like to respond. Mr. Arlooktoo, I think, wishes to speak.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Sorry. Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. That is awfully thoughtful of you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Comments From MLA For Baffin South

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment. We eastern people, our feelings are similar. The addition of two seats from 22 to 24 is adequate with me. I remember that the commission visited the communities and I think we all expressed our views as to which people should get more seats. I remember on April 6th I stated my views in Lake Harbour, that Mr. Sibbeston's riding and Mr. Kane Tologanak's riding should get an extra seat. I remember when we met in Cape Dorset I expressed the same views to the commission. For this reason the commission held public meetings in communities. Maybe the people who have concerns about ridings were the people who attended the meetings. I was told by one of the commission members that even when some of the communities were visited no public attended. I believe myself that the increase from 22 to 24 seats is adequate and that is the way it is going to be.

I can see that Yellowknife is a large community and there is a lot of work to do, but they seem to have one language mostly. The language that is used in Yellowknife is English. So for these reasons I understand that Yellowknife has to get more seats, but right now it does not really seem to me right because of the language that is being spoken. I just want you to know that I will be with the east side. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. I have a few other Members who have not spoken, if they wish to speak now. We have other speakers on the list. Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie, go ahead.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would first like to respond to remarks made yesterday by my honourable friend from Frobisher Bay, the champion of consensus government, who as soon as a serious concern was raised by some Members of the Assembly was not inclined to talk it out and resolve it in a gentlemanly and consensus way, but talked about snarling dogfights and taking gloves off and so on.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

MR. MACQUARRIE: At any rate, the remarks he made were of the tenor that he had thought that I was a man of principle and I appreciate that, honourable Members. I should wait a moment perhaps until I have his attention.

I understand that the honourable Member's understanding and appreciation of principle is defective and perhaps seriously hampered by the fact that he is a lawyer and suffers from what I would call the Moses complex, namely if you identify a good principle the immediate instinct is to carve it in stone and make a law out of it and suppose it must be binding in every circumstance. I stand by the statement that I made that he quoted and I would say, first of all, that I made it anticipating that there would be a unanimous report from the commissioners, which there was not,

and I made it with the implicit reservation that even if the report was unanimous but so irrational as to violate other important principles which I uphold and recognize that I still would not have accepted that report, and so if in the honourable Member's view that means that I am not a man of principle then I sincerely wish that he would stop calling me one. I certainly have not identified myself as that type of person and actually I would not want to be identified as that kind of man of principle who mindlessly adheres to certain statements or slogans or whatever without considering all of the circumstances.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Then you have no principles.

MR. MacQUARRIE: You may call me what you wish, Mr. Patterson. With respect to the reasons why I have modified what I said at that time, I would say first of all that the commission did not recommend the addition of three seats in the majority report -- and I specifically stated that in my statement -- but only two. But I would also like to remind everybody at this moment, including the CBC, that the majority report did not give reasons as to why there should not be a fourth seat in Yellowknife and therefore did not specifically recommend against a fourth seat in Yellowknife. They recommended that there should be two additional seats.

The second reason that I modified the stand I took on that statement is that in fact the chairman of the commission specifically recommended to this Assembly in favour of a fourth seat for Yellowknife and urged the Assembly to exercise its authority to alter the majority report. I can assure you that if there had been no statement at all in the report about the fourth seat for Yellowknife that I would not be raising the matter.

Role Of MLA In Assembly

In response to comments or questions from Mr. Evaluarjuk and Mr. Butters and also Mr. Patterson about the fact that it is easy for Members in Yellowknife to represent their constituents because we only have to walk across the street, I must second what Mrs. Sorensen said yesterday and reiterate what Mr. Justice Potts said, because what he said is cogent and ought to be persuasive. I quote again: "The other, and probably the more important role, is to represent constituents by speaking and voting for them in the Legislative Assembly. 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." Mr. Justice Potts put that as correctly and forcefully as it can possibly be put and if some honourable Members cannot understand the importance of that statement then I am sorry for them and more sorry for the society that must suffer their governments.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: If that principle does not persuade Members then I must accept that at the moment, but I will not accept it without making the comment that by refusing to recognize that principle you are doing a grave disservice to democratic government and in a small but significant way you are undermining the heroic work that has been done down through the ages by the champions of government of the people, by the people, for the people and by the champions of equality of right. I can assure you that regardless of how you may feel about it I say that you have no reason to be proud of what you do.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: I remind you that there were arguments given about the need later for consideration of other seats. I remind you that even if we went to the full capacity of 25 this time, commissions are established to redistribute without any addition of seats and to take account of changes in population. That could certainly be done in the next Assembly. Some talked about the possibility of attempting to ensure that there is specific native representation. I am amenable to that. There is constitutional work going on in that direction and if it is successful that will be taken account of, so these arguments do not hold any water at all. I am sure that many of the Members who have spoken up to now, who are opposed to a fourth seat for Yellowknife, do not recognize -- but I will tell you -- that kind of move and that kind of attitude is resented by many urban and non-native people. It is seen as another act of discrimination against them. They are not happy at all with that and so while you may act to prevent one additional urban and possibly non-native representative in this Assembly, I say to you that at the very same time by your insensitivity to the needs of other people in the Territories, even by some of your belittling of the needs of other people in the Territories that you are once again doing something to ensure that if there is not another person from Yellowknife that the representatives who fill the existing seats the next time around will probably be much less conciliatory and much less co-operative than some of us who fill these seats at the present time.

---Applause

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Motion To Accept Recommendations One To 10 Cited As Reasons On Pages Seven To Eight And Recommendations Of Minority Report, TD 26-83(1)

MR. MacQUARRIE: I want to say no more about that now. Mr. Chairman, can I have a motion if I may? I move that this Assembly accept recommendations one to 10 that are cited as reasons on pages seven and eight of the report as well as the recommendations contained in the minority report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): On a point of order, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am just quite frankly worried about how we can vote yes or no on such a comprehensive motion. It seems to me that the motion amounts to having...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): That is not a point of order. We have not ruled on the motion yet. We are still debating whether the motion is in order or it is not.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I had a chance to give you my views anyway. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Could we have a copy of that motion, please, Mr. MacQuarrie? I would like to advise Members that this is a very complex motion and I would like about 10 minutes to discuss with the Law Clerk and the Clerk to see whether it is in order. We will recess for 10 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

I call the committee back to order. After considering the motion I rule that the motion is in order and we will proceed with the motion.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would question your ruling on the basis of the use of the word "accept". I would suggest that the Assembly has already accepted recommendations one to 10 when they were put into committee of the whole. The motion to be in order would have to be "adopt" and I suggest the motion is not properly worded as it now stands and should be either amended to put in the word "adopt" or whatever.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Butters, I rule the motion in order. Are you amending the motion?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, I am not interested in amending the motion but I think it is out of order as it is currently worded. The mover might wish to amend it. Otherwise if it is not amended I will challenge it. Yes, I challenge your ruling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. I will now report to the Speaker. My decision has been challenged. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been dealing with Tabled Document 26-83(1), Report of the Northwest Territories Electoral District Boundaries Commission. A motion was made in the committee and I ruled the motion in order and my decision was challenged.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. The House will stand recessed for 15 minutes while we look into the matter.

