



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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Speaker: The Honourable Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1983

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Thursday, September the 8th. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Appaqaq.

ITEM NO. 2: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. Appaqaq's Reply

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the Members of the Assembly. My reply is not going to be very lengthy. First of all, I would like thank the government which has worked very hard to get a power plant in Sanikiluaq. They are building it right now and they very much appreciate that.

---Applause

But the most important thing now is the school to be built in Sanikiluaq. Maybe it will get there now, eventually, when the ship comes in this summer. I am not too sure about it yet, however. I would also like to express my thanks for being able to come to Yellowknife to attend these sessions, and that what we have voiced in the House has been heard, even though there is still much to be done.

I would like everyone to know that this summer, in Sanikiluaq, the hunters have been harassed by the federal government Fisheries and Oceans people. We heard that they were going to be coming into our area but they just informed us partially. They did not say that they were going to bring their noisy boats over there. Their helicopters were also brought there but they did not inform us that they were going to use them. This summer the geese and the wildlife were harassed very much and even some of them that stay around in our area in the summertime have not been seen very much. The people should be informed about everything that they are going to bring and what they are going to do before they enter the communities, because it is very annoying when they come in and they harass our wildlife.

I would also like to make a statement. At the beginning of the Commissioner's Address, perhaps I did not understand him clearly. I am not saying thank you to the government but I am saying this. I heard that the people who harassed would have to go to court, or people that commit a crime have to go to court; even though they do not have any money, they have to pay some kind of a fee. I heard that the government will be assisting those people who go to court and are charged and have to pay the fee. To me it seems to be an encouragement to commit a crime. It seems that the government is doing that to encourage the people to commit crime, because they do not have to worry about paying their court costs or their fines. In that respect, I as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, did not want to have anything to do with this.

I do not want to make a lengthy speech and I do not have very much left to say. Lastly, I would like to say that I want to see you again as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, if the Sanikiluaq people vote for me, even if in some parts it is not always a happy event. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Replies. Mrs. Sorensen.

Mrs. Sorensen's Reply

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to reply for the last time to the House. I have several different topics that I am going to cover. I will tell you first what I am not going to say. I am not going to spend a lot of time today saying how good a job the Ninth Assembly has done, and I think we all agree that it has done a good job. I am not going to say a great deal about how much I admire and respect both the Commissioner, Mr. Parker, and the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Pilot. I do respect them, and I am certainly not going to sing the praises of the Executive Council...

MR. MacQUARRIE: For obvious reasons.

Change In Attitude Of Territorial Civil Service

MRS. SORENSEN: Well, I might say a little bit later about them, but what I am going to do is to spend a little bit of time commenting and commending the work of many of the people in the territorial civil service. I do not know about my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, but I have noticed a very definite change, in fact a tremendous change, in attitude among our civil servants. Gone is the -- I guess the saying, "We cannot do it", or "We will not do it", and replacing that stance has been "Tell us what you want and we will show you how to do it in the best way we can." I think that best reflects the change in the attitude of our civil servants. There is far less cynicism and far more commitment than I detected in 1979. People working for the territorial government are much more protective of the North and its interests than ever before. The federal civil servants have noticed this too. More than one federal servant has said to me that there exists a much stronger loyalty, Mr. Speaker, to the NWT, to the Legislature, among our bureaucrats, than existed four years ago.

Our Western Arctic population, particularly in Yellowknife and around the lake, is very much stabilizing. Perhaps it is due to the recession. We all know that jobs are scarce right now in the South. Perhaps it is in some measure due to our housing policy, which was implemented by the Executive Committee not long after we were elected, and has forced a commitment by most of our civil servants to either move on or to stay and really settle into the community of Yellowknife and the surrounding areas. Many have purchased homes and others have begun paying the higher market rent for homes, trailers and apartments that they are now renting, at least in Yellowknife. So, Mr. Speaker, many people, many of my constituents, have decided to settle in and that has made a great deal of difference to the attitude that has prevailed in Yellowknife in the recent years. My constituency, for instance, has gone from 2200 voters in the last election to an estimated 3800 -- perhaps even more -- in 1983.

Northerners

I am quite confident, Mr. Speaker, in saying that in 1983 we certainly have a pretty good civil service. We are, of course, in need, always in need of new blood and certainly in need of more women and more native people in the upper management, but I have detected an improvement and I hope that it will continue to improve in the coming years. The other evening at my constituency meeting a man asked me if I felt there was anything we could do to get the federal bureaucracy to recognize through their supplies-purchasing and contract-letting that northern businesses and suppliers were anxious to benefit. He did take the time to say that he did recognize that the territorial government had been recognizing northern business, particularly over the last four years. My response to him was that the best way to solve that problem is to get men and women, both native and non-native, into those federal positions; people who know and understand and love the North and intend to make it their home. Then, and through that, Mr. Speaker, the federal civil servants will also develop a commitment to the community and to the Territories in addition to their federal jobs. Just as Quebeckers work for the federal government in Quebec, and Albertans in Alberta, so too should northerners in the Northwest Territories work for and carry out federal policies in the NWT. I think that is the best way to get a strong sensitivity to the North and to continue the process of stabilizing our non-native population.

Fund-Raising Activities Of Voluntary Organizations

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn my attention to the work of the volunteer and the semi-volunteer agencies in Yellowknife. Over the past few years Yellowknife has seen a number of agencies, very

worthwhile agencies, faced with financial problems. There have been cutbacks in their government funding and that has been a major problem, but rather than cry and bemoan the fact, rather than march and protest, rather than chastise the territorial government and the Legislature, these agencies have set about to supplement their meagre government grants through fund-raising activities.

So we have seen Storefront, which is the agency representing a majority of volunteer agencies in town, aided financially by Echo Bay Mines, hold an annual dinner and dance and casino night which lasts until the wee hours of the morning and does raise funds for all voluntary agencies that belong to Storefront in the city of Yellowknife. Bingos, bake sales and raffles have sponsored many a baseball team, a curling team, the day care facilities, the play school and Moms and Tots drop-in centre. And recently Arctic House, the halfway house for inmates leaving the correctional institute, even went so far as to bring us a singing group called the Nylons this summer to help raise funds. In addition, the Council for Disabled Persons holds a massive auction and celebrity night each year and raises hundreds of dollars for the handicapped. Most recently the hospital staff has worked hard to raise funds for two major pieces of equipment called birthing beds. Over the years, staff and individuals in the city of Yellowknife have raised money for everything from toys for the children's department to incubators for the hospital. Certainly this reflects how the people of Yellowknife view their hospital and the importance of it.

All of this would not be possible if it were not for the men and the women, the parents and the singles of this community, people who are putting something of themselves into Yellowknife, people who are taking pride in helping the capital city to provide its citizens with all kinds of opportunities and services, independently of the government or the very best next thing, semi-independently of the government. As a politician and as a person involved in government, I wish it to be known that I appreciate the work of the volunteer and I firmly believe that without their commitment and energy, Yellowknife would not have the wonderful services that it has now.

Legislature Award For Voluntary Service Suggested

The volunteer, however, is an endangered species, Mr. Speaker, and without recognition, without acknowledgement, we may see the volunteer disappear altogether. Every community has and needs the volunteer and I think it is time that our Legislature considered a yearly award of its own, independent of the Commissioner's Award for bravery or public service, for a volunteer who has shown exceptional dedication in this area and to his or her community. Nominations could go to a special committee of the House or to the Management and Services Board or indeed to the Speaker's Office, and all MLAs and their constituents would have the opportunity to nominate the individuals they feel most deserving.

Future Structure Of Executive Council

Mr. Speaker, I wish now to turn my attention to the Executive Council. I think that the structure itself could be improved. I am convinced that changes could be made for the better for the 10th Assembly. I recently had the pleasure of having a long conversation with Mr. Braden where he raised with me the possibility of MLAs acting as parliamentary secretaries, either in concert with or to the Ministers in the 10th Assembly, with special responsibility for crown corporations, for territorial boards and commissions. Mr. Braden's concept, I believe, is worth pursuing by the 10th Assembly, certainly by the caucus of the 10th Assembly. Since Mr. Braden, I understand, has declared yesterday that he is not running again, and obviously since no major decisions will be taken by Mr. Braden in the time that we are all out on the trenches campaigning, he will obviously have the time to devote to writing a paper of his recommendations on the make-up for the Executive Council of the 10th Assembly. I would say that we would promise Mr. Braden that the first act of the 10th Assembly would not be to throw out your paper...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: But that would be different this time, would it not?

MRS. SORENSEN: But I would ask you to consider that, Mr. Braden. I think that your experience has been a worthwhile one and I wish that you would share it with the 10th Assembly as one of the first items for caucus to discuss. If you do a good job of that, of course, the Legislature may consider giving you a job as a consultant, that is, if COPE does not get you, or Imperial Oil does not get you, or John Munro does not get you, since I understand you were praising our Minister yesterday.

I believe quite sincerely, Mr. Speaker, that we should take advantage of the experiences that both Mr. Braden and the Executive Council have had with respect to their roles in the Legislature and certainly in government over the last four years. To Mr. Braden, I would like to say thank you for often being the go-between in the Legislature. You have been described by some of the press, at least on one occasion, as "the voice of reason" which, of course, I never did agree to or with, but I have recognized that you have come to the assistance of the Legislature during some particularly heavy debates -- although I certainly recognize that from time to time I personally have contributed to making your life somewhat difficult. I certainly do not apologize for it, however, but I recognize that I have done that. I sincerely believe, as no doubt Mr. Sibbeston believes, that it is through badgering, through pushing and often through fighting that we can come up with what I consider to be some pretty good policies. We have our extremes on both sides and you have been, I guess, to some extent, a voice of reason. What there is a place for is a good Liberal, and I am describing what I think is a good Liberal, and you are the epitome of a good Liberal.

---Laughter

---Applause

Commissioner Has Been The Right Man At the Right Time

I would like to now turn my attention to the Commissioner. There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Parker has been the right man at the right time. I think he has probably heard that statement more -- or at least individuals have heard that statement more -- said about him than any other statement. I believe that Mr. Parker has been the right man at the right time because he has known when to stay quiet. He has exercised extreme patience and he has in public always been extremely supportive of the direction that the Legislature has taken. His job has been that of a stabilizer. He has been quietly competent and has been willing to take a back seat, or a low profile, in the face of the developing identities of the northern politicians. I believe that history will say that he was a great man, and I will say now that he is a great man.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: I might even dare, Mr. Commissioner, to say that you are my kind of man.

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: Well, that really blew the compliment.

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSEN: You are only in league with one other.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Are you Shirley Temple today, or...?

Speaker A Great Contribution

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, so that you do not feel left out, I will say that you tickle my fancy, too. I say that with the greatest of respect, sir. I have served on the Members' Services and Management and Services Boards with the Speaker and have worked with him when he was a Member of the standing committee on finance. In both instances I have found you, Mr. Stewart, to be a great contributor, I believe as a result of your long-time political and business experience and that combined with your great love of a hell of a good fight, which I do not often win but we often have in our committees. You can just imagine, if you throw Nellie Cournoyea, Don Stewart and Peter Fraser into a finance committee you can imagine how some of the meetings turned out. I will never forget the meeting where we actually dragged Don Stewart, kicking and screaming all the way, to visit the dump in Tuk with Nellie leading the way to show us the situation that had resulted from the impact of development in that constituency -- in her constituency. But that was the kind of man he was. He complained often but he always came along and he always came through in the final analysis.

Staff Of The Legislative Assembly

Mr. Speaker, my farewell speech would not be complete if I did not make mention of the staff of the Legislative Assembly. Having shared the same facilities over the last four years, I have had the opportunity of observing these employees first hand, and in every case, from the receptionist to the Hansard workers, from the office supervisor to the financial clerk, this Assembly has been very well served.

--Applause

It cannot always be easy working for what, in essence, is 22 different bosses, all with their own priorities and their own egos, but our Assembly staff have maintained their fierce loyalty, have worked extremely hard, often pulling together things at the very last minute, and I refer Members to the very hurried trip that we took to Ottawa during our constitutional crisis and how our staff rallied and made that a very good experience for us all.

Tribute To Mr. David Hamilton

I would like to pay a very special tribute to David Hamilton. I have yet to meet a more dedicated, more hard-working, more efficient and more cheerful in the face of great trial and tribulation, person, a more dedicated person than our David, and my worst fear is that someone may try to steal him from the Assembly, so I will not say any more about, I guess, what a first-class person he is in case there may be an attempt to steal him from us.

---Applause

Nearly every speech that I have made in reply to the Commissioner's opening Address contains references about CBC, and -- no, you are not going to get off light in this -- to NCPC and NorthwTel. Of course, this one will be no different.

First, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely believe CBC has come a long way in the last four years. They certainly have not come far enough but they are well on the way to, I believe, becoming what is a truly northern service. The hiring of a special Legislative Assembly reporter was an excellent decision and I have enjoyed Mr. Earl's commentary and probing reporting. The introduction of the weekly news magazine television program called Focus North, and now the expanded version to the native languages, has been very well received and it is a very worthwhile show to watch on a weekly basis. The hiring of more local people, both native and non-native people, has been a welcome change to their once very southern-oriented hiring policy. However, Mr. Speaker, not is all perfect; there are three additional things that I would like to see instituted in our national broadcasting entity.