---SHORT RECESS

Speaker's Ruling

I call the House back to order. Sorry for the length of time it took. However, we studied the matter fairly closely and went through the report. The report itself is somewhat difficult to follow in that it does not really follow normal procedures as a report. The layout of the report leaves in my opinion something to be desired. However, the matter at hand is whether or not the motion made by Mr. MacQuarrie is in order or not. The point has been raised by Hon. Tom Butters that the word "accept" is somewhat important in that the House actually accepted the report by putting it in committee. I cannot agree with this position, Mr. Butters. The report became the business of the House by being tabled and by a motion. The motion read that this document be considered as the first item of business by the committee of the whole on Wednesday. At no time is a tabled document accepted. A tabled document may be accepted after it comes out of committee of the whole. Generally that is part of the statement of the chairman, that the committee has been studying a certain tabled document and accepts the document as presented or with such and such modifications. It is at that point that the document is accepted, not when it is put in committee of the whole. Therefore, I do not find that the point brought forth by Mr. Butters is valid.

I had some difficulty with some of the wording myself. "I move that this Assembly accept recommendations one to 10." One to 10 are not recommendations but that matter was clarified by the mover when he says they are "cited as reasons". Is the motion clear? Do people in this House know what the motion means? I think they do. I think that the motion is clear enough that there is no doubt as to the intent of the motion. Therefore I rule that the motion is in order and Mr. Fraser will continue as chairman of the committee of the whole.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I call the committee back to order dealing with the motion "I move that this Assembly accept recommendations one to 10 that are cited as reasons on pages seven and eight of the report as well as the recommendations contained in the minority report." Mr. MacQuarrie, to the motion.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so as to clarify for the benefit of the House what was intended if there is any doubt. I note that in the opening statement of the minority report by Mr. Justice Potts it says that he agrees with his colleagues on the commission in every respect except one and I take that as his recommendation of all of the recommendations and schedules that are included in the majority report, that he endorses them and recommends to this Assembly that they be accepted with the exception of one and that is how I interpret the motion that I have made. I will not speak at length at all to this. I simply say that if Members were to support this motion in its entirety they would be upholding an important principle of democratic government.

At the same time there are two important points. It will not bring about a situation where the native majority in this Assembly is in jeopardy. Indeed I would not want that kind of situation to come about because the Assembly should reflect the majority population in the Northwest Territories, but this does not bring that into jeopardy at all. Furthermore, if it were accepted, it does not jeopardize the fundamental interest of most eastern Members in dividing the Territories because, as I pointed out yesterday I guess it was, long strides have been made in that direction already by this Assembly while Members from the East are in a minority which proves the general good will of other Members in this House and there is no reason to suppose that one additional Member would reverse that trend. I think that is all I wish to say in support of it, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say I cannot support the motion. There will obviously have to be some amendments before I could support the motion. I would like to say now that I support the majority report alone and so would not be able to support the provision of accepting the minority report which Mr. MacQuarrie's motion suggests. I can appreciate that there are a number of individuals who may wish to have some slight amendments within the major report but I think this can be done and it is understandable as we have the last say and can make minor adjustments.

I am sorry that I will have to be relinquishing or giving up my good name of Deh Cho and have to put up with a little longer but acceptable, Deh Cho Gah. I had thought that in respect of the Deh Cho constituency that is being proposed that they would have included Paradise Gardens and Enterprise, because there is a good likelihood of a native person being elected for the Deh Cho area and I thought it would add a new dimension. It makes it more interesting to represent other people too, but we will not interfere with the recommendations of the majority report.

Naming Of Yellowknife Constituency

Now, when Mr. Braden was talking yesterday about the Yellowknife constituency, Yellowknife East or North, suggesting we go back to Yellowknife North, I thought that generally giving the three constituencies in Yellowknife the name Yellowknife and then adding East, North and South is not a very imaginative way of dealing with it. It is rather repetitive and a bit dry. I thought because there is a significant number of native people living in the northern part of Yellowknife constituency, why not give it a Dene name of Somba K'e, because as I understand it this is a Dene word which is accepted or used by the Dogrib, by the Chip and Slavey which just means a place where there is money or a place where there is gold, so Somba K'e, I suggest, could be given to Yellowknife East or North constituency.

My general attitude toward the Boundaries Commission report is that we appointed the Boundaries Commission, we got two good northerners and one southerner on the commission. Now, these three people went around the North and I think they did a magnificent job in covering most of the areas or communities that they wanted to; I feel satisfied that they have done that. Because I had said in respect of Jim Antoine that he would be able and willing, I feel that we provided the Boundaries Commission with such a person. So generally I feel that their work is to be applauded and in recognition of their good work we should accept the majority report. If the Boundaries Commission had recommended three, if the majority of them had recommended three seats I certainly would have supported that. But I guess in their wisdom and in their travels throughout the North they deemed that the public of the North would accept only two, so I feel compelled anyway to support the majority which has recommended two additional seats only.

Now, as to the minority report and this is part of Mr. MacQuarrie's motion that we accept that, I say that I simply cannot accept that part of the motion, because I guess one can say in respect of the minority report that Judge Potts is new to the North. He went on a whirlwind tour of the North. It is unfortunate that he did not go with the majority. Maybe he does not know about the way we deal with things in the North, that we deal with things on a consensus basis if possible, but he chose instead to stick out like a sore thumb and made a minority report which I do not accept.

System Of Government Is New To Native People

I know that Judge Potts places emphasis on representation by population and maybe that is something that he is accustomed to in the South and upholds greatly. He says that this is more important than other considerations. I must say that I just simply do not agree with him in that area. I say that the North is a developing area, the majority of the people in the North are native people for whom this system of government is new; government has just come to the native people of the North. We are in the span of 10, 15 or 20 years asked to accept a system of government that is new, foreign; we are asked to get involved and learn the rules and so forth. We are asked to come to Yellowknife here as MLAs and we are asked to sit in formal sessions wearing formal suits and act like people would in the South I guess. We are asked to deal with very sophisticated civil servants here who are primarily non-native. We are asked to go according to complex rules and we are asked to get used to a system of government which, as I said, did not emanate or come from the people here in the North. So all of this is new. I feel that we need more representatives from the rural areas of the North because native people are just getting used to government and getting to know about government. There is good reason why we should have more representatives from the rural and remote part of the North.

Accessibility To Government

Now, with respect to the representatives of Yellowknife here and the people of Yellowknife, on this issue I ask for patience and I ask you to consider that generally people here in Yellowknife are pretty well off as compared to more remote parts of the North. The government is here, there is easy accessibility to government and on the matter of having representatives to vote and take part in the Assembly, I say that the system of government that is in place here in Yellowknife is basically in favour of non-native people. Non-native people know the system and in order to become part of the system you need to have formal education. You have to simply be well educated in order to become part of the system.

Yellowknife has a lot of civil servants, both federal and territorial, and being in this category of workers in the North have most things that other people in the North do not have. They have all the necessities, as it were, to enjoy and live good lives. They have good housing, good wages, good working conditions and so forth. They do not need a representative as much as people in the more remote parts of the North, because the remote parts of the North, as I said, are not able to get to government and they have more problems in dealing with just eking out a life.