Requests Regarding CBC

The relocation of northern service to the North from Ottawa; I do not accept the argument that Ottawa is central and therefore the reason why it should remain there. I believe sincerely that in order to understand the needs of the North, the CBC staff and policy makers who have anything to do with the North must live in the North. I am not particularly referring to Yellowknife; it could be Frobisher, it could be Rankin, it could be Whitehorse, anywhere but southern Canada and certainly anywhere but Ottawa.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we need a daily morning or evening television news and interview program. Right now, citizens of the Western Arctic see TV news on local channels from really right across this country. They can see Hamilton TV news, they can see Edmonton TV news, they can see Vancouver TV news and Ottawa, but there is nothing coming over television about northern news, and I think we certainly deserve that service and are ready for that kind of a service too.

The third request I would have for CBC is for the televising of Question Period from the House of Commons. Every capital city in Canada receives Question Period except Yellowknife but not necessarily through the CBC. I would like to see at least our capital city included in that service, and if CBC cannot find its way clear to carry it then at least our local cable television should. As Mr. Bob Rhodes, the program manager, and Doug Ward will testify, I make regular little

visits or write numerous letters to CBC to make my suggestions or critique of our great corporation. I believe that in addition to its mandate for Canadian unity and for the promotion of Canadian culture, that CBC has a far larger mandate; to serve the remote regions of Canada where daily newspapers are almost non-existent, where weekly newspapers are scarce, and where the people, for the most part, operate in an oral society. The sooner CBC makes the servicing of remote regions one of its priorities, the sooner, Mr. Speaker, it can claim to have begun to fulfil that mandate of promoting Canadian unity.

One last note on CBC. I knew for a fact that when long-term northerners travel to the South, and even not-so-long-term northerners, travel, they often do turn to CBC. I think that does say something about the television programming that CBC does offer to Canadians, if they seek it out on their channels when they go south where they have many more options for radio programming.

Northern Canada Power Commission

On the topic of NCPC, I notice we still have no decision to move the headquarters north from Edmonton. The excuse now is the National Energy Board study. We are all looking forward to reading the results of their exhaustive study, but I am afraid that like the countless studies before it, the bottom line will be the forgiveness of the huge debt, or a debt to equity solution. That, naturally, will take political will on the part of the federal government and through them, the southern taxpayer.

Criticisms Of NorthwTel

Regarding NorthwTel, Mr. Speaker, the service is so bad right now that I feel I must bring it up in my remarks today. Last week, it had deteriorated to such a state that I finally decided to take pen in hand to write the general manager in Whitehorse. Before sending the letter, I canvassed a few people in the office and had already talked to a number of my constituents about the problems that they were experiencing. Something, Mr. Speaker, has got to be done about the problem, and I am going to, for the sake of clarification, list some of the problems that people have brought to my attention, and I have experienced myself, in the hope that if it gets brought up in the Legislature, perhaps NorthwTel will take the criticism and the complaints seriously.

There are a number of them. We are having difficulty getting the operator to respond. When you dial, the telephone can ring as many as 25 times before we get a response from the operator. We are still having problems with long-distance calls being cut off after five or 10 minutes, and having to go back through the operator for clarification and for rebate on charges. The quality of our long-distance lines is still very, very poor in the Western Arctic. There is more than one person on the same line, and from time to time you can pick up the phone, dial a number and be introduced to a conversation that is going on either within government or outside government. A local number can be dialled, but often does not connect and must be redialled. The operator can be dialled, but does not connect and then must be redialled as well. That happens more than just on occasion; it happens regularly. You can direct dial long distance, and nothing happens after you have finished dialling and so must re-dial, again. You can dial a number, the number rings and rings, and you later contact the person by another means, and they say that they were there but the phone did not ring. Again, Mr. Speaker, it is happening too often to be coincidence. There is another couple of problems. You can dial a local number and the recording says that it is not in service, and although you know that you have talked to it a few minutes ago, or you know very well that that number is in service. Then you can re-dial and it is okay and you get the person on the other end. Again it happens too often to be the wrong dialling.

On a positive side, Mr. Speaker, the problems associated with improper billing are being handled quickly and courteously and without any hassle by the staff here in Yellowknife. So I would not want my remarks to be interpreted as being against the local workers in NorthwTel. But it is certainly something that we are going to have to deal with as soon as possible.

It is my understanding from a conversation that I had a few months ago with Mr. Patterson, that Bell Telephone provides an excellent service in the Eastern Arctic. I cannot quite understand why an area like the Eastern Arctic can be so well served in such a remote condition, when NorthwTel cannot produce the same kind of...

AN HON. MEMBER: Better MLAs.

MRS. SORENSEN: Better MLAs, right, right. I will move into the final stages of my remarks, Mr. Speaker. I think most MLAs know that I will be running for office, once again, in Yellowknife South.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: I am busy now putting together my platform and gathering my campaign workers. I am naturally hopeful that the electorate in Yellowknife South will see fit to renew my mandate. I would like at this time to wish all my colleagues who are running again good luck and to say thank you very much for making the four years stay in the House a challenging and an interesting one for me. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. I would like to recognize in the House the speaker of BRC, Joe Morgan, and the executive committee member, Iola Metuq, and, I believe, Don Ferguson, from the council of the town of Hay River.

--Applause

Members' replies. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Mr. MacQuarrie's Reply

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I note that in the winter session, the budget session, and again in the spring session, that you, Mr. Speaker, thought that there would be a rush of replies, a lot of political speeches in view of the forthcoming election. Of course that did not happen in those sessions, but it seems to be beginning to happen now. In view of remarks that you have made from time to time, Mr. Speaker, about my speeches, most recently at the Hansard conference, I sense that you would be very disappointed if I did not reply, and so although I was not going to, I thought, well I do not want to disappoint the Speaker, so...

I can say, Mr. Speaker, that since the May session I went through a lot of turmoil, personal turmoil, as to whether I would or would not run again. I was within a hair's breadth of deciding not to run, but when it reached that point, and I realized that if I did not run I would have to get out and actually work for a living again, that soon knocked that nonsense out of my head. I affirm, Mr. Speaker, that I will run, once again seeking to represent the people of Yellowknife Centre in the 10th Assembly.

---Applause

I will run as an independent, and I should say, Mr. Speaker, it would be untrue if I told you that I had made that decision at the urging of the honourable Member for Keewatin South, and so I will not tell you that.

---Laughter

Along with all the other Members who are running, Mr. Speaker, we face an exciting and very challenging next few months, and of course every politician enjoys a challenge, and I intend to enjoy it. The big question that faces all of us is who is going to run against us, and will they be candidates who have party affiliations, because that has recently been coming onto the scene? As you know, Mr. Speaker, the scent of political power to political parties is very much like the scent of sweat to mosquitoes. As soon as they sniff sweat, there is a frenzy of activity and they begin to buzz around looking for blood.

Although the Liberal party seems to have indicated in at least one riding that it is interested in running candidates — and so I will have a look at the circumstances with respect to that, first of all. I noted, Mr. Speaker, on the front page of the Edmonton Journal, February 6, I think it was, one of the honourable Members of this House, and he is going to remain nameless so that he will have the option if he chooses, to perform that marvellous political manoeuvre that is known as the "southern double reverse", with liberal variations, if he should choose to do so. At any rate, he will remain nameless, but he is reported in the paper as having said that nearly half of the Members in this House are Liberals and that others are interested in joining the Liberal party...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Not me.

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...and that in fact, this Legislature stood the chance of being the only Legislature in the whole country with a Liberal majority. Now, Mr. Speaker, I agree that there is some truth in those remarks, but I think there is more truth outside of them.

---Laughter

What the honourable Member did not say, of course, is that that might happen if these Members did not actually run as Liberals, but rather ran as independents and then after successful election, said, "Oh, yes, there is a little something that I forgot to mention during the campaign", and that might well work. But at any rate, I am sure that the honourable Member must realize that there is a politician's prayer sweeping the country at this very moment, and it is "Father, if I have to run against somebody, please let it be a Liberal." So I do not really think...

—Applause

I do not really think we have to worry too much about the Liberals forming a majority in this House in the next election.

---Applause

Maybe I should say, Mr. Speaker, there was another party that displayed an interest as well in the forthcoming election, and I refer of course to the meteoric Northern party.

—Laughter

It briefly streaked across the sky with a great deal of brilliance but it seems to have disappeared from view. But I will not be too cynical about it; perhaps it is actually a comet rather than a meteor and we may see it again sometime -- in a hundred years or so. But at any rate I wish, Mr. Speaker, that we in this House had the liberty of wearing hats so that I could now take off my hat in memory of the tragic and early passing of the Northern party.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: The party that was going to save us all from the federal government, and ourselves from each other.

---Laughter

The passing of that party, Mr. Speaker, was so tragic because it was very sudden and unexpected. Not six months ago, Mr. Speaker, you will probably remember it as well as I, that a respected and honoured Member of this House proudly declared, in the glare of — temporary glare of...

---Laughter

...of television lights that she intended to affiliate with that party. And not four months ago, Mr. Speaker, that party held an organization meeting in my constituency, and may I be forgiven, Mr. Speaker, if I say that that was maybe their first mistake. At any rate at that meeting, I understand, in my constituency, where they were attempting to organize for the forthcoming election, I believe, I am told -- I was not there and cannot vouch for the accuracy of this information -- but I am told that there were 12 of the original disciples, one illustrious convert, six spies from other parties and a member of the public, and that the coffee was very good.

---Laughter

At any rate, Mr. Speaker, after such a promising beginning things seemed not to go so well and before very long the Northern party was sitting dead in the water. A couple of torpedoes from the destroyer HMCS Munro, and the Ark of the North sank quietly beneath the waves.

During a speech in this House, Mr. Speaker, in which the honourable Member announced affiliation with that party, she said that party politics was necessary to bring order and discipline to this government, and in that connection had the audacity, Mr. Speaker, by implication, to call this august and dignified assemblage of Members a "circus".

—Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame.

MR. MacQUARRIE: As though we had our own barker and ringmaster, Mr. Speaker. As though we had our own fire-eaters and fat men, as though we had our own acrobats and contortionists, and our own lions and lion tamers, and our own high wire artists and clowns. That is a terrible thing to suggest, Mr. Speaker. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that if this House at times does have the aspect of a circus, and perhaps it does, that it certainly is no more of a circus than that granddaddy of us, the spectacle that we see frequently right across the nation, Barnum and Bailey in Bytown. In fact, I would say, Mr. Speaker, that whatever else may be said about this Assembly, that it is a faithful reflection of the very complex and difficult society that it is expected to serve. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that it has addressed a lot of serious problems, not by short cut, not by imposition, but by openness, dedication and thoroughness, and that this Assembly has indeed been very open and responsive to the people of the Northwest Territories. As to the government, I will say responsive; I will not say open, but I will be talking more about that later on.

Constitutional Matters

In my opinion, the very finest achievement of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, has been for the Assembly to recognize its own tentative nature, to relinquish its iron grip on authority and to express itself willing to co-operate with other significant groups of people in the Northwest Territories in order to fashion a government or governments that all of the people of these Territories can accept and be proud of and say about us without the slightest hesitation, "This is my government." And I would like to commend in this respect the writer of an editorial in News/North a week ago Friday ...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: A very fine editorial which, without question, will help to create the kind of environment in which these sorts of changes can take place. I compliment the writer. What this Assembly has done in that regard, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that any other government in history has ever been willing to do and that is why it is such a significant achievement. I believe also that this Assembly has taken a responsible lead in recognizing and respecting aboriginal rights. I would say right off the bat and without hesitation that I was one who did not wish to see the entrenchment, in a rigid constitution, of any rights. I believe that was not the best course for this country. But once the decision was made to establish a charter of rights, then I had no hesitation and still have no hesitation in insisting that aboriginal rights should be part of that charter. It is a simple fact of history in this country that aboriginal peoples have been given special recognition immediately, from the time of British conquest when the proclamation was made in 1763, and that simply cannot be ignored or overturned nor should it be.

Economic Issues

But this Assembly, I think, Mr. Speaker, has not only made progress in constitutional matters, I think that it has addressed economic issues and addressed them well. We heard a report from the Minister of Economic Development yesterday. There may have been, I believe one of the radio reports seemed to imply, a little personal horn blowing. I do not look at it that cynically at all. I did not imply that, Mr. Minister. But I felt -- okay, he is adequately punished now, you saw that -- he slapped himself; all right, I am not cynical about that. I believe in fact that the department has done a good job, as have other departments in a number of important ways. This Assembly and this government have been reasonably receptive to non-renewable resource developments; the Norman Wells project, the opening of mines at Polaris, Cullaton Lake, Lupin, assistance to the Pine Point Mine -- the Assembly and the government, despite that reasonable receptiveness to non-renewable resource development, still have developed a strong resource development policy to ensure environmental concerns are addressed and that there are reasonable benefits for people and businesses in the Northwest Territories.

There has also been addressed the matter of small businesses -- improvements in that area, stronger northern preference policy and also improvements in the Business Loans and Guarantees Ordinance to try to make bonding more possible for small businesses in the North, and these are very significant measures. So this Assembly and this government I think have good records in that respect.

Sensitive Legislation Passed By Assembly

But it is not only in those two areas, constitutional development and economics, but in others. There has been sensitive legislation passed in other areas. The most recent example would be the amendments to the Education Ordinance that are attempting to bring more ability for people in regional areas to have the opportunity, as our boards already do have in Yellowknife, to shape the education of their children. I personally have no fear whatsoever that that will result in inferior education. I believe as long as we have a core curriculum across the North, that that is going to work out very well.

There has also been sensitive legislation in the area of mining safety, for example. This government and this Assembly introduced changes, important changes, to the Mining Safety Ordinance and did it in a way that was open and responsive and which in the end was acceptable both to management and labour, and that is some accomplishment, I think.

There have been improvements to the Fair Practices Ordinance, improvements to the Public Service Ordinance. This Assembly has restored a good measure of political rights to public servants and that is a very significant measure. So there are many fine achievements. I will not say that the Assembly is perfect by any stretch of the imagination. It is not. But any criticisms I will leave to critics, and from what I hear there are one or two of those.

I have strayed a little; now I want to get back to the party thing for a moment in a serious way. It appears at this time that parties will not make significant inroads in the forthcoming election. They will in the future. I have no doubt that party politics is coming to the North, but for my part I am glad to see that they will not make significant inroads in this upcoming election because I believe that it is so important that we resolve the fundamental problems of the group relationship that face us outside of a party atmosphere and establish that first. In this regard I would say that we have been given four years grace, that we are fortunate that that is not happening this time. We have four years, in my opinion, to resolve some of those fundamental questions, and I would say that if that time is frittered away by inaction, by rigid and insensitive positions, by outrageous proposals that are simply unacceptable to all but the people who proposed them, that we will lose the opportunity for significant and fundamental change.

Division Of The Territories

I want to turn for a moment to a matter that has been of great importance in the Territories for this past two years and will go on to be important, and that is the matter of division. I was not a personal supporter of division, but I did say that in view of all circumstances I am willing to accept it and do not wish those who are attempting to bring it about any ill will at all. I wish to co-operate because I believe that so many people want it so deeply that I think it is fair, I think it is acceptable and I do not want to move to obstruct it.

But notwithstanding that, there are two cautions that I would like to bring to the attention of Members who may be pursuing that very vigorously. The one does not really involve Members here but it is worthy to note at least, and that is I noted that at the end of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference Charlie Watt made a statement to the press that he thought it was time to look at ethnic government in the Northwest Territories. I also noted that within I think it was two or three days, John Amagoalik responded and his response was very acceptable to me so I am not complaining about that in any way. But I simply urge this caution, that I do not think ethnic government is bad in itself necessarily, but that is a separate question. It would not be acceptable in the context in which it has been pursued up until now, that is, division has been pursued up until now.

Nunavut has been pursued by people from the Eastern Arctic and supported, maybe tentatively, maybe reluctantly, by others, but supported on the basis that it is a public government proposal. It is not understood as Inuit government for the Inuit. It is not understood as Inuit government for everybody who might be in that territory, but a public government for a political jurisdiction to which all residents have equal rights, access and protection. I think that it is most important that this continue to be demonstrated and affirmed and people are assured that in the future it will continue to be just that. And if that is the case, there will be continuing support for it.

The only other problem that I see in respect to it is the boundary. Right at this moment the Nunavut Constitutional Forum is planning to hold hearings in many northern communities as they have every right to do, and I might say, incidentally, I commend the people in the Nunavut Constitutional Forum for hard work, for diligence, for getting about their business very effectively. I do not complain about that at all, but one other caution, and it is this.

The West Wants Viable Territory

I ask you to recognize that in the West where there is support, it is somewhat tentative and reluctant and it is subject to erosion. I would say that people in the West generally reject the idea that the wanting of a north-south boundary is somehow motivated by greed. It is not. People in the West want a viable territory. They want a territory that has the possibility of evolving to a self-sufficient province some day. That is what is wanted, and those who make an arbitrary claim to a tree line boundary, to two thirds of the Territories, and then turn around and accuse people in the West of being greedy when we say we want a larger territory than that remind me of the story that Charles Dickens wrote. Mr. Bumble, who out of the astonishment that grows from arrogance when young Oliver approached him with an empty bowl said, "More, you want more?" And of course Bumble was well-fed and Oliver was starving and all I am saying is that some on the other side may wish to play the role of Mr. Bumble, but I can assure you that people in the West will not willingly play the role of Oliver. If that is pursued and insisted upon it is the kind of issue, it is the kind of outrageous proposal that could stand in the way of successful political development in these next four years. So that is simply a caution that I wanted to bring to other Members.

Financial Information System

I want now to turn to an issue that has bothered me for some time, and I will generally refer more to my notes because I do not want to say more than what should be said in respect of it. I am talking about our Financial Information System. And the reason I want to talk about it is because -- I suppose two reasons. A major report was made, tabled in the House, yet it was never discussed by anybody. And the second reason is because I think that what happened in that whole development process is symptomatic of what can happen in government with the development of government programs, with growth and laxity. And I think it bears having a closer look at it and not just being shrugged off. I can assure Members that I am not going to make the Financial Information System my life's work, but I would like to have a final say about it before I drop it.

I begin with the proposition that the public has the right to be assured that public funds are being managed with due regard to economy and efficiency. Now, lots of people say they agree to that. I guess we part ways a little further down the line. Where any significant doubt arises as to whether due regard is being exercised, I think that verbal assurances by those who are deeply involved in the whole process are simply not enough. It is not sufficient to satisfy the public.

During the development of a Financial Information System for the Government of the Northwest Territories a question arose as to whether due regard was being exercised. And in the absence of any easily discernible, that is for the public, any easily discernible fact, rumours started to grow and abound and there is no doubt that staff morale was affected as a result of that. Then, in a response to a request from the Assembly, the Auditor General conducted a comprehensive audit on the development and implementation of the system. I would say that the results of his report show clearly that rumours circulating earlier were not, absolutely not, "baseless innuendo", and those words are in quotation marks because they were spoken by the Minister of Finance. He chooses to believe that it was baseless innuendo and so stated during the recent public accounts committee hearing.

Now, before I get into the problems with it, I do want to make some things clear. I do recognize that problems with this type of system are not unique to the Northwest Territories. They have had problems in the development of these systems elsewhere and I will say more about that later. I do recognize that FIS was too often confused with the government's entire electronic data processing system and for this reason sometimes received unwarranted criticism. I recognize that. I recognize, and always have, that there was no intentional misuse of funds in the whole thing. I also recognize that we have a good financial system now. The Minister seemed to me to think that I was challenging that and I noted the other day he said, with a great deal of joy, that the public accounts had been tabled significantly earlier this year than they ever were before. Well, I recognize that. I say good, I am glad that it has happened and I also say that it ought to have happened, considering everything that took place.

But that still does not address the real issue. Jean Drapeau could say to me the Olympic stadium is a good stadium and I will say "Yes, it is." As a matter of fact, some of our Members spend time there when they get the chance to get down to Montreal. It is a very nice -- only after hours, of course -- it is a very nice stadium. But that says nothing about what took place in getting it there in the first place and that is what I say has to be looked at with respect to the FIS.

Factual Evidence From Reports

In the next minute or two I am going to cite the facts that are established in this case by referring to evidence in the Auditor General's report and the transcripts of the public accounts committee hearing and other documents. I am taking out all of the other materials in between but the major facts that occurred so that people can see in their starkness what occurred from start to finish. I would say that while there are reasonable conclusions that can be drawn from those facts, I want it noted particularly that in this next little segment that I have not and will not attempt to draw those conclusions but simply to list what is established as fact.

The facts essentially are these, that there was an adequate financial information system in place when this whole process started but it did need improvement, particularly to provide management information. Another fact is that a financial specialist was engaged in 1976 on a two year term to make improvements to our financial information system and particularly to generate timely information that would enable program managers to make better decisions.

Now, to find out a little bit more about that I attempted to get some information from the government, and this is one of the things that disturbs me about the whole process, is that it is difficult to get such information. I thought, for example, it should be easy for a Member to say "Could I have the terms of reference for a particular employee so that we know what that employee was engaged to do?" I did not get such terms of reference although I did get a letter which quotes the relevant parts. So someone has determined for me what the relevant parts are. And it says, and I will read from the letter: "The terms of reference for Mr. Nielsen were contained in his letter of appointment in 1976 which was signed by Assistant Commissioner Gary Mullins. The appropriate section is as follows: Our objectives in hiring you for this position will be to develop and implement, in conjunction with our existing staff" -- and though I will not draw any conclusion I will make the note that it says "to develop and implement", not to arrange for the development and implementation, not to co-ordinate the development and implementation and so on, but to develop and implement in conjunction with our existing staff -- "a financial information system for the Government of the Northwest Territories which meets the information planning and control needs of the Executive Committee, the management needs of individual directors and their departments, and the management needs of regional directors and their operations, as well as the control needs of the Department of Finance. The second major element of your responsibility will be the training and development of our senior finance staff, one of whom would be trained to succeed you at the end of a period of approximately two years."

So I simply note that whatever he was engaged for presumably was to be done in or about two years from 1976. "It is understood that detailed terms of reference elaborating on the above general objectives will be developed between you and I during the course of the first four months of your assignment."

Steering Committee

I note another fact, and this is stated in the public accounts record, that there were no terms of reference for the steering committee. I note, again from that record, that there was a failure within the government to ensure compatibility between software needs and hardware purchases and that a premature decision had been made to acquire hardware before the software needs were defined.

I note also that specialists were engaged to develop this system and that at one point those who were working with a selected methodology -- not an imposed methodology, but a selected methodology -- possibly seriously misunderstood that methodology. I note Mr. Duff, one of the auditors, saying that the project reached a point where there were very serious problems and the government could have lost its investment.

I note another fact, that at one point there was a switch from a custom-built system to a package system with a loss of earlier work and resulting costs and delays, and just there it will be interesting to note the statements of a computer expert, Mr. Johnson, who testified, "But at the end of Phase III it was decided instead of going ahead with the project that they would contract out for a package, a package which had already been developed using totally different data management concepts and this is the GENASYS program." And again Mr. Johnson: "Actually, if I could go back just for a second to a comment that was made a lot earlier about how when you build a system, it is similar to building a building and you might have one contractor for the first three floors and then another contractor for the rest of it. It seems in this computer business that whenever you do that the second contractor ends up by tearing down the first three floors and rebuilding the whole building. I think that is a perfect example of what happened here."

Delays In Midstream

And finally another statement: "I think it has been brought up that people were worried about the implementation and they were worried about doing the scratch approach", which I take to mean the customized approach. "Then Peat, Marwick came along with this package and told the government that they could put a fixed price in a fixed period of time." So at any rate, delays resulted from that shift right in midstream. It is a fact that there were deficiencies in the contracts awarded, that there were no performance criteria or acceptance standards. It is a fact that the government found itself being squeezed more and more into dealing with one contractor. It is a fact that the contract for the final development was given to a firm whose employees had little to no knowledge of Hewlett-Packard equipment, and I have seen a report which — I believe this part of it was not released elsewhere, but a consulting firm, Prabir Dutt, assessed the competence of the Peat, Marwick people to deal with Hewlett-Packard hardware. They had a number system for assessment. One was excellent, two good, three was very poor, or poor and four was no knowledge at all. And I tell you that all of the key people were rated three and four. They were the ones that were given this system to develop. We are told by Mr. Dutt that under the circumstances this government should have known that April 1st was an unrealistic deadline, but it was set nevertheless. And that was his word, "unrealistic".

It is another fact that despite an unrealistic deadline no contingency plan was prepared even after an employee came back from San Francisco in February 1980 and had seen the situation and commented that he understood there would be difficulties.

It is a fact that the old coding system was "abandoned" and that is a word that was used by one of the auditors, despite the unrealistic deadline, and that there was a lapse that occurred in the current accounting that was unacceptable, and that is another quote, "unacceptable to the Auditor General" and a problem of security arose as a result of that.

It is another fact that when the system was finally implemented, if you measured it by the objectives that were stated by those who started out in the first place, it was not yet complete, and that to put in other components would mean more costs and the fact that you would have to get along without it for a while without those systems in place.

It is also a fact stated in the Auditor General's report that there was an inefficient data base design and that this meant there would be more costs for either redesign or a greater purchase of equipment afterwards. It stated in the auditor's report that there was lax security during the development and after the implementation. There is a statement in the auditor's report that delays and a costly resort to consultants impacted morale and damaged credibility and expressed regret because it is felt that this is important inasmuch as FIS will only be really effective if it is fully supported and willingly used by all of those who have access to it.