The people in Trout Lake as an example or the people in Hudson Bay, the very remote parts of the North, need more representatives than somebody who lives here in Yellowknife. I just want to use the example of the Trout Lake people and why they need a representative. They typify the rural part of the North. People in Trout Lake number about 70 and they have little formal education as we know it. They are at a disadvantage in terms of the ongoing white society and government that has been brought to the North. They have little awareness and benefit of government programs and the government functions in English. The English language to them is a foreign language and the system, the formality, the intricate workings of government are all foreign to them. They never come to Yellowknife. They cannot step into Mr. Wah-Shee's or Mr. Braden's office like people here in Yellowknife and get the services they can. For all these reasons I do feel that the more remote parts of the North need more representation and urban Yellowknife with a large civil service population does not need another representative.

Yellowknife Members Have Been Very Effective

Now, with regard to the three representatives here from Yellowknife, I have thought that in the past three or four years they have been very effective. One of the representatives from Yellowknife here has been the leader of our government. Another one has taken up an important role, has been involved with the Liberal ranks and with her involvement recently in the Liberal party has even rubbed knees I say with the Prime Minister. I mean this to be a compliment to the representatives of Yellowknife that they were involved and were very effective. With regard to another Member, he was the Speaker for a while but chose to even be more effective in representing the people and set up shop right next door to the government and I am sure he has been working effectively to represent the people of Yellowknife.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to say again that I support the majority report of the Boundaries Commission and I say that the argument that Judge Potts makes in respect of representation by population is not as valid as he thinks. Maybe he can be excused because he does not really know the northern situation as well as the other two persons who were on the Boundaries Commission. So I urge all Members anyway to look at this motion that is before you very seriously and maybe even consider some amendments which would have the effect of supporting only the majority report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. To the motion. I have Mr. Tologanak next.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Chairman, I had my hand up for general comments and that was not for the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Butters. To the motion.

Motion Restricts Debate On Recommendations

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to say, Mr. Chairman, that I think the motion is very premature. The way it was phrased would indicate that we have already had a debate with regard to the recommendations that appear on page seven. For that reason, that the motion now precludes us from going through those nine recommendations in order of their appearance on page seven, I will vote against this motion, because I feel it is acting by way of closure and it is restricting the debate in this House.

There are some of the reasons given on page seven that I might have personal knowledge of, and on the others I do not have knowledge of, to determine whether or not the reasons or the recommendations are valid, I would wish to hear from Members who are aware of what the recommendations are and what effects they will have in the constituency they represent and they know best. So as I say I regret that the mover of the motion did not see his way clear to allow the debate to take place. Possibly he would consider leaving the motion on the floor but permitting us to go through the reasons as they appear on page seven, one after the other and then attend to his motion at the end of that discussion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, honourable Mr. Butters. To the motion, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not support the motion and particularly the aspect that deals with the minority report. I would like to explain that I think there are good reasons based on precedents in Canada for determining that this capital city is already more than adequately represented and will still be more than adequately represented if the House increases to 24 seats without the seat for Yellowknife. Mr. MacQuarrie, who has made this motion and who has spearheaded the argument for justice giving Yellowknife an extra seat, put forward an interesting submission to the Boundaries Commission. By the way, I would mention that I find it very interesting that Yellowknife was the only community in the Northwest Territories where there were two hearings of the Boundaries Commission held. I think this is typical of the kind of attention that this centre gets.

MRS. SORENSEN: Oh, no. That was for the Dene Nation to make a presentation.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: There were not two hearings in my constituency.

MRS. SORENSEN: That was for people from Snowdrift.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie, it had better be a point of privilege.

MR. MACQUARRIE: There was a second hearing in Yellowknife but it was not for Yellowknifers. The Member from Pine Point and the Dene Band from Snowdrift came up. It was for other people who had yet not been able to make presentations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): That was not a point of privilege. Mr. Patterson. It could have been a point of clarification but not privilege. Order. Mr. Patterson.

Statistics On Precedents In Canada

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre made a submission at the Boundaries Commission hearing in Yellowknife in which he cited other Canadian examples that should be cited to prove that Yellowknife was underrepresented. Because he is a man of reason and because he used statistics and obviously persuaded at least one member of the Boundaries Commission, I would like to present some arguments that I presented in Frobisher Bay, using those same statistics which I think refute Mr. MacQuarrie's suggestion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Deal with the motion Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am dealing with the minority report which is contained in the motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Proceed.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The Yukon example cited by Mr. MacQuarrie is a northern territory which has geographic and cultural remoteness to consider. Whitehorse has 67 per cent of the population of the Yukon, but represents 55 per cent of Yukon electors and receives 24 per cent of the seats. These are differences of 23 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. Manitoba is also cited in Mr. MacQuarrie's brief and the city of Winnipeg has itself 57 per cent of the population and 55 per cent of the electors...

MR. MACQUARRIE: Out of a total of seven seats for one city.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Winnipeg also has a lesser percentage of seats, 51 per cent. Yellowknife presently has 14 per cent of the Legislative Assembly seats. Its population is 21 per cent of

the Northwest Territories and 22 per cent of the electors. This difference of only seven per cent and eight per cent respectively is better than Whitehorse's 23 per cent and 15 per cent. It is also closer to Winnipeg's six per cent and four per cent. I think, though, the statistical arguments do not stand up.

Executive Committee Members Established In Yellowknife

Mr. Chairman, in addition to my comment about Yellowknife MLAs having only to walk across the street to have access to Ministers and bureaucrats, I would also like to point out that of the current Members of the Executive Committee which operates the government when the House is not in session, seven Members have established themselves in Yellowknife. They live and work here because that is where their work is and in their daily lives they are exposed, we are exposed, whether we like it or not, of course we welcome it, to Yellowknife people and Yellowknife concerns.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Another factor is when division takes place it is forecast Yellowknife will lose jobs to a new capital somewhere in the Eastern Arctic. The report on the impact of division says that with any division of the Territories the city of Yellowknife will surely lose jobs as a result of a decrease in the number of territorial civil servants required to service a smaller area. Other declines in economic activity may result as fewer people will travel to Yellowknife to deal with the territorial government, travelling instead to the new capital in the Eastern Arctic, in the eastern territory. Our analysis indicates some 200 government positions could be reduced in Yellowknife if the Territories were divided.

References From Dr. Hamelin's Report On Populations Studies

Dr. Louis-Edmond Hamelin, who has done a major study of contributions to the Northwest Territories population studies, 1961-1985, for the Science Advisory Board of this House, warns in that report unless care is taken an overly concentrated political power may develop in the capital to the detriment of evolution in the subregions. One final argument against the Yellowknife seat I would like to cite from Dr. Hamelin is the fertility rates, the natural rates of increase. Again from Professor Hamelin, "future fertility rates per 1000 women of the 15 to 49 age group were calculated for the years 1973 to 1976. They were as follows: 103 for Indian people, 168 for Inuit and 100 for others." If there should be a third seat anywhere it should be in the fastest growing area of the Northwest Territories in natural population, the Eastern Arctic or perhaps growth centres, which Yellowknife certainly appears cannot be expected to be one.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that the Members have argued that Yellowknife is going to be prejudiced if there is not an extra seat. I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that I do not think Yellowknife has been hurt or prejudiced by the majority of Members being from outside Yellowknife in this Assembly. I do not think Yellowknife has been hurt or prejudiced by the Executive Committee of this government. I think this government and this Assembly have been scrupulously fair to look after the interests of all residents of the Northwest Territories including the residents of Yellowknife. I do not see any reason why that tradition of fairness would change in a House of 24 Members.