Increases In Anticipated Costs

It is also stated that there was a lack of attention to acquiring resources to maintain the complex system, and, of course, what is a concern to most ordinary people is the cost, and for this I will quote directly from the book that was prepared by the public accounts committee. When those who were managing the project started out they anticipated an operating cost of \$576,000 providing the system were 100 per cent used. The auditors find that the operating cost is \$1.07 million annually, significantly more percentage increase. Operating costs are 86 per cent higher than anticipated. It is also true that when the project started those who make decisions were led to believe that it could very well result in significant annual net savings including person years from \$661,000 to \$1.02 million, and yet the auditor, when he did the report, found there are not yet any savings seen in that way, although there may be some somewhere along the way. When it started the development cost was anticipated to be \$947,000. It wound up being \$1.89 million, 99 per cent higher than estimated. And the equipment cost was estimated to be \$792,000 and wound up being \$2.09 million, 164 per cent higher than anticipated. Generally, in the end, the statement is made by the Auditor General that there was a significant overexpenditure of time, effort and money and that the system is costly to implement and expensive to operate.

Now, those are the facts, and when some knowledgeable members of the public a year or two years ago suggested that there was something wrong, the Minister described their concerns as baseless innuendo, if you can imagine. It is clear with those kinds of facts that somewhere along the way some stumbling occurred. Because of the very complex nature of this whole thing I agree that most

ordinary people do not know about it and do not care about it. They would care if they could see it in simpler terms, and I will try to do that, but most do not care about it. So to me some days I have seemed like myself, a voice crying in the wilderness, and some nights I say, "Is there any point in crying?" Maybe I am just crying wolf, but every time I go back to the facts and figures I am reassured that I am not just crying wolf, that it is something that we ought to have been more concerned about.

A Comparison In Simpler Terms

I will try to put what happened into simpler terms. I know that if I took my car into a garage -- I was able to drive it in, it is running, but not as well as it should be running -- and I was given certain undertakings by the garage man, and yet I find that it took him about two and a half times longer to fix it than he told me it was going to take to fix it; I learn that during the nights when he was fixing it, he left the car unlocked on a lot with the keys in the car; if I were to find that the mechanic that he engaged to work on my car knew virtually nothing about the type of engine that was in my particular car; if, when I went to get it, I found that labour costs were 86 per cent higher than he told me they were going to be and parts costs were 164 per cent higher than he told me they were going to be; and while he had actually told me that if I got my car fixed with him it would be cheaper to run it afterwards and yet when I get it back I find that I have to pay significantly more to run it, 99 per cent, I believe it was; well, if I found out all those things I would be madder than hell, and I can only believe that the Minister of Finance would be too if it were his car.

Now, that is maybe a bit of a simplified comparison, but I think it is a fair comparison. When you set out to develop a project and you hire people who apparently know that kind of thing, this is the sort of situation that occurs. And I know that in those circumstances, if I did not have the courage to bop the garage owner between the eyes, or refuse to pay the bill, that at the very least I would never go back to his garage again. But the problem is the ordinary joe does not even have that kind of choice. He has virtually no choice at all about whether the project will be undertaken, virtually nothing to say about the way it will be done, and no recourse at all afterwards if he is not happy with it. He will just pay the additional taxes because there is one government and he is stuck with it.

Right To Expect Top Performance

Well, I say that in those circumstances, if that person understood that it was really the kind of situation where when he takes his car in he finds that all those things happened, that he would be mad, but because it is so complex, because people are doing jobs where the ordinary joe says "I could not do that and I would probably make mistakes if I did it, so I guess I accept it if somebody else makes mistakes." But the point is these other people tell us that they have expertise in those areas, and they are paid top salary in order to provide that expertise to this government and I think we have the right to expect top performance. But anyway, because the ordinary joe has no choice in this matter then I really think that we, as elected Members and as a government, owe it to them to ensure that public funds are managed with due regard for economy and efficiency.

There is already an immense scepticism about government. The general feeling is that a) you can do nothing, or b) do anything, and you will still have your niche in government. And that is not entirely true and entirely fair, but it is believed in a good many quarters nonetheless. So that is why when we find these circumstances and we are faced with these facts then we must have -- and I am going to quote three little things that come from this public accounts report -- then we have to have "full and complete disclosure". We have to "get at the facts". We have to "demonstrate to taxpayers and the federal government that the Legislative Assembly is concerned about financial accountability". And if we do not do those things then we contribute immeasurably to the kind of cynicism about government that I was talking about.

Areas Not Covered In Inquiry

But to me, full and complete disclosure surely means that when we are done everybody winds up knowing exactly what happened or what did not happen and why. Surely it means that we would know where errors were made, we would know the nature of the errors, we would know who made them and why they made them. But I would say that we cannot get that kind of full and complete disclosure unless we are willing to investigate, and of course, investigate involves a little unpleasantness.

You have to expect it because it means checking somebody's statements against somebody else's statements. But I found in an attempt to do that that you are regarded as being an inquisitor -- that was a word that was used -- or a witch-hunter, because you would like to know those kinds of things. At any rate, I would say that we did not have full and complete disclosure despite assurances from the Minister that we did so. He made the statement that the Executive Committee had examined the delays and cost overruns and pointed to the public hearing by the public accounts committee and said that is the end of it. Well, I say that we do not yet precisely know; as a matter of fact, those inquiries never uncovered the terms of reference of the initial person who took on the contract. That was something that I did myself. And I see in there that it says we will talk in more detail about what you are really supposed to do. We still do not really know what the understanding was after the discussion between Mr. Mullins and Mr. Nielsen as to what was actually required and how it was going to be brought about. We do not really know whether later there was some significant change in all of that and why.

You know, another thing we do not know, we are told that we should not be surprised at delays and cost overruns because they happen in all of these kinds of projects. That is one way in which what happened is now excused and justified. They say, "Look, it happens everywhere." Well, I wonder, were our Executive Committee Members told that before the project began, because the knowledge was available then too? Were they specifically told if we undertake this you may anticipate that there will be all these kinds of things and if not, why not? We do not know whether decision makers were specifically alerted to critical reports along the way, such as the Prabir Dutt report and the Silman report. We do not really know whether the system developer, when he returned from San Francisco and realized that the project would not be completed in the time schedule, we do not really know whether he specifically informed somebody of that and said, "You are not going to make it." We do not specifically know if whoever was responsible for making the decision about a contingency plan and abandoning the old coding -- did that person know what the person from San Francisco said? We never found out things like that and that is why I say there was not a complete and full disclosure. And yet again, in making attempts to find it out, I find that I am regarded as a witch-hunter or an inquisitor for doing that and I just reject that. It is not true. At any rate, why am I so disturbed about all this? I am disturbed because in this one project I see something that is symptomatic about government development, the development of government programs, and it concerns me. I am disturbed because I see what at various points appear to be inadequate planning or inadequate controls and some bad decisions.

Letter From Minister Of Finance

But all of that aside, I acknowledge that I got a letter from the Minister of Finance and he says, "We are responsible." So what I am most disturbed about is not those other things, but about the big shrug that comes from the top, the kind of response that you get in a letter like this. This is from the Minister of Finance to me at one point. "I informed you that I had placed your letter of April 5th before the Executive Committee as I believed it required Executive consideration and reply." I do not agree that that was so, but it was done. "That reply has now been made to you by letter dated May 24th. However, I would also like to respond briefly to your letter. As I advised the public accounts committee, the responsibility for proceeding with and finally implementing the Financial Information System was solely that of the Executive Committee." Not even the Minister himself, but the Executive Committee as a whole. Well, that makes it very difficult to deal with. "While taking credit for implementing in the Auditor General's words 'a very, very good system' we are also responsible for omissions and shortcomings in the process. I suppose the crux of your inquiry is contained in the last paragraph of your letter. Again, I would answer in the Auditor General's words, 'Although the system was costly to implement and is expensive to operate, the project team is to be commended for its efforts in ensuring implementation of the system.'"

I note very specifically that in all the hearings the auditor was referring to the team, and not the way in which it was managed, when he passed out that compliment. The final paragraph, "As I believe the Auditor General informed you, implementation of any information system is never guaranteed as the attached clipping will attest." That is what I call the big shrug, and it bothers me. All is right with the world -- when obviously, when you look at the facts I listed, all was not right with the world.

Response To Requests For Information

Also, what disturbs me most of all is the suspicion and guardedness and paranoia at the top. I recognize the good service that many of the Executive Committee Members have given, including the Minister of Finance, in a number of areas. But this is one area where I do not like the way they

have handled things. The kind of response that is given to those like myself, who want information merely, and not only on this, but in other areas as well, you would think that you were totally trying to undermine the government by getting a little of the facts.

At any rate, I see no more I can do about FIS, because it is not understood generally, and it is obvious from the Members here, as well as the public, nobody really cares about it very much. There is no widespread concern, and what that means partly is that you do not have the energy to go on with something if nobody else cares about it. But also, in order to pursue it further, would take very much time and very much effort, and I am simply unable to make that kind of commitment.

In the final analysis, what it means to me is two things. Number one, that there is too much complacency at the top and it needs to be shaken up, and the second thing is that there needs to be more open government, and I say that if I am re-elected, I will absolutely be pursuing both of those things.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie, how much longer will you be?

MR. MacQUARRIE: I would say about five minutes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Please proceed.

Cruise Missile And Escalation

MR. MacQUARRIE: I do want to return for about one minute to the Cruise item, because I do not want to see that matter just dropped. I still am sensitive to the concerns that a lot of people have about it. I recognize that in the matter of disarmament, if I were urging disarmament, that we have to be careful and very thoughtful and not leave ourselves vulnerable either to the Soviet Union or to any third parties that might attempt nuclear blackmail. That has to be approached very cautiously. But escalation is another matter, and in this I would simply hope that we are granted the sense to know when we have enough security and begin safely to extend opportunities for trust. I say that that situation exists right now. It is not generally recognized, but I am going to do what I can to make sure that it is recognized. Security can never be 100 per cent, but we have adequate security now, and to carry on with escalation in those circumstances is madness. I think that it is important for people to develop a grander vision of what the world can be, rather than thinking that we always have to match threat with counterthreat and resign ourselves to what amounts to a reign of terror.

One little aside that came up, I had thought that Mrs. Sorensen was going to introduce a motion about NorthwesTel, so I started gathering a few items to add to the motion, and one of them true, so help me, I think that you will enjoy. Late last week I had the need to make a certain phone call, and that phone call was to a number -- there we are -- 920-3541, and I dialled it carefully. It happens to be the business office of NorthwesTel. When the number rang, a taped voice came on and said, "The number you have dialled is no longer in service." I thought that maybe that said it all.

---Laughter

---Applause

Commendation For Members Of Standing Committee On Legislation

Just before I close, a couple of things. I would like to especially commend and publicly recognize the Members of the standing committee on legislation, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Appagaq, Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. McLaughlin. I can assure the public that this has been a dedicated and very hard-working committee. As the chairman, I appreciate not only their willingness to put in hours, poring over detailed legislation, but being prompt and there, very, very regularly. With respect to the standing committee, I have some beefs about how legislation is handled, I will go on to them some other time.

As a Member, I would personally like to express appreciation to all of the Assembly staff members for what I can only consider excellent service. Not so as to downplay what other Members have done, I would still like to give special recognition to three members with whom I have had the most

frequent dealings, and relied upon mostly, and they are: David Hamilton, who is fast, effective and humorous, and I really appreciate working with him; Elaine Dierk, who is the office services supervisor and effectively on top of so many things; and Dianne Fleming, who is the Members' secretary, who has done much work for me, sometimes rushed, but always in the most pleasant way. I would like very much to thank the interpreters. I recognize that I get carried away at times, and have not been easy to translate, and I sincerely appreciate your sometimes breathless efforts to keep up with me.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Commissioner. In my judgment, he has probably the hardest job of all. Legally beholden to the federal government, morally, socially and in other ways working for the Assembly. It is a very difficult job, and he has done it in a remarkable manner. I say that he is going to be remembered in history as being a friend of responsible government, and I think there is no better way to be remembered than that.

Finally, I cannot like General MacArthur say, "I shall return"; whether or not I will return is in the hands of my constituents, but I will surely try to be back. If my constituents decide otherwise, then there will be somebody here more to their liking, and that is as it should be in a democracy. I will neither resent their decision nor think they are wrong in wanting somebody else. If that should happen, then what follows will be my last words in the transcript.

Without any question, I have no problem at all knowing what those words should be. That is, that to me the Ninth Assembly is an exciting Assembly that very much reflects the society, as I said earlier. It contains many strong, intelligent and competent Members who faithfully and with extraordinary diligence have represented the interests of their people, and I can begin with my colleague, whom I admire, immediately to my right, and my eyes can rest at many points around this chamber when I say that most sincerely. The decisions made here have not always been to my liking, but that is democracy, and I support democracy. I say finally that I am very proud to have been part of the Ninth Assembly.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. We will recess for 10 minutes.