So I cannot support the motion, Mr. Chairman. I would say to the Member who moved it, he asked for this boundaries report. He pressed for it. It is not my fault that the chairman of the Boundaries Commission would not reconcile his differences with the majority and did not have the courage to do the responsible thing and make a unanimous report. Also I would remind Mr. MacQuarrie once again that he committed himself to accepting the results of the report and I think it is irresponsible for him to now try to renege on that solemn public pledge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, honourable Mr. Patterson. Mr. Curley to the motion.

Wording Of Motion Criticized

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this motion is premature for a number of reasons. It puts us as MLAs in a very peculiar situation if we accept this motion as it is drafted. If it were to be defeated then we would actually be defeating the very reason for and possibly putting in jeopardy the possibility of accepting two ridings, two additional ridings

in Kitikmeot and Mackenzie Liard because of the fact that the Speaker did not rule it out on the basis that the reasons that are listed on page seven are now termed as recommendations. Therefore if we were to defeat this motion the way the motion is worded, for instance number one reason, the existing electoral district of Mackenzie Liard is divided into two electoral districts would then be defeated, as well as number two. So I think Mr. MacQuarrie intentionally used the words "recommendations one to 10" so therefore if after this motion were defeated, there was an attempt to introduce another motion to adopt recommendations on page six, it would not be procedurally possible to move another motion. So I think not only the Members of the committee were deceived by Mr. MacQuarrie, but were also deceived -- I should not use that word too strongly but in my view...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Point of privilege, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I did not deceive anyone. The motion says what it says and Mr. Curley earlier was ascribing motives when he said I had intentionally done such and such a thing and he is in no position to know what my intentions were. I assure him I am not perhaps as clever as he wishes to give me credit for.

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

MR. CURLEY: I will not go that far either, Mr. Chairman. I advise the Members of the House that that motion ought to be rejected. The speakers have indicated that it would put them in a very difficult situation, so I regret the fact that we were put in the position where we either have to accept the minority report or reject it. If we now reject the minority report as the motion is worded, we would also be rejecting the reasons listed on page seven which are now called recommendations as the motion is worded. So, therefore, Mr. Chairman, in order to be clear as the speaker should have done, I will move an amendment so we will not be at all confused by the motion as well as the intention of the report. So I would like to add three additional words to the motion.

Amendment To Motion To Accept Recommendations One To 10 Cited As Reasons On Pages Seven To Eight And Recommendations Of Minority Report, TD 26-83(1)

I move that the motion be amended by deleting the word "recommendations" on the first line and to add the following words after the word "report" on the second line "and reject" and to delete the three words on the third line, the very first three words "as well as".

MR. McLAUGHLIN: It is out of order. It changes the intent.

MR. CURLEY: These are my amendments, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I understand your amendment is to delete "recommendations" on the first line, add "and reject" on the second line and delete "as well as" on the third line. Is that correct, Mr. Curley? We will just take a couple of minutes here to check this out. I would call the committee back to order. Order please. Mr. Curley, I find your amendment is in order. To the amendment.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, I would have to say that defeats the intent of the motion that is made in the first instance, and "and reject" is exactly opposite to "as well as"...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie, are you challenging my decision? Let us get on with it.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I am challenging your decision. I wanted to get the reason in first because you never allow afterwards.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I will now report.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

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

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suggest you keep your coat on for the rest of the afternoon. We are having trouble with the Middle East and the West. However, a committee motion earlier challenged by the committee was ruled in order. An amendment to that motion was made by one of the Members and I ruled the amendment in order. My decision was challenged, so therefore I want to report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. We will recess and have a coffee break at this time and be back in as quickly as we can with the ruling on the challenge.

---SHORT RECESS

Speaker's Ruling

I call the House back to order. I am sorry to have taken so long with this, but it gets fairly complicated and fairly detailed and because of the nature of the debate I wanted to make sure that we had as full a detail as possible. With regard to the amendment Beaudesne's is very clear on page 154, section 436. "An amendment proposing a direct negative, though it may be covered in verbiage, is out of order." Under the same section, part (3), "An amendment approving part of a motion and disapproving the remainder is out of order." Now the difficulty actually then with this motion is that there are two distinct matters contained within the motion.

Amendment To Motion To Accept Recommendations One To 10 Cited As Reasons On Pages Seven To Eight And Recommendations Of Minority Report, TD 26-83(1), Ruled Out Of Order

So my ruling will be that I find that the motion to amend is out of order. However, under section 415 of Beaudesne's on page 150, "A motion which contains two or more distinctive propositions may be divided so that the sense of the House may be taken on each separately. The Speaker has a discretionary power to decide whether he should divide a motion." I feel that the matter is such that we have got into on this particular item that I will instruct that this motion be divided. It will then be dealt with as, "I move that this Assembly accept one to 10 that are cited as reasons on pages seven and eight of the report," and a second motion "I move that the recommendations contained in the minority report be accepted." So we will deal with two motions. This should then alleviate the problem. Mr. Fraser is 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

Motion Divided Into Two Separate Motions

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come back to order. The Speaker ruled on my challenge and has recommended that the motion be broken into two separate motions. I will have the Clerk read the first motion just for clarification.

MR. MacQUARRIE: On a point of order. I think you have made an assumption as to which is the first motion. As the mover I would request, Mr. Chairman, that you deal with the second part of that motion as the first motion. To do otherwise is to deal with a substantive issue before a qualifier. That the qualifier should be dealt with first and then it is either out of the way or whatever and then you deal with the other substantive.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Does the committee agree we deal with the last part of the motion before the first part? Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I will have the Clerk read in the second part of the motion.

Motion To Accept Recommendations Contained In Minority Report, TD 26-83(1)

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): The motion is "I move that the recommendations contained in the minority report be accepted."

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

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to support the motion. It was mentioned earlier that Justice Potts did not have the courage to do the responsible thing when he brought forth his minority report and I would just like to say that Justice Potts was very courageous when he brought forth the minority report because it takes far more courage to go against the crowd.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: You should know.

MR. MacQUARRIE: A very nice compliment.

MRS. SORENSEN: I agree because, as Mr. Patterson states, I should know. I think that Justice Potts has gone against the crowd because he feels that his position is very fundamental and that he would not have done so if it were otherwise. In other words, he was not irresponsible. He was responsible and courageous.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: There was something that he said in his report that we have not made reference to and that is on the second page of his minority report in the second last paragraph where he says, "There is another important factor that should be considered during your deliberations. People of the North are working together to achieve common political, economic and social goals. An essential part of that co-operation is that the peoples of the North, native and non-native alike, must all feel that they are being fairly represented in our political system."

Supporting Reasons For A Fourth Yellowknife Constituency

Mr. Chairman, I submit to this Assembly that the people of Yellowknife do not feel that they will be fairly represented if they do not get the fourth seat, that they do support representation by population and they do support a fourth seat for Yellowknife on that basis, the basis of being fairly represented in their political system. They have nowhere else to go, no one else to appeal to but their Legislative Assembly. This is their home. Yellowknife is the place where they are bringing up their children and where they are paying their taxes. This is their government and they support their government, but they must be fairly represented in that government.