--SHORT RECESS

The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls this House back to order. Members' replies. Mr. McCallum.

Mr. McCallum's Reply

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I recognize the difficulty that I have now to make a few closing remarks because if there is anything that is difficult to do it is to follow an educated, political Thespian in coming to speak to such a group. But recognizing that that is the handicap I will have to work under, I will be brief, because as I think I have said before to be memorable one need not be monotonous; to be historical you may not have to be hysterical. I was going to make a few remarks and maybe at the same time I might abuse the words of the English bard that "I come not to bury the Ninth Assembly, I come to praise it."

There are a lot of things that have gone on in the past and one could go round the table, I guess, with past Members to go back and listen to what or read, if you like, what was said when this Assembly came into being. Regarding some of the comments that we are not a government, now we are a government. We are truly a democratic government, really part of the great democratic system of the country; we truly reflect people in the Northwest Territories.

We have had people who were, of course, strong on unity -- and now we are just as strong on division -- who when we did not take their reports wanted to absolve themselves of it. But there is no need to go into it because we are all honourable people. So I do not wish to pursue any line of thought in that direction. I think that naivete is part and parcel of the game as well, because people who come into this House in the first instance are rather naive. I remember when I was. However, I think those who criticized in the past and now are in a position to be criticized themselves, know exactly what the process is about. And I am sure that those of us who come back and the new people who come into this House will have to go through those kinds of situations as well. It is an experience, it is an education and I think that that is something we all have to go through when we become a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

I remember when I came into this that I was a Member of the territorial Council; now I have gone through the business of being a territorial Councillor, through to a Member of the Legislative Assembly and finally as a Minister of the government, and I guess I have had a great number of experiences. I have known many people through those eight years. I have run quite a gamut and likely there are those who would undoubtedly say that I have cut quite a swath, and I do not mean that necessarily in the positive; there are negative aspects to that statement as well. But I am going to laud the praises of the people that I have been associated with, and I have been associated more closely with those Members of the Executive Council over the last four years than most others. All the way from J.H.P. and R.S.P. to George and Allied and the rest of them -- and I will use those names though I know I am not supposed to be using that terminology here -- that is the way that we were able to come together. And I think for a group of people who were not supposed to work, as I have said before, we have shown that we have been responsible and been able to work for the betterment of this particular government and for the betterment of people in the Territories. So I have considered myself particularly fortunate to have had the experience of working with those gentlemen, in some cases for eight years now.

I need not go into detail, Mr. Speaker, to laud the praises of your Office. I dearly want to. I think that you hold this group together in such a manner that you encourage the esteem that we have for your Office; and it is not just the Office, it is you, sir, as the Speaker of this House. I want to as well echo the comments made by other speakers about the work of the Clerk's office and the whole office of the Assembly. I have known as well many civil servants through these past eight years and I have come to recognize their value to the government, their contribution and their dedication to government. I think that we as Members of the Legislature oftentimes are critical of our civil servants but our civil servants, in my estimation, are very respected and very dedicated to their positions and I thank them for their particular assistance over these years. I want to say to other MLAs here, individually and collectively, that I have cherished the times, the experience and the education and I think the tremendous fellowship that we have developed. To say it has been nice would be hypocritical. It has not always been nice, but it has been truly an experience that I will cherish.

In all of those things, then, Mr. Speaker, and because of the past eight years of my life as a Member of this Legislative Assembly, I have recognized that one can, if you like, shoot off at the mouth and try to say some things that may not be in the best interests of what we are trying to do and I am not sure whether I will be back here again, because I know what it is like to have made certain statements in the past that come back to haunt you. So again, as Mr. MacQuarrie has said, I hope to be back because I am going to run. And I hope that I would be. In all those years and because of the things that I have said about fellowship and everything else over the last eight years of my life as a Member of this Assembly, I consider myself to be one of the luckiest people in this, my home, the Northwest Territories and I thank my constituents and I thank you people for that experience. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Members' replies. That appears to conclude Members' replies for today. Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Curley.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 34-83(2): Promotion Of Fishing Industry In Eastern Arctic

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism in view of his very significant economic statement yesterday in which he states that the fur industry has been a major disappointment in terms of the revenue. I think his figures for 1981-82 were very significantly lower than for 1979-80 -- for 1981-82 only \$3.6 million has been earned through fur sales. Considering that, I would like to ask the Minister why he neglected to leave out the major renewable resource, particularly the fishing industry, and what the Minister is prepared to do in that regard, because during the budget session of this year this House passed a motion that he establish a major fishing agency so that this renewable resource can be developed and harvested in the eastern part. Could the Minister tell us whether he has a further announcement to make with respect to this area?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I received notification that the Member was going to raise that question and unfortunately -- he referred to a motion passed at the Assembly regarding the fishing industry. I will have to take his question as notice and provide a reply. I would try to bring it back at the session tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 35-83(2): GNWT Involvement In Northern Benefits Committee, COGLA

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources on the matter of the northern benefits committee in relation to COGLA. Is there any involvement of this territorial government in that particular agency or committee that is being set up, and if not, why not?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 35-83(2): GNWT Involvement In Northern Benefits Committee, COGLA

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have had discussions with members of COGLA in relationship to the northern benefits committee. We have suggested an alternative proposal to the mechanism that they have asked and requested that they set up. This will be in line with the resource development policy of this government -- not necessarily in opposition to what they have suggested, but it would be able to streamline the association to both the legislation setting up COGLA and the policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Cournoyea.

Supplementary To Question 35-83(2): GNWT Involvement In Northern Benefits Committee, COGLA

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, then perhaps the Minister could relay to the House what those alternatives are.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I will take that as notice and be prepared to come back with a document that would probably be a little more substantive than my reply might be.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Question 36-83(2): Policy Statement With Respect To Eastern Arctic Fisheries

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Renewable Resources: In view of the fact that the Minister of Economic Development stated yesterday, and I quote, "We are now in the process of developing a renewable resource use policy with the Department of Renewable Resources to formalize the respective roles of the two departments and to provide to the public a clear message as to the goals and objectives of this government," could the Minister maybe indicate to this House whether or not this policy will involve the harvesting developments with respect to fisheries in the Eastern Arctic? I would want the Minister to at least give us some clear understanding of what plans he is guiding his officials to, with respect to my concern. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 36-83(2): Policy Statement With Respect To Eastern Arctic Fisheries

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to indicate to the Member that I was intending to table in this House a five year strategy for the Department of Renewable Resources, which would include the development of renewable resources in the Northwest Territories, in conjunction with my colleague and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. That document is not complete in that we wanted to allow the printers to print the document prior to having it tabled in this House for further discussion with Members and with the general public, as to the strategy that we would be directing our department with over the next five years.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 37-83(2): Government Employees And The Press

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Leader of the Elected Executive. I would like to ask the Leader whether the Executive Council has a policy with respect to employees of the government being able to speak to members of the press, and if so, what is the policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 37-83(2): Government Employees And The Press

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to do a bit more checking on it, but I do not believe there is a formal written policy on the subject. I think that the Member has to recognize that between the Minister and the deputy minister certain general guidelines have to be developed respecting what officials can or cannot say in a public setting or to the press.

Take my department, for example. We have the consumer and corporate affairs division and it is very important for the public to be apprized of certain issues that are of significance to consumers. So of course in that particular situation we have internally made it possible for our employees on certain subjects to go directly to the media and not have to work through my office or Mr. Lal's office. I suppose there are other areas as well in my department where I have, in fact, actively encouraged our officials to become more open and to provide more information to the public on what we do — labour standards, for example, occupational health and safety and all the other things that you see advertised on Anik Info. Now, I suppose, again in respect of my department, I and my deputy minister would not want to have members of the legal division out talking to the press about some court case that they are involved in, so our informal or formal policy, whatever you want to call it, between Mr. Lal and I is that the lawyers, unless they are instructed to, do not talk to the press.

Now, in respect of other departments I cannot really say, although I would suspect that the procedure is much the same between the Minister and the deputy and the deputy and other officials that work within the department. So in answer to the Member's question, very briefly I am not aware of a formal policy. It is something that we do attempt to conduct on an informal basis.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 37-83(2): Government Employees And The Press

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Leader whether he is aware of any departments where there is simply a blanket policy of not allowing any employees to speak to the press, even to provide information that ought to be public information?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 37-83(2): Government Employees And The Press

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, no, I am not aware of any such department, although as I say, I have to do some more checking into the details of what each department does.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 38-83(2): Protocol Office, Government Of The NWT

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the question is to the Leader of the Elected Executive. I understand we have a bureau of protocol and I am not really aware what it does and who mans it. Could you explain what the NWT bureau of protocol is, where it is situated and who is manning it and what the job function is?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 38-83(2): Protocol Office, Government Of the NWT

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not really a bureau of protocol. It is a protocol office and it comes under the intergovernmental affairs section of the Executive.

The one person we have working full time on protocol is Miss Terri Boldt. Some of you may remember her. She was my former executive assistant. By and large her job is to assist Ministers of the government and departments in arranging for visits of ministers from federal and provincial governments, other dignitaries and visitors that we do get to the Northwest Territories where it is felt that the government has some role to play in making their visit informative and to help them in their planning. She has been doing some other work as well in terms of developing protocol guidelines which we think are necessary. For a number of years we were operating in somewhat of a policy vacuum. There really were no standards set down for what kind of reception would be provided for a minister of a government as opposed to a deputy minister or some other dignitary who was coming to the Northwest Territories. So she has been doing that, as well, in terms of preparing standards and guidelines. That is about all I can say off the top of my head, Mr. Speaker, but I will get for the Member something in writing to provide more detail.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today.

Item 4, written questions. Item 5, returns. Are there any returns? Mr. McCallum.

ITEM NO. 5 RETURNS

Return To Question 9-83(2): NWT Housing Corporation, Northern Contracts

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, a return to written Question 9-83(2), asked by the Member for Yellowknife South, regarding the Housing Corporation's northern contracts, suppliers and consulting and professional fees. The amounts spent by the Housing Corporation on northern contracts, northern suppliers and northern consulting and/or professional fees for the year 1982-83 can be found in the attached documents that I have. They list the northern contractors, the suppliers, consultants and/or professionals used and the amounts of the contract and the date completed. I would like to table that. The question was, I think, in three parts or possibly three different questions. One of the questions asked by the same Member dealt with the annual contracts awarded by the Department of Public Works. I have but a draft copy here. I will be tabling that tomorrow. I will table the Housing Corporation part today and the Public Works part tomorrow. I think the third part dealt with the Department of Government Services. I think that was the other one.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns. That appears to conclude returns for today. Item 6, Ministers' statements. Mr. Butters.

ITEM NO. 6: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On NorthwesTel

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I do not have an official or formal statement but I would like to respond to something raised by the Members for Yellowknife Centre and Yellowknife South, and that is related to the service, or the lack of service, we are currently not enjoying from NorthwesTel.

The responsibility for communications falls under the Department of Government Services, and I have and I would be happy to table the communication with the president of that organization that informed him of our dissatisfaction with the service and contrasted it with the much more effective service being provided by Bell Canada. I guess maybe I should have phoned him because as to date I have not received a reply and that letter went out, I think, some six weeks ago. The government is looking at having a hearing on NorthwesTel's licence to operate in the Northwest Territories and we would see if we can...

---Applause

...see if we could develop such a hearing so that not only Members of this House but the public at large could address the officials who would make a ruling on that authority or authorization to serve.

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

Minister's Statement On Appointment Of Co-ordinator, Advisory Council On The Status Of Women

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I should explain I am making this statement in my capacity as Minister responsible for the Status of Women. I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Ms Sheila Keet of Yellowknife as co-ordinator of our government's advisory council on the status of women. This appointment was recommended by a selection committee appointed by me and is effective October 1, 1983. As co-ordinator, Ms Keet will recommend how an office should be established within the government to deal with women's issues and to handle complaints relating to the status of women in the Northwest Territories. As Members may know, the Executive Council has recently allocated \$221,000 to set up this office April 1, 1984 and it will be provided with two staff members. I expect to name the members of the advisory council itself shortly. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that this appointment will result in good groundwork for an effective response by this government in the vital area of women's issues in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement On Establishment Of New Tourism Marketing Consortia

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: In my capacity, Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, I am pleased to announce the establishment of a co-operative tourism marketing organization involving the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In response to requests from the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce and tourism industry operators from the Big River and Northern Frontier Tourism Zone Associations, TravelArctic attended a meeting of marketing directors in Regina, Saskatchewan on August 31st, 1983. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the merits of forming a co-operative forum where similar products could be identified and targeted at specific geographic United States markets. The program will focus on outdoor and adventure type products for high potential markets in the northeastern United States.

The four jurisdictions were joined by Tourism Canada and are presently working hard to develop the program details. This new initiative has resulted in the development of a strong partnership with the provinces and will surely provide major benefits for Northwest Territories tourism products. TravelArctic is continuing in its efforts to increase the market exposure of our tourism products through ongoing dialogue with the gateway provinces of Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. The details of the program will be announced shortly in a joint provincial/territorial press release. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister of Information, I would like to announce that Commissioner John Parker was just awarded first prize at the recent fall fair in Yellowknife in three categories: garden basket, geraniums and potatoes.

--Applause

---Laughter

This very notable achievement seems to have been overlooked by the Yellowknifer newspaper yesterday in their article on the fall fair. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: There was nothing to do with pumpkins. Ministers' statements.

Item 7, petitions. Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Braden.

ITEM NO. 8: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of The Special Committee On Division Of The Northwest Territories

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not so much have a report as I have a statement to be made on behalf of the special committee on division of the Northwest Territories. So if I may be allowed to proceed, sir? Thank you.

In a few minutes, when we get to Item 9, tabling of documents, I will be tabling the report that has been prepared on division of the Northwest Territories administrative structures for Nunavut. The document was prepared for the special committee on division and has been forwarded to the committee for its consideration. I would like to stress at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that the committee has not had the time, really, to thoroughly examine the document and all it contains so I would be remiss if I said that it was the report of the special committee. It is a report that has been submitted to the special committee for its consideration.

So very briefly, Mr. Speaker, just to review the contents generally, we had our consultants examine a number of scenarios in respect of division of the Territories, and these scenarios focussed on some of the suggestions that have been made by native organizations and others for where a boundary should be located. After developing these scenarios, we were able to come up with some strategies for looking at the impact of division, particularly in terms of the administrative structures that would be required in the new territory of Nunavut. We also looked at, in terms of administrative structures, various systems including ones which are highly decentralized, ones which have what is termed ministerial federalism. There is another option that was looked at which involves a rather unique approach for a provincial and territorial government; it is somewhat like you have in larger municipalities in southern Canada.

We also had examined from the perspective of each department of the territorial government what was necessary to be put in place in the new territory of Nunavut so that certain basic services could be provided in the future. Also one of the assumptions the consultants were working under was that we did not want to preclude the people of Nunavut from developing their own concepts and putting them into place in their own administration.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we have examined from the federal perspective the impact that division would have. Generally speaking, I have read the report and I find it a very, very useful document in terms of providing some of the background for others to consider currently, and also for the new Assembly to use in their additional work on division of the Northwest Territories. I find as well, Mr. Speaker, in respect of the western part of our territory and the government that is going to remain here, that this report does provide some very useful food for thought, if I can use that expression, in terms of what we can do now and what we can do in the future to improve the structure and efficiency of our bureaucracy.

I do not really have anything further to say, Mr. Speaker. I will be, as I said, tabling the report when we get to Item 9, and also when we get to Item 12 I have a motion to seek to dissolve the special committee. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Reports of standing and special committees. Mrs. Sorensen.

Third Report Of The Public Accounts Committee

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a third report of the standing committee on public accounts. I guess it is the standing committee on finance and public accounts and I am giving the public accounts side of the report.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure, sir, to table today the government's response to the 42 recommendations and suggestions which were made by the standing committee on the comprehensive audit which was done by the Auditor General of Canada on the implementation of the Financial Information System. The House will remember that the public accounts committee met during April and held three days of public hearings to review the audit with the Auditor General and the government staff and some of the consultants that were involved with the implementation of the FIS system. We proceeded, following that, to table our report in the House during the May session, and the House consequently recommended that the report be referred to the Executive Committee for its comments and response to the 42 recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, the government's response was received by the standing committee last week and we are planning to table it, and of course move it into committee of the whole for discussion along with our report. It is, however, unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. MacQuarrie has left the impression on the record that most Members in this House do not care about the FIS and the problems associated with the implementation of it. I can sincerely say that that is just not the case. The standing committee on public accounts is very concerned and I think its concern has been demonstrated in the conclusions that it reached and the...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: ...42 recommendations that it has made to this House. Mr. Speaker, the public accounts committee wish to give every opportunity to the government to reply to its report. Just referring back, remember that this whole exercise began in April, we reported in May, we have received the response from the government now and as far as the public accounts committee is concerned, we are right on schedule. To suggest that we are not interested, that we do not care, or that we are simply shrugging our shoulders as the standing committee -- and I would interpret his comments not only to reflect upon the government but on a standing committee of this House -- I believe, and the committee supports me in this, is unjust and grossly untrue. We have conducted ourselves in a responsible manner as a committee of this House should, we have allowed the government the courtesy of reply to our recommendations, and have given them time to do so, so that all the information is available to the Members of this House when we debate the issue.

Conclusion Reached By Committee

Mr. Speaker, for the record, and just so that the taxpayers do not take Mr. MacQuarrie's remarks as gospel, I will read the conclusions reached as a result of our hearings in April. I will not read the recommendations since it will be expected that Members will review each one of them later on today and tomorrow in committee of the whole. In respect to conclusion (1) in answer to the question, "How did the Government of the Northwest Territories choose the Hewlett-Packard computer equipment?", the public accounts committee made the conclusion that a premature decision was made on acquiring hardware before the major software requirements were defined, and we had a recommendation concerning that.

To the question, "Why was that decision not evaluated before the purchase of additional equipment?", we concluded that since additional Hewlett-Packard equipment was not installed in the regions until January 1980, there should have been a re-evaluation of the hardware decision before proceeding with the software package. Although a re-evaluation might have recommended a continuance with Hewlett-Packard, particularly since the consultant indicated that the adaption could take place, it might have resulted in a more realistic deadline for the implementation of the FAMIS package of longer than three months.

To the question, "What were the reporting relationships of the FIS project?", the committee concluded that the structures essential for good management were in place at the beginning of the project but performance deteriorated toward the implementation stages.

To the question, the very important question, "Did the steering committee steer?", the committee concluded that since there were no terms of reference, the steering committee was not clear in its role in relation to the information provided to it by the project team. Was it a decision-making body or a forum for system user input? Its membership, while senior in the government, must have experienced extreme uneasiness with the lack of a clear mandate. The steering committee while well-intentioned did not and probably could not steer.

To the question, "Was the steering committee in a position to make decisions on the FIS?", the public accounts committee concluded that lack of technical expertise, a high rate of turnover and an undefined role made it difficult for the steering committee to assess alternative approaches and make decisions.

To the question, "Did the introduction of a project methodology to create the FIS system contribute to good project control?", your steering committee concluded that unfortunately since much of the work of Phase III - Subsystem Design, where PRIDE-LOGIK was used, eventually had to be redone, the committee concluded that this unproven technology introduced increased risks in meeting project deadlines. It went on to say that the committee considered that the success of the project in its early stages originated from following PRIDE and that a proven methodology plays a very important role in achieving the successful completion of a project.

To the question, "What contracting procedures were followed?", the committee found that the government entered into fixed price contracts with one contractor for the first three consecutive phases of the analysis and design of the new FIS and that the contractor was bound to specific deliverables and required to justify any cost overruns on the basis of additional work.

To the question, "Were the initial contracting procedures followed beneficial to the FIS project?", your committee concluded that the first two phases of the project were an orderly process.

To the question, "Should defining the scope and cost of a project be treated separately in contracting procedure from design and implementation?", the committee concluded that awarding contracts for the project on a phase-by-phase basis restricted the government when it went out to software tender at Phase IV, to choosing a contractor who was familiar with the proposal since he was designing it and one who could respond within the short time frame. Since the project was not looked at as a whole entity in terms of costs, each phase contributed its own cost escalation to the whole project.

To the question, "What essential protections should be defined in government contracting procedures?", your committee concluded that defined performance requirements and acceptance criteria would have prevented misunderstandings and would have better protected the government.

To the question, "Why did the GNWT favour the full implementation of the FIS even though the time frame for implementation was short?", your committee concluded that a decision to proceed within a certain time constraint was based primarily on external factors, for example fiscal restraint, rather than on what was implementable within a certain time frame.

To the question, "Why did the GNWT make the decision to abandon custom development of the FIS in favour of a software package?", the committee concluded that at this point the project objectives of developing the FIS custom designed to fit the government's unique financial requirements was subordinated to meeting the date of implementation.

"Was there an element of risk introduced into the project in going to a software package at a late date in the design?" Your committee concluded, Mr. Speaker, that the element of risk, given the newness of the package, the need to convert it to meet the FIS requirements and the short time frame, was considerable and that the expectation of meeting the implementation date was unrealistic. Your committee noted that under the circumstances, the risks of proceeding with custom development apparently outweighed the risks of using a package.

To the question, "Why was the existing financial accounting system abandoned before the new system was in place?", your committee concluded that the old and new systems should have run in parallel until the new one was proven.

To the question, "Why were there no contingency measures in place in the event the implementation deadline of April 1, 1980 slipped?", your committee concluded that given the tight deadlines, there should have been a contingency plan in readiness at the commencement of the project to be activated to process current year transactions in the event of project slippage. Running the old system parallel to the new one would have been an acceptable contingency measure if there had been no gap in the processing of current year accounts.

To the question, "Was the GNWT placed in financial jeopardy because it did not have current information in its transactions during 1980?", Mr. Speaker, your committee concluded that in the absence of centralized and timely information, the government was in financial jeopardy during these months.

To the question, "Why was the FIS system not implemented on April 1, 1980?", your committee concluded that procedures should have been followed that allowed for no misunderstandings to arise over what was to be implemented. Both the government and the contractor were too optimistic about an unrealistic timetable and the committee feels that both should have realized it.

To the question, "Why did implementation not take place on the revised implementation date of Labour Day, 1980?", your committee concluded that an implementation date only three months later than the original implementation date was most unrealistic.

To the question, "How was final implementation achieved?", your committee concluded that implementation that is 15 months behind schedule is not time/cost effective.

To the question, "How did the costs of the FIS escalate?", your committee concluded that without adjusting for inflation or an increase in level of activity, operating costs were 86 per cent higher than anticipated. There have been to date no annual savings. Development costs were 99 per cent higher than anticipated. Equipment costs were 164 per cent higher than projected costs. Your committee concludes that such cost escalations are and were excessive. These costs do not include the headquarters data centre costs and costs to be incurred for the additional modules. Person year savings, not yet realized, will depend on improved data entry and the elimination of manual systems. The committee nevertheless is optimistic that some of the savings in person years identified may yet be achieved.

To the question, "Why is the project team to be commended for its perseverance in the light of the various problems encountered?", the committee commends the project team on its perseverance in seeing the project through to completion because introduction of complex financial systems that involve new technologies, are prone to difficulties in their early stages, and there were times during the design and implementation of the FIS that the entire project could have been lost because of technical, planning and management level difficulties. It is to the credit of the project team operating at the working level that it did recover the situation and that this did not occur.

And finally, to the question, "Is the FIS a good system with an acceptable level of financial control?", the committee concluded that it will take some time before the advantages of the FIS system are recognized, especially by regional users.

To the question, "Has the entire system been implemented?", the committee concluded that users familiar with the FIS should be encouraged to assist in establishing priorities for the implementation of the remaining subsystems and for other improvements to the FIS. Your committee feels that the best rationale for the FIS is the utility of the system to users.

To the question, "Is the data base managed efficiently?", the committee concluded that support should be given by the government to those responsible for ensuring that the data base is as efficient as possible.

And to the question, "Why are management audit trails necessary?", the committee concluded that the signature authorization and transmission modules are necessary to ensure data in the two categories mentioned can be traced.

There were other conclusions that we made that are separate and apart from the actual implementation phase of the FIS project and I will not read them now. Suffice it to say that there are several more recommendations which Members will have the opportunity to read and absorb later on today.

Motion To Table And Move Into Committee Of The Whole Volume I Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance And Public Accounts And Government Response, September, 1983, Carried

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move, on behalf of the standing committee on finance and public accounts, that the volume I report of the standing committee on finance and public accounts on the comprehensive audit of the financial information system and the government's response which we have just received last week, be tabled and be moved into committee of the whole to be discussed today, and if necessary, tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Do I have a seconder for the motion? Seconded by Mr. Braden. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Reports of standing and special committees. Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. Braden.

ITEM NO. 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the special committee on division of the Northwest Territories, I would like to table Tabled Document 14-83(2), the report to our committee entitled, Division of the NWT Administrative Structures for Nunavut.

In addition, sir, I wish to table Tabled Document 15-83(2), 1982 Sixth Annual Report, Workers' Compensation Board, Northwest Territories, for the Year Ended December 31st, 1982.

In accordance with section 39 of the Interpretation Ordinance, Mr. Speaker, I table Tabled Document 15-83(2), Consolidated Regulations of the Northwest Territories, Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Volume IV of Part I of the Northwest Territories Gazette, and Numbers 1 and 2 of Volume IV of Part II, Indices of the Regulations of the Northwest Territories, Statutory Instruments and Appointments made pursuant to the Ordinances of the Northwest Territories that have been made between March 25, 1983 and August 12, 1983. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. McCallum. I believe in a reply to a question you said you had some documents you wished to table today?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I think I did pass it along already but I will table Tabled Document 17-83(2), Return to Question 9-83(2): NWT Housing Corporation, Northern Contracts, my reply to the question raised by the Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document, a series of information items, Tabled Document 18-83(2), A Decade of Discussion and Debate Concerning the Formation of a Western Arctic Regional Municipality.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Braden.