Mr. Chairman, with a fourth seat for Yellowknife and with a strong possibility that the new constituency will allow Yellowknife North to remain small and therefore a greater degree of chance that a native person could win -- if that native person was well organized -- I think that the situation would be better in that Yellowknife should have native representation in the Legislative Assembly and with a fourth seat Yellowknife North could elect a native person. That is one reason why we should support a fourth seat for Yellowknife.

Another reason is that I personally still have the largest constituency in the Northwest Territories...

MR. PATTERSON: Ludy Pudluk's is the largest.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...even with the breakdown as it is and I have had the largest constituency in terms of population for some time. It only makes sense that on a basis of representation by population we redistribute that and create a fourth seat. Yellowknife has been a growth centre for some time. It is not projected to be a growth centre, it is a growth centre and has been and, therefore, should have a fourth seat now.

The comments that were made earlier against Yellowknife having a seat, revolving around the fact that people in Yellowknife do not need further representation because they are better educated or they are sophisticated, really do not have any basis in this Legislature. I think they are unfair and it is unfair to penalize people who may have a better education and who may be more sophisticated. You do not take away rights from people because they are better educated. I think you could transfer that argument to any peoples. For instance, would this government begin to limit the representation of the Dogrib people because they were better educated or more sophisticated than the Slavey or the Hare or the Loucheux? I do not think we would do that. Why should we do that for those northerners who are not native? But if we begin to do that, if we begin to use that as a reason to prevent Yellowknife from having a seat then what guarantee

do native people who are not of certain majority linguistic background, what guarantee do they have that the same thing is not going to happen to them in a new western government? They have none. I think we are setting a precedent by using those kinds of arguments in this Legislature and I think we have to be very careful.

I think finally, Mr. Chairman, I too would like to quote the prayer and it is not the first time I have quoted the prayer. I used that in an argument once before when a motion was on the floor to move NCPC north, anywhere but Yellowknife. I like to think that as a result...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: That was a good motion.

MRS. SORENSEN: No, it was not a good motion and I like to think it was as a result of quoting the prayer that Mr. Butters withdrew his motion because it was Mr. Butters whose motion was on the floor. So maybe I will get him to support a seat for Yellowknife if I try the same tactic. I will not quote the whole prayer I will just say that it calls for us to "set aside all prejudices, private interests and partial affections". I think, Mr. Chairman, that we should all look seriously into ourselves and listen to the prayer once more and think deeply about why we are really saying no seat for Yellowknife and then read and re-read Mr. Justice Potts minority report, because those are the reasons that I think we should recommend a seat for Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. I have two other speakers if they wish to speak to the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, just to say I have some concern about the idea of an additional seat for Yellowknife. I think I will have to suggest that it will give people in the northern part of Yellowknife an opportunity to seek the representation that in my opinion they deserve, though the representation that they have received from Mr. Braden has been in my opinion quite sufficient and quite adequate. It is somewhat amazing to me that the champion of aboriginal rights or Dene rights in this House could suggest that the only people that live in Yellowknife are non-native people. Yet if you look at the type of services that are being offered to the native people in this community and in Detah, they are not comparable. I really suggest to you that whenever you walk down these streets or at least look at the kinds of services that are being offered in Yellowknife that you look far beyond the centre of this city.

The other item that I would like to suggest to people here, Inuktitut is not the only native language in the Northwest Territories and that if you intend to suggest that that is the only language then you are fooling yourselves. There are people...

AN HON. MEMBER: To the motion.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: There are people here who require representation. We have a situation in my opinion that people had better look at, because I know for a fact there are people who do not have houses, they do not have services, they require better capital expenditures yet we do not look at that. We look at the centre of Yellowknife and we say that is Yellowknife and that is not the fact. I think that you had better look further than your noses before you start talking and the suggestion of Mr. Curley, who is also going to take care of all native concerns, is a bunch of shit.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame!

---Applause

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: And that is a reality.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: And those are not glad tidings.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo, you will have to withdraw that. That is unparliamentary.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, I will withdraw the comment but I will tell you he will not take care of the Dene rights in this area. The reality is that I think that that situation should be rectified. I am arguing for the fact that people should look beyond what they are saying. I think that it is irresponsible of anyone in this House to say that people that are underserved at the moment should not receive any representation. That is irresponsible. I know that there are other constituencies that require it as much. I think that you should not look to other constituencies until you see what you have here and then look elsewhere.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. I must remind Members that we have a motion on the floor and we could maybe deal with the motion. I have Mr. Wray next.

Justice Potts Represented A Southern View

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief. I will vote against the motion on the basis that it is my opinion that Yellowknife is well serviced. We only have to live here for a few weeks to see just what kind of services they get. With regard to Mr. Nerysoo's concern he should not accuse the Eastern Arctic of trying to take away Dene rights in Yellowknife. Mr. Patterson used to say that we could support the position of an aboriginal seat in Yellowknife and none of us on this side have disagreed with that. The minority report does not address the question of an aboriginal seat in Yellowknife. It only asks that an additional seat be in Yellowknife and looking at the map it seems to me that the native people would not be serviced by the addition of that fourth seat as presently proposed in this minority report. So do not try and bring the Eastern Arctic into western squabbles.

When I said yesterday the commission split, it did split. It split and I used the wrong words. I should not have used "white/native"; it was split between permanent residents and people we brought in. We brought in somebody who knew nothing about the North, who travelled through communities and at least the two commissioners that came from the Territories had the guts to come out with a consensus opinion. They came out with what would be acceptable to the majority of the people in the Northwest Territories and Mr. Potts was gutless in not going along with them because all he did was represent a southern point of view that has no place in northern politics. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Wray. The next speaker I have is Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: I have been waiting to speak on a specific item because I felt I had said all I had to say in the previous meetings we have had on this issue and I did not feel it bore repeating. In regard to the motion that is on the floor I feel that I should clarify my feeling about that, which I have stated time and time again before.

In regard to Yellowknife having another seat, it was my understanding from certain representatives presently from Yellowknife that if we went to the Boundaries Commission they would be quite satisfied with realignment. They really would not want another seat. After all, they understand our wishes and they were really going along with the people that were in the hinterland. I think it was just Mr. MacQuarrie who really did not make that issue that clear, but with regard to the other Members it is my understanding that their basis of argument and support is that they really did not require another seat. I was quite surprised when I went to the Boundaries Commission and the people who had advocated that they really did not want another seat in Yellowknife, who said it was not necessary and there were other things that had to be looked at such as realignment, were there representing and asking for a fourth seat in Yellowknife. It seems to me that people should be a little more clear in what they want -- maybe they are and maybe they just changed their minds. I still stand very clearly that there should be no changes in the present distribution at all.

I am inclined to support the report. However, I have certain things to say in detail if I have a chance as it comes up. It seems to me that the arguments that are put forth for Yellowknife to have a fourth seat are that they really need another representative in Yellowknife. I have not heard any clear reason why that is necessary at this time and certainly it would have been brought up in discussing that particular issue whether it would have been an aboriginal seat, which would have been of interest to me and probably one I would think of entertaining because it would have been a precedent that would have been set that we could deal with and it would have been a progressive one.