ITEM NO. 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 10-83(2): Motion Of Appreciation To Speaker Of The NWT Legislative Assembly

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the appropriate time I will be asking for unanimous consent to proceed with this motion. Now therefore, I move, seconded by the Member from Fort Smith, that this House through motion express its sincere appreciation to the Hon. Don Stewart, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any other notices of motion? Ms Cournoyea.

Notice Of Motion 11-83(2): Road Construction In Tuktoyaktuk

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on September 10 that I will move, now therefore, I move that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that impact funds for road construction in Tuk be reinstated immediately to continue the road construction program in that community.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 12, motions. Motion 6-83(2), Mr. Braden.

ITEM NO. 12: MOTIONS

Motion 6-83(2): Special Committee On Division Of The NWT Dissolution

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories established a special committee on division of the Northwest Territories during the May, 1982 session held in Inuvik;

AND WHEREAS the special committee on division has, to the best of its ability, examined division of the Northwest Territories in accordance with its terms of reference outlined in Motion 16-82(2);

AND WHEREAS the special committee wishes to express its appreciation to the many representatives who assisted in the preparation of its work;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for Western Arctic, that this Legislature dissolve the special committee on division of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. To the motion.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker, I recognize that once the Legislature is dissolved all its committees are dissolved, but our committee was specifically requested by motion -- I believe it was during the budget session -- to come back to this House and dissolve the special committee at this particular time so that is what we are doing. I would just like to express my appreciation at this point in time to Professor Mike Whittington and Sheila MacPherson for the work that they have done in preparation of the report that I have just tabled. I think that it is going to be very enlightening to all Members and as I indicated earlier on, I hope that it will be a

useful document for many, many years to come. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the Members on the subcommittee who have helped Nellie and I during the past year on this most important subject. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Does the seconder of the motion wish to speak to the motion? Question being called. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Just very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman of the committee for having ably steered us in this important work and I would like to say that although I have not had a chance to study the report I think it is going to be enormously valuable to this government, the Constitutional Alliance in planning for division of the Northwest Territories and, I think, it will be an enormously useful resource to the 10th Assembly. I would like to say that I am very pleased to have been on the committee. I feel that the report brings us another step closer to Nunavut and I am very happy about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 6-83(2), Carried

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

---Carried

Motion 7-83(2), Mr. Pudluk.

Motion 7-83(2): Power Disconnections In NWT HC Housing

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the translators got a copy of my motion.

WHEREAS the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation will be starting up a program where the Northern Canada Power Commission will be disconnecting electrical services for bills which remain unpaid for services in excess of 500 kwh;

AND WHEREAS it will be implemented in Resolute Bay and Frobisher Bay in October 1983, and in other communities in 1984;

AND WHEREAS, since this is a new program and the people do not have an alternative source for heating, such as wood for furnaces because their furnace runs on electricity;

AND WHEREAS most of the houses are very drafty and need renovations and the winters are very cold and long;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this new program be delayed until the houses are renovated and the people are more prepared. This is seconded by Joe Arlooktoo, the Member for Baffin South.

Motion Reworded

MR. SPEAKER: I wonder, Mr. Pudluk, if we have a typographical error here. Should that not read in the last paragraph, "Now therefore I recommend that this program be delayed"? I am afraid we are getting into a direction that is contrary to the rules. Could we change the word "move" to "recommend"?

MR. PUDLUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: With that typographical error corrected, your motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be talking on this briefly. This motion is not trying to stop those people who wanted to start this program. I just wanted to delay it. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation should look at these houses that were built during 1964, those houses that they built. Now they really need renovations done and they are very drafty. I am aware of this. I am from up north where we always have wind all the time. Also,

those houses do not have windows, they get blown away. My own house lost a window because of the wind. Also we start using our furnaces during the wintertime and turning the furnaces on and the fan blows a very cold air. After a while it starts warming up. I know and I have seen this. It is going to go up to \$200 or \$300, and they could not pay that much. For these furnaces the bills will be going up very fast. The people are not ready yet to have this program started. They are not even aware of this yet.

No Alternative Source Of Heat

Also, what kind of furnaces would they use if their furnace has been cut off? Even if we tried to use Inuit lanterns to get the house heated, these houses are too big to heat. Maybe we could use 50 kudluks in the whole house to heat it up. It would be nice to have this program started when the people who live in those houses know exactly what kind of furnaces they will be using. This is the reason why I am moving this motion and I want the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to look into this and test up what kind of state they are at up until now. Also the Inuit people are not ready to use this new program. They are not aware of this at all. I would like to get some support on this motion. I am just trying to delay this program. I just want the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to work with us closely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. As seconder, Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think all of us who have been in the Housing Association committees know that from 1967 I have been going to the meetings up until today. We have been on the housing association board for a long time but we still do not quite understand everything. The reason I am seconding this motion is because there would not be any heat for the house if the electricity were to be cut off. They are called public housing and the only way you can heat them is through electricity. If we are going to stop this program, the housing association's houses would not run properly and I am sure that some Inuit will not want to pay for the electricity. I am supporting the motion because I want it delayed. A lot of us Inuit are not making money. We do not have any jobs and some people are only making money on carvings and the furs of the animals -- you cannot get any money out of it any longer. Because of this I am supporting this motion because there are a lot of houses that are not up to proper standards. Also, I would like to get some support while we are trying to get this program delayed because a lot of communities are not aware of this, I am sure, and it would be better if it were delayed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. To the motion. Mr. McCallum.

Split-Billing System For NCPC Invoices

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like, in speaking to the motion, to indicate that I believe that there is some misunderstanding with the motion itself or the motion does reflect some misunderstanding of what is planned and is for implementation in October in both Frobisher and Resolute Bay. The Housing Corporation is to commence a split-billing system for NCPC invoices -- both the housing association and the consumer or tenants on a split-bill basis. This is the split: from one to 500 kwh, that amount is paid fully by the housing association; from 501 to 1500 kwh, the consumer pays one cent per kwh and the housing association is billed for the balance. Over 1500 kwh the consumer will be billed at three cents per kwh and the housing association will be billed for the balance. The average consumption in rental units is in the 800 to 1200 kwh range. The Housing Corporation projects then very minimal bills to be paid by a consumer.

But I want to make it straight, any cutoff that may occur -- I think this is a concern, not only the business of delaying it, but that people are going to be cut off power in cold weather -- any cutoff that will occur will come as a result not of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation -- because the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is not paying any bills, we will not cut off any power -- it will be because of the credit policies of NCPC.

Minimal Cost To Tenant

Now, this system was discussed at a housing conference in Frobisher Bay, at the meeting of the board of directors in Frobisher Bay. The program has been worked out with the housing associations in the respective communities. I could go on, Mr. Speaker, to indicate to you where this program is already in place and how it has been working. But I want to go back to the business of the rates. The housing association in the community is paying up to 500 kwh, the tenant does not pay anything if that is all that is used. If the tenant uses 800 kwh, the tenant will have to pay one cent for 300 kwh, one cent. No, you were not listening when I went through it the first time.

From 501 to 1500 kwh, you pay one cent; if it is over 1500 you pay three cents, the consumer is billed at three cents. So if you use 800 kwh you get 500 free, and on 300 you are paying one cent.

SOME HON. MEMBER: A total of three dollars.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: A total — I thought you were trying to say we are going to charge them three dollars per kwh, so the tenant is going to have to pay three dollars, that is okay. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that this should not be much of a hardship on anybody to pay one cent on a kwh. I do not have to tell you what the kwh costs in other places. There is a user-pay program now that is ongoing. For example, in Yellowknife, in the communities of Hay River, Fort Providence and Fort Smith, the responsibility for payment of power accounts has been transferred from the housing association or authority to the clients, the consumer, everybody. They pay the full cost of the power. In Yellowknife there is a rebate that is available. Not everybody takes advantage of it but there is a rebate available. In Fort Simpson tenants are charged at a rate of three and a half cents per kwh, for up to the first 100 kilowatts that are used. And the whole price is paid by the tenant after that 100 hours and that is much more of a hardship, quite possibly, even though they are in an area where they very well may burn other particular amounts of their particular fuels to provide heat.

In the rate schedule in Cambridge Bay the tenants are charged one cent per kwh for all power consumed. The average cost to people in Simpson is about \$71 during a billing period. The average cost to 116 tenants in Cambridge Bay is \$8.21. The housing association, then, put on this particular rate, and in this instance which we are projecting, the housing association or authority in Frobisher Bay and Resolute Bay are attempting to put this program into effect in October of this year.

We are not putting anybody at a great hardship. If in fact a person used 1500 kwh a year, they would be paying one cent on 1000 kwhs, and I do not believe that the Housing Corporation working this out with the housing association, or housing authority, is laying any great amount of heavy on anybody. That is a lot of power to consume in those particular communities. So with that, Mr. Speaker, the whereas clause that says that the Housing Corporation is starting up a program where the Northern Canada Power Commission -- the housing associations are into a split-billing situation between the tenant and the associations, and because there has not been that much of a problem in other communities, both in the North and in the West, I do not believe that this program should present any particular problem. The delay I do not think is warranted, considering the costs that are there.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I will be supporting this motion. I just want to let you know that that is why I am speaking now. I would like it to be understood clearly that we who are carvers never know what income we are going to get from one month to the next from the carvings that we make. In some months, we do not get anything at all, no income at all, and there are a lot of carvers in this situation. Some months we get a good income; however, we have to use that in order to live, and the money that we do make is never enough at this time because of the high cost of living. We have to go out hunting and this requires expensive equipment and gasoline. Some days, we cannot even find an animal so we lose money just trying to find some game.

We are not prepared at all for this program that is intended to be implemented. We are just trying to delay it; we are not trying to stop the program. This has to be understood. I think the Housing Corporation would have to supply us with some alternative heating. I think they have to say, "This is what you are going to use if your electricity gets cut off." It has to be. Also, the Coleman stoves are very dangerous when you have small children in the house if you are trying to heat your house with a Coleman stove.

Some houses are being renovated but I do not think that they will ever finish all the houses, because they are just going to say that they do not have any money to do any renovations. When the Inuit tell them that this has to be done, they are all saying that they have no money. The reason why we want this program to be delayed is because a lot of these houses are not fit to live in. They look cheap, and in the wintertime it is going to get really expensive because they are not well insulated. This is what I wanted to bring up, that I support this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. To the motion. Mr. Braden.

Potential Damage To Housing Units

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wonder if I could ask the Minister responsible for Housing a question. Would that be all right, Mr. Speaker? It has to deal with the cutting off of power. Now, I would assume, Mr. Speaker, that the Housing Corporation would effect some means to protect their investments, because I just simply cannot see the Housing Corporation allowing NCPD to cut off power to public housing in the middle of winter when it is 50° below; the whole damn house will freeze up and it will be technically useless until the spring when it thaws out and the repairs are made. So I just wonder if I could ask the Minister to respond to that. It just does not seem likely to me that the Housing Corporation would allow that to happen, because there would be tremendous damage done to the asset of the Housing Corporation, the house.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum has already spoken to the motion; however, this is a question, and if nobody objects, I will permit him to reply to the question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I cannot foresee the local housing association, nor the Housing Corporation itself and NCPD, cutting off people and moving them into that. Certainly in the case of the corporation itself, since we do retrofit with a great amount of money each year, and I do not have to tell people how much money it is for roughly 150 to 200 houses a year across the Territories, I cannot believe that power in the public housing will be cut off. I do not foresee it, we are talking public housing. It may be that in Yellowknife people who live in their own homes and do not pay their bills would be cut off, I would expect that I would be, but I cannot see that it would occur in this case.

In places where we have this program, the program will be begun. We set up the program with NCPD, the split-billing system to the tenant and the housing association. I do not believe the housing association will be remiss in paying their bill, because if they run out of money they will come where they usually come to get the money in the first place, that is from the Housing Corporation, because I told you about the rental collection in the past too.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mrs. Sorensen.

Implementation Of Policy Agreed By Legislature

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, it just occurred to me that when the standing committee on finance met for the very first time, in 1979 and early 1980, we were faced with a very heavy energy crunch and there was a great deal of discussion with respect to the possibility of an energy and fuel deficit, and whether or not we were to get the dollars for our energy consumption transferred automatically from the federal government. As a result of the great debate that took place in the standing committee on finance, we made a motion in this House that was adopted by this House, that the government, both with staff housing and with its public housing, move slowly toward a user-fee system. It seems to me that this implementation now of this system is a progression of the Executive Committee in responding to the call of the Legislature; so I would just like to bring that to the attention of the Legislature at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I would just like to say, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the motion that however sympathetic we might be to what the Members from the East say, those of us who come from constituencies where the people we represent do not get any free kilowatt hours, and where the rate for each kilowatt hour is many times greater than what is being recommended there, and where, indeed, you do not only get your power cut off for refusal to pay your bills, but if you happen to go away for a holiday at the wrong time, when the bill arrives, you might come back and find your power cut off — I think that people in our situation simply cannot be sympathetic to a motion like that. People in this part of the country would say that it is about time that that sort of program has to be implemented elsewhere, and so I just feel, as the representative of those people, that there is no way that I can support such a motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the motion concerning the Housing Corporation's way, but I have seen from my own experience that whenever there is legislation, it has to be followed because it has been agreed to by the government, so the Housing Corporation staff would start something. In Keewatin, I know that after the Legislature has approved something, if the person does not pay a rent or something, they are taken to small claims court. That has been done already in the Keewatin and they have been ousted from their house -- a little while ago -- because the Housing Corporation housing that they were renting to purchase is not quite finished yet. For that reason, the motion is not strong enough as far as I am concerned, but I would like it if they just did not start with the program. I will speak in English so that I can be understood by the people. (Translation ends.)

Mr. Speaker, I will support the motion because I have seen sometimes that the officials of the Housing Corporation, particularly in my riding, would continue to implement regulations with respect to housing without due regard to the possible suffering or impact on the family. Once the regulation has been established and sanctioned by this Assembly, some officers will just go ahead and do it without due regard to the possible effect that it will have on the family, because it is legal.

Program Inappropriate For Eastern Arctic Economic Conditions

So I therefore feel that although I would have wanted to see a motion that would disallow this kind of cutting off of power to an individual's house -- it should not be allowed in a place like the Eastern Arctic and not only in the Eastern Arctic but in places where there is a lack of employment, lack of secure positions in the government or in industry. I can appreciate the Member from Yellowknife, because if I were here in Yellowknife, I certainly would not want to be treated special as well; but if I were living in a very severe economic condition like we have in the Eastern Arctic where there are no guarantees of positions, where the people are not protected by their unions -- public service or teachers' association -- where there is a lack of economic opportunities, sure, then I can say we should be treated the same as we are here in Yellowknife. But we do not. We do not have people in the households who have jobs, who are subsidized by the government, who are given that particular subsidy for every position like we enjoy, many of them here, in Yellowknife. Then I would understand, that this should be taken care of through this regulation, and if you seek that amount of allowable kilowatts, then you must pay. I understand that part, but in other places we just do not have that opportunity; therefore although this motion does not call for a disallowing of the program, it at least asks the government to make sure all the drafts and everything else that are not our problem in the first place be corrected before we go ahead with a user-pay program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. How many more speakers do we have that wish to speak to this motion?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk has the right to wind up the debate; if he speaks, the debate is concluded. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Just very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I must decline the invitation of my colleague here to support the motion. I think there are a couple of points that should be considered. First of all, it is this House that has appointed the board that has approved this program. I believe the board has a member on it from the community of Resolute Bay and certainly from my own community as well, which I understand is being affected by this program. I am not sure that it is proper for us to question such a decision, which I understand was carefully considered by a board that we ourselves have effectively appointed. I do agree that there is a need to provide some incentives to save energy in the North and I must say I agree with the Minister that I do not really see one cent per kilowatt-hour as being a terrible hardship. In fact, some of my constituents who do own their own homes have questioned whether this is really an incentive for saving, or whether in fact a cent an hour amounts to an invitation to people to use more power. It seems so cheap. So I just wanted to explain briefly why I do not feel I can support the motion, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk, do you wish to conclude the debate?

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a point of clarification on the motion. Sometime ago, probably in 1968 or the early 60s, up around my constituency in the High Arctic, we were told that they were going to try and help the Inuit and that they were not going to try to make profit from them. Up to date they are still not trying to make profit, but now the rents that they have to pay are higher than the rents they first paid. Because of that, this 500 kwh that is being talked about, maybe in a few years time would be decreased slowly. I felt that this was going to happen and this is why I made the motion. If the 500 kwh were to be decreased, you would not be able to tell us right now; but later on in the future, I believe it will be decreased.

I would like to say further that I have been coming to Yellowknife for eight years now and I have been to private homes -- not too many of them -- in Yellowknife, and all the places that I visit have wood stoves, and they also have a few heaters. We are not able to do that in the High Arctic. Perhaps if we had trees we would not be worried about this problem. The reason we are worried about this problem is because we have no trees growing, we have no driftwood, nothing. The only thing that grows is the human race, the population.

---Laughter

So when we come to the question on this motion, I would ask for a recorded vote. Thank you.

Motion 7-83(2), Defeated

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. This concludes the debate on Motion 7-83(2). A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Patterson, Mr. Tologanak, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Butters, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. SPEAKER: Abstentions? There are no abstentions. The vote is eight in favour, nine opposed. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

I would like to move into committee of the whole prior to breaking for coffee. This will just take a moment. That concludes motions for today.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

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

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

Bill 8-83(2), report of the standing committee on rules and procedures and first and third reports of the standing committee on finance and public accounts, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 8-83(2): REGIONAL AND TRIBAL COUNCILS ORDINANCE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now this committee will come to order. Let us take 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 8-83(2): Regional And Tribal Councils Ordinance

The Chair recognizes a quorum now. We are on Bill 8-83(2). General comments. Are there any more general comments? Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to Bill 8-83(2), I would like to make a comment here. This ordinance that we are going to be talking about has been discussed a lot, and there are a lot of people that are going to be affected by this ordinance, especially within the regional and municipal councils. When we are talking about this regional council ordinance, it would mean that they will have more power. When the BRC got started, they were of the opinion that this would not give them much power. Up until now, I can still say that it does not give us much power, but there is nothing really that they can do about it at this time.

Here in the Legislative Assembly, we have more important issues concerning the Northwest Territories that have to be dealt with apart from this ordinance. Because of this reason, I recognize the ordinance, and the Executive Council will come to an agreement. They will have more power. I will be supporting this ordinance.

I can see that in the future, with the division of the Northwest Territories, they would be more involved and would have more power, and they could probably begin to collect taxes from within the regions, even though they are not included in this ordinance at this time.

I really do not have anything to worry about at this time. I am in favour of Bill 8-83(2). The only question I have at this point is that it seems to be in two sections. When we are talking about the government coming to an agreement, we sometimes have fears like Bob MacQuarrie mentioned. If the government stays strictly with the Inuit, it would not work. It would have to deal with the entire Northwest Territories. We do not have to decide who, for the government, but it would have to be everybody.

Meaning Of "Tribal"

I am wondering about the mention of "tribal" council, because it seems to me that tribal means only for the elders of the tribe. There is a cultural difference. Even though there are indeed cultural differences, we would like to see one ordinance respecting the regional councils. When we are dealing with tribal councils, it is more like an ordinance aimed at the elders. Maybe the Minister can provide an explanation about this. If the Central Arctic or Baffin would have to deal with anyone who is in the regions, if it is meant to be that way, I will be in favour of it, but I do not see why it would have to be in two separate sections, tribal and regional councils. Tribal council means to me that it is strictly for the elders only, and I would like to see that sorted out. After I get further clarification, there are some more things that I would like to speak about.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Wah-Shee, did you get the question?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, it is not just clear to me what the actual question was, but I think in reference to the reason why we have the legislation put together in that particular form, into basically two parts, is that the first part basically deals with elements which are common throughout, which would be common to the four regional councils. Then there are special sections that make reference to Baffin Regional Council, mainly because there are slight changes in terms of the way that they want to set up their regional council. So we do have sections that make reference to the various councils.

In regard to the tribal councils, really this has to deal with the involvement of the band councils, and also giving them recognition. At the present time we do not recognize the band council nor have we been involving them. At this point there is a great deal of interest on the part of the band councils in being involved in the community government and not only at the local level but also at the regional level as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Ms Cournoyca.

Present Membership Of Bands

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the regional government and tribal councils, in the basic interpretation of how we approach the representation, it seems to me that if we are going to define bands according to the Indian Act, and the band enrolment or the band representation according to the Indian Act, it is very strictly identified and relates to registered Indians, basically, if I am not mistaken.

How fair are we being, then, in terms of the broader concept of how the bands are being run presently in some places, where you have people who do not necessarily fit into the band council or the Indian band, as it relates to the Indian Act? Would that not be restricting again? Because of the identification of a certain group of people, would that not be brought to the attention that once these councils are formed, that people who feel that there is not identification of a certain ethnic group would be saying, "Well, okay. What exactly is that going to be?" Or is your membership in that band exactly as it is supposed to be in the Indian Act, and identified in the Indian Act, rather than the broader scope that present bands are being operated in and under their own terms, which is not necessarily a membership that would be acceptable under the Indian Act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I am not too clear what the actual question was in regard to the membership of the band.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Ms Cournoyea, could you make it more clear?

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that I am not clear, but I have an interpretation of the Indian Act as it relates to who is eligible to belong to a band. I believe that in the strict definition there is an elimination of Metis people in the definition. Because some bands are operating outside the Indian Act parameters, and because we are identifying a certain ethnic group, and giving a voting delegation in terms of a formation of a regional council, would that not be forcing the band to live up to its stricter regulations governing who can belong to a legitimate Indian band, according to the Indian Act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, all the band councils within the Northwest Territories have their own list of members who belong to a particular band. This list is kept by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The list, of course, is adjusted from time to time, and if a person does belong to the band council, then that particular person would be on that list.

In regard to the overall issue of other people that are not eligible to belong to a band council, they could belong to a Metis local. If they do not, then their interests in participation would be through your municipal council, whether it be a settlement or a hamlet council. So we are not attempting to exclude anyone in regard to the overall participation by people who are of age and are entitled to vote and are entitled to run for office. So we did take that into consideration when we were putting this particular piece of legislation together.

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

Source Of Funding

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a further question to the Minister. In view of the federal responsibility with the Indian Act, under which the Indian bands are created, I would like to ask the Minister as to who will fund these regional councils. If for instance they were able to enter into a contract with the delivery of programs from the government, would the federal government continue to provide them with their operational funds, or would these have to come from this government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, at the present time all the band councils do receive core funding from Indian Affairs. But under this overall concept of having regional and tribal councils, the tribal and regional councils normally would be funded by this government. In cases where the band council is recognized by this government as a body which would be responsible for the delivery of municipal programs, then naturally we would make funds available to them as we normally would with any municipal council. This would be done through an arrangement which has to be more or less negotiated between the band council and the Government of the Northwest Territories. I would like to indicate an example of this type of an arrangement. We do have an arrangement at the present time with the Fort Liard band council, which is recognized by this government as a municipal body for the purposes of delivering municipal programs in the community of Fort Liard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments and questions. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, just to go on to a definition, it says that a person that can be identified as a member of a band under the Indian Act is a person who is registered on a band list, is the full age of 21 years, and is not disqualified from voting at band elections. I do not specifically know what the last is, but in terms of the qualifications under the Indian Act, of being 21 years of age, the voting qualification is different under the Municipal Ordinance. How is that going to be handled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, at the present time the Indian Act as it is written is not strictly applied in the Northwest Territories by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs more or less deals with the band council. However, they are not enforcing the total Act word for word. Because of the unique situation that does exist in the Northwest Territories, it was felt that the Act should not be totally applied. In regard to the voting part of this, dealing with the legislation as it is outlined, a person who is 19 years of age will be participating in the voting and running for office, and this particular legislation would apply to everyone in the Northwest Territories. So I do not really see a problem with regard to the way that the Indian Act is written at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments and questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Relationship Of The Standing Committee On Legislation And The Government

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, just at the end of the day, yesterday, or when we were dealing with this, there were some questions raised about the amendments that were brought to the House. I would just like to make it clear to the public, since I am sure that Members are already aware, that when the standing committee on legislation reviews bills and makes recommendations to the government for change, that the government is not obliged to accept those recommendations of the standing committee. I think that in the relationship we have established, the government has recognized in the past that the make-up of the committee, which includes Dene and Inuit and non-native people, fairly reflects the Assembly as a whole and also the people of the Northwest Territories. It recognizes that the committee gets input from other sources and that therefore, the recommendations should be considered seriously. I think they are doing that. I think in most cases the recommendations have been generally sensible, and I think a demonstration of that is that the government has agreed to accept many of them on many occasions. But I just wanted to be clear that, of course, the government has the option to decide at any time that they do not wish to include the committee's recommendations in their bill.

Cautious Approach Advised

On the other matters that have just been raised, with respect to general comments, as an individual Member I would like to say that I have concerns in the same area that are being addressed. I just felt that what we are doing is rather complex, and that it should be approached more cautiously than it is being approached. There is the serious question of, what about anyone who is not Dene in a Dene community such as Fort Liard? The simple fact is that people who are not Dene at the present time do not have municipal input as far as I understand it. If that is the case, that problem is simply going to be compounded again when we establish regional councils, because they will not have that kind of input, and that is a serious matter.

Also in this whole area, I again draw Members' attention to the assessment made by Wilf Bean in his research for a committee of this Assembly and for the Western Constitutional Forum, where he pointed out that we should approach this matter cautiously because if regional councils