Showing A Willingness To Accept Status Quo Government

However, in increasing seats in any part of the Northwest Territories, particularly in Yellowknife, I still maintain that if we do that, what we are indeed saying is that we are willing to accept a status quo government and we are willing to make these concessions in spite of the fact that we have not resolved the division or constitutional questions as yet. Those two questions are very important to the people in my region particularly because the increase may be telling the

people that I represent that the status quo is fine and then on the other side we are still discussing the constitutional issue of where the Beaufort Sea region fits in and who is going to be our father institution or mother institution. So I, as well as the people that I represent, find it very confusing in discussing the issue at all.

The Boundaries Commission was set up with a majority of people producing the majority of votes to do so. I accept that. In Yellowknife are the people really sure? You know, you asked us to look into our hearts and our souls as to whether Yellowknife is adequately represented or not. It seems to me that there are certain government services in Yellowknife that are held at the level in Yellowknife that have not been turned over to the regional government. We deal with it in the absence of it being in the regions so that devolution has not really occurred either. The devolution of authority is a token thing that the regional governments are dealing with right now. I was just asking Mr. McCallum on an issue that was of prime importance to my area and he told me I had better come down to Yellowknife in the spring if I want to talk about it because he would not be coming to my area.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: On a point of order. What does that have to do with the motion that is before you now as chairman? What does my conversation with Nellie Cournoyea have to do with the motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea, will you stick to the motion?

MS COURNOYEA: The reason I am citing the conversation is because I think that people who do live in Yellowknife, whether they are elected from Yellowknife or not, have a bias to stay in this community and have an affinity toward it.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, keep her on the motion.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, they are asking if they should have more representation because they only have a certain number and they are inadequately represented. Mr. Chairman, I say that Yellowknife is very well represented and the fact that they may not get a fourth seat at this time would not go over that oversight. I feel that in the fact that we have many of our Executive Members in Yellowknife it is fairly easy to relate to the people in this region because they are working with the majority of people who are the citizens and voters of Yellowknife. Those citizens and the majority of people who live in Yellowknife hold the power at the bureaucratic level. These are the things that we deal with from the community level and I believe that we have to recognize that because that is a fact of life. The voters who are living in Yellowknife are the people who do the government services to our region, who make the decisions in the finality of things. They do not have to be elected. They are there, they are appointed, they hold senior positions and I am not denying them that, but the fact is that they work within the institution that governs the Northwest Territories. As well, they have their elected people and I believe that Yellowknife at this time should not be supported in having a fourth seat. I believe with the realignment they...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: The bells are ringing.

MS COURNOYEA: ...have suggested it may be necessary to do this but Yellowknife does not need a fourth seat at this time. I feel it is not necessary for their adequate representation and I cannot support that they should have a fourth seat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. I have Mr. Curley next.

Good Relationships Between White and Native In Eastern Arctic

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak to the motion without being biased here to any region, any riding or to any individuals because really that is not my nature.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: I am proud to be a native person. I am proud to be a Canadian, but I do not have personal prejudice against the white people. That never appears in my riding. We have an easygoing relationship with them. Many of the white people in my riding in the Eastern Arctic, I am proud to say, are able to relate well and socialize with the people. I have been amazed at the number of white people, the teachers and government officials who relate and do things together. I would be glad to see the day that happens in this part of the North, particularly the Western Arctic. Would it not reduce that prejudice or whatever if it did exist anywhere to the people of the Western Arctic?

MRS. SORENSEN: Then vote for another seat for Yellowknife.

MR. CURLEY: A multicultural population like we have in the North? I would be prepared to move a motion later on that would ensure that the fourth seat in Yellowknife be assigned to the native and aboriginal persons. I must say that if we are going to do that we lack the courage to do so right now, because we say we have a constitution that might conflict with this and that, but I say that if we really want to, I do not think that the federal government would say to us it is unconstitutional. I think they would allow us to experiment with it, but there might be people in this part of the area that may not wish to go along with that assigning of the fourth seat.

I have always shown support for the native aspirations and will continue to do so. I want to be dissociated from being a person that would create some problems for the native people in Yellowknife and I say we must put the blame exactly where it is. I think other previous Assemblies and the Executive Members who have served have not done what they were supposed to be doing for the native peoples in this part of the area, and not the eastern Members of the Legislative Assembly. We were never there to represent them and it is a fact that we never did have a majority or any significant amount of MLAs in the Legislature.

Now that we are here and the request is made to do more, to channel more funds or programs or whatnot to native people in this part, I certainly would support wholeheartedly any proposal. But as far as a fourth seat in Yellowknife is concerned and what the minority report addresses, I am surprised that Mr. Braden would now change his position, when on November 15, 1982 he really stated and I quote one part of his statement "I think that the three Yellowknife MLAs currently and in the future are a sufficient number for the city, even though one could make some arguments on the population factor. So I would just like everybody to know that is where I am coming from with respect to Yellowknife. I think that we should be looking at some of the other larger communities which we anticipate will be growing in the future."

So I think that speaks for itself. I think if that were to be the position of the Member I think Inuvik certainly would be considered and be one good candidate for possible expansion in the future. So I will leave it at that and at this time I could not support the minority position, because democracy being as it is -- a minority is a minority and we were defeated on our motion as a minority last November to set up a Boundaries Commission, but we accepted the defeat of that minority vote against setting up the Electoral District Boundaries Commission and now that the report is here, we have to deal with it exactly as it is. It does not mean that there will never be a 25th seat in this Legislature, but I think we should give the benefit of that exercise to the 10th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was afraid someone would bring up those remarks I made in November. However, in my statement to the Potts commission I did acknowledge that I had originally thought that three Members were sufficient for the capital, however I changed my mind which I suppose is my prerogative to do that.

MRS. SORENSEN: Tagak does that all the time. Dennis votes three different ways sometimes.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Everybody does.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate many of the remarks that were made about the part of Yellowknife where a number of aboriginal people do reside. I particularly appreciate the comments made by Mr. Nerysoo. They were very forceful and I believe that they reflect a great concern that I know I have as their Member.

I would like to speak in support of this motion and perhaps comment a bit on the concept of an aboriginal seat. I am aware that Mr. Justice Potts did examine this concept and did receive a legal opinion which suggested that currently there would be some problems with taking that approach because of the constitution. However, with respect to the future, Members are aware that guaranteed representation in legislatures is an item that is being dealt with in the constitutional talks that are taking place between the Government of Canada, provincial governments and the national native organizations. So it is not a concept that is clearly unacceptable, it is one that is being developed at the national level. Now, I am not prepared to go into all of the reasons which were given to Mr. Justice Potts but suffice it to say that I can infer that he felt that given the state of the examination of the concept at this time and the possibility that such a move could be struck down because it is unconstitutional therefore it would be unwise to proceed.

Advantages Of Having Additional Yellowknife MLA

Now, with respect to an additional seat for Yellowknife I would like to raise a couple of other points that I do not think have been mentioned so far and they have to do less with the aspect of having better representation in the House and more with respect to the way the House operates currently and the way I expect it will continue to operate for the next four years or so. In my experience I have seen the Members from Yellowknife assume positions with respect to committees of the House and these positions have been enhanced in one respect because they live here in Yellowknife. Now, when we deal with legislation we can go to Mr. MacQuarrie and try to work things out from a committee perspective. Similarly, on finance matters we deal with Mrs. Sorensen and she is resident here, she is at work every day, she is a full-time Member. So I ask you to consider the factor that Yellowknife Members are significant in that they are resident here in the capital city and in terms of dealing with House business they are on committees and it is easy in a sense for us in the government to work with Yellowknife Members who are serving the House by virtue of their being on committees.

This is the point that I have tried to make again. It is worth trying to make it again -- that Yellowknife Members do not just serve Yellowknife. For the past three and a half years they have served the House by being Members of committees and the two I mentioned are the standing committee on legislation and the standing committee on finance. So from a practical perspective I would suggest that having another Yellowknife Member would provide an additional committee servant so to speak who is resident here in Yellowknife and who can do committee work from their desk here in Yellowknife. So I suggest that that is perhaps one of the factors that you might take into consideration beyond just having another representative.

Mr. Chairman, I made my points yesterday in respect of Yellowknife. I know one can argue statistics and I am really not quite sure whether MacQuarrie's statistics are valid or Patterson's statistics are valid. I think the point is to come down to the fact that Yellowknife because of its size deserves another seat and I do not detect that there is any great will in this House to proceed that way. I find it unfortunate that as a Yellowknife Member, I went out and publicly supported, as did my colleagues, additional rural representation, recognizing that it was required, yet when we three Yellowknife MLAs get the pulse of our community, the community says "Well, we really think that we need another seat here" and it is not because with another Member, Yellowknife is going to be able to pull all the strings and exercise a lot more influence, four out of 25. Now, we get the pulse of our community and they say "Fight for another seat." We say, "okay we will do that", but I think we are being fair as well in recognizing that the rural areas need better representation as well. Within the 25 seats the split was fairly obvious when I made my recommendations, one for Kitikmeot, one for Mackenzie Liard and one for Yellowknife, and I do not detect any great measure of support from either of those two Members for a seat for Yellowknife.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Now, when I made my opening remarks yesterday I asked that there be some good reasons put forth as to why Yellowknife should not have a seat and I refer to Mr. Curley's reading of my earlier remarks and I still believe that there has to be some recognition of growth areas. Obviously the Boundaries Commission did not feel that that was a factor that they would take into consideration in this report anyway. So I have heard some good reasons as to why perhaps Yellowknife should not be considered for another seat but I quite frankly am somewhat disappointed that Members have chosen to zero in on the capital city and to make some remarks which I do not believe accurately reflect the nature of this city. Mr. Nerysoo very, very eloquently supported in his earlier remarks that we should not just judge Yellowknife from what we see downtown and in the suburbs. Mr. Chairman, for what it is worth I would urge Members to reconsider what they have said and to support an additional seat for Yellowknife. I do not think that you will be making a mistake if you do it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Fraser.

Not In Favour Of Fourth Seat For Yellowknife

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to clarify what I said yesterday. I do not know if I made myself quite clear. If a vote did come up for the extra seat, I did not specify that it should be in Yellowknife and I wanted to make that clear. I do not know if Yellowknife needs another seat. Maybe they need new Members. That could be looked at.

---Applause

MR. MacQUARRIE: You will probably get them!

MR. FRASER: They are doing all they can to get that extra seat and I have always said that Yellowknife seems to always come first in everything and there are other communities in the Northwest Territories that are just as important as Yellowknife as far as I am concerned.

---Applause

I think we should be looking a little further than just Yellowknife. I maintain that I always said the reason the population is so great in Yellowknife is because if somebody drives over that road in the summer he just stays here. He does not want to go back over that 200 miles of road. Just to make myself clear, Mr. Chairman, I would maybe say that if I did vote in favour of 25 seats and if the seat was specifically for Yellowknife it would be against my best decision and the decision of my constituents to vote in that favour. Thank you.

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, when I made the presentation to the Electoral District Boundaries Commission part of my presentation included that if a fourth seat was considered for Yellowknife, that particular seat should be reserved for a person of aboriginal descent. I feel that would be the best approach. However, there are some legal problems associated with the proposition. I suppose we can make an amendment and even though it was passed I would imagine someone would challenge such a piece of legislation and the matter may appear before the courts. If it was overturned, then that particular seat, reserved for a person of aboriginal descent, would disappear.

Western MLAs Should Start Working Together

I think if we do consider an additional seat to make it 25, then it should perhaps go to one of the larger communities. So I am not totally hung up in that regard. But I do feel that every time we are dealing with a particular sensitive issue, especially when it is an issue that divides the House between the West and the East, I have been particularly disappointed and I find it rather difficult that somehow, even though the western MLAs make up the majority in this House, that they do not seem to agree. This makes it very easy for the East to more or less take control. Why vote for 24, why not just keep the number at 22? From my point of view increasing it to 24 will not resolve this situation.

MR. CURLEY: That is what he is trying to say.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Suppose we did increase it to 24. It will mean there will be 11 Members from the Eastern Arctic and 13 from the West. There is a good possibility that the Speaker will again come from the West. There is also a good possibility that your Deputy Speaker will come from the West. What that means is that we have a situation where you have 11 to 11 and if you talk about the balance I suppose I do not agree with Dennis Patterson in this regard. I respect his position because, if I was a Member from the Eastern Arctic, I would take the same position that he has taken. However, I do not come from the East. I come from the West so I see it as a very difficult issue on which we will not have consensus among ourselves. If we go for an additional seat, as Dennis has indicated, it will be a situation where we will be arguing and fighting among ourselves with or without gloves. The way I look at it is that is what we have been doing for the last few years anyway so what the hell is the difference? So that is reality from my point of view.

So in particular I am sure that people from communities in the West must be wondering sometimes why can those MLAs from the West not get their act together and start working together instead of having three or four hopping between the East and the West? I find it rather intriguing to see how we are addressing ourselves to this report. I do not really see how I could support increasing it to 24. I think I would prefer to support keeping the number of elected Members to 22. I think that the particular motion we are dealing with right now ought to be amended. It should not specifically say Yellowknife. It should be a seat that perhaps should go to some of the other regions.

My feeling is that I do not think we will get sufficient support for this particular motion so we are back to 24 and even that I will not support. Some people are rather parochial in their perspective and it is rather unfortunate because people should look at the broad picture of the

implications of numbers. Even though I support increasing aboriginal Members in this House I do not feel that it should be done at the expense of some of the people. If there was no legal problem, I would definitely support a seat for Yellowknife that ought to be reserved for a person of aboriginal descent. Tagak Curley mentioned that he would be prepared to support it. I do not know what he was alluding to. Perhaps he was saying that perhaps we do not have the political will to go that way.

Amendment To Motion To Accept Recommendations Contained In Minority Report, TD 26-83(1), Withdrawn

So, having said that, Mr. Chairman, I will amend the motion and I will add the following after the words "report be accepted" add the words "but that it be reserved only for candidates of aboriginal descent". This will indicate to the people of the North that the present First Ministers' constitutional meetings have indicated that is the direction we will be moving in and that the Northwest Territories should provide some leadership in this area, even in the midst of the possibility of having the matter challenged. The way I look at it there is a good possibility we will go back to 24 and I am indicating to my colleagues from Deh Cho and Kitikmeot I will not support that proposition. That is not to indicate to the Dene that I do not support additional representation, but I feel that had the honourable Member from Deh Cho been a little more open minded then I would have supported his proposition. If the West is going to be divided then let us be divided, but let us not do it...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Are you making a motion or bringing an amendment? Could you please state your amendment and afterwards we can come back to it?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I am making an amendment to the motion adding the following words: "but that it be reserved only for candidates of aboriginal descent". That is my amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): We will just take a few minutes to look at your amendment.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: A point of order. Mr. Chairman, I would like to withdraw that amendment and introduce another one, because there might be some problems with that amendment that I just introduced. So I would like to withdraw it and in its place I will introduce another amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Okay, the amendment is withdrawn.

Amendment To Motion To Accept Recommendations Contained In Minority Report, TD 26-83(1)

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I would like to introduce the following amendment. At the end of "report be accepted" add "and the new seat shall be established in such a way that one seat consists of Detah, Rainbow Valley and Latham Island and those areas to the northeast already designated in the minority report schedule C."

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): May we have a copy of it? Your amendment is in order, Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, again I appreciate this interest in my constituency and while I recognize that Mr. Wah-Shee's first amendment was clearly unconstitutional an attempt is being made now to propose a fourth seat which would not have any trouble standing up in terms of the courts and the constitution of Canada. Given that it is my constituency and there would necessarily have to be some additional boundary adjustments to the rest of Yellowknife, I would like a little time to look at this. I am not opposed fundamentally to the concept, because what it does is it achieves an additional seat for the city, but as I say I would like a bit of time to think about the consequences for the constituency and the adjustments to others. So if the rest of you would like to talk for the next 25 minutes or so I will be able to get a bit more thought, but I am clearly put on the spot on this one as you can detect.

MRS. SORENSEN: Talk to Mike Ballantyne.

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

Amendment Would Be Gerrymandering

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to read a definition from Black's Law Dictionary of the word "gerrymander". The definition is "A name given to the process of dividing a state or other territory into the authorized civil or political divisions, but with such a geographical arrangement as to accomplish an ulterior or unlawful purpose, as for instance, to secure a majority for a given political party in districts where the result would be otherwise if they were divided according to obvious natural lines."

Now, I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, that in the absence of a constitutional amendment to permit guaranteed representation what we would be doing if we approved this amendment would be gerrymandering. We would be specifically aligning the Yellowknife constituency so as to accomplish a particular result, which would be to guarantee the election of a native person. I would respectfully suggest that we will be getting ourselves into difficulty under the Canadian constitution until it is amended. I would have supported Mr. Wah-Shee's earlier amendment, because I felt that when the constitution was amended to allow guaranteed representation which I support, then that seat could have been reserved to an aboriginal person, but I do not think that we can do it through the back door in this manner and I am afraid I can not support it, because I think it is gerrymandering.

As much as I sympathize with what Mr. Wah-Shee wants to do, I think it is unconstitutional at the moment, although I am committed to working hard to see that the constitution is amended to permit this. I think it is gerrymandering. So I regret I would not be able to support the amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Ms Cournoyea. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the amendment.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that the honourable Member for Frobisher Bay read the definition of gerrymandering, because that was quite an instant proof that that is not what would be happening if this were to be done. The motive or purpose would not be ulterior, but very direct and forthright and in accordance with the kinds of concerns that are already used and indeed which the commission was directed to take into account when it formulated the various constituencies.

---Applause

It is true that if there were such a constituency, that a native person would have a very strong likelihood of winning that constituency, but there is no guarantee, just as there are no guarantees in any of the constituencies. You noted that it included Latham Island and while there are native people living on Latham Island there are non-native people. It includes the area along the Ingraham Trail and there are non-native people living along the Ingraham Trail, so there is no guarantee that it would be a native representative, but there is a strong likelihood that that would occur. I think that taking language, culture, geography and all of these things into account is what the commission has attempted to do, but in addition, it has the happy facility of taking into account the principle of representation by population. I will be able to support this amendment, but I agree that it would take a little time to think through exactly what must happen with other constituencies.

The reason I say it is not gerrymandering is because there could be broad agreement on what those boundaries should be which are not particularly advantageous to any candidate specifically. We do not have a party system and therefore it is not particularly advantageous to a particular party. That is where the word gerrymandering originated, for that kind of purpose. It is very clear that that is not the intention here at all. So I believe that I will be able to support this. I want a little more time to look at it as well though. I will move at this time, Mr. Chairman, that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): It is not debatable. All of those in favour? Opposed? May we have a recount please? All of those in favour of reporting progress? Opposed?

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: That is what you are there for, Robert.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): We have a tied vote. We keep the debate going.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Defeated

MR. SIBBESTON: May I make a motion that we extend the hour beyond 6:00 so that we finish the matter that we are dealing with, basically the two motions with respect to accepting the recommendations and also this one that we are presently dealing with?

MRS. SORENSEN: No way, no way!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): All of those in favour of extending the sitting hours please raise your hand. Opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

To the amendment. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to speak to the amendment. I want to speak to the original motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I cannot support the amendment. I certainly was willing to support some kind of provision for aboriginal people, although I did not really know how that would be done in terms of how you would separate the community of Yellowknife into those different ethnic groups. Certainly the motion that is on the floor is no more than asking for a fourth seat in Yellowknife, I cannot support that and that is exactly what the motion says. They want a fourth seat in Yellowknife. They have detailed some communities to make us feel sympathetic that the aboriginal people will be taken care of. However, all the motion says is that we will have a fourth seat in Yellowknife and I cannot support that for the reason I stated before. So I would suggest that the motion that is on the floor be defeated as it is, as it states, not what it purports to do.

Mr. Patterson states in his reply on the motion, something about gerrymandering. I really do not know what that is; it is a big word. But at the same time if we are going to address the issue of native people and representation, I think we should just do that and really address that issue, not try to go around and make halfway solutions to the problem hoping people will be comfortable that something actually is done, but in the end frustrating people because they find that what they really wanted and what they had sought to achieve is never realized. That is what the frustration is, when people are only given a peripheral solution to the problems, the ingrained problems of representation. We have not answered the question of that issue yet. Mr. Wah-Shee touched on it a bit in terms of guaranteed representation of aboriginal people and, as Mr. Braden has stated, it was unconstitutional and that amendment would have been thrown out. So I advocate, Mr. Chairman, that the thrust of creating another seat in Yellowknife also will fail in representing native people and their interests. Until such time as we address that particular issue to its fullest and to its totality then no peripheral solution is going to be a solution that people will find comfort in. This motion here is just to create another seat for Yellowknife, nothing else. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I wonder if a copy of the motion could be circulated as well as a map of the new line that has been drawn on the Yellowknife constituency.

MR. MacQUARRIE: And a translation.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: And a translation, please.

MRS. SORENSEN: Report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. I will report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sayine.

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

MR. SAYINE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 26-83(1) and I wish to report progress.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Members are reminded of the caucus meeting at 6:00 this evening.

ITEM NO. 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, May 13, 9:30 a.m.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until 9:30 Friday, May 13th.

---ADJOURNMENT

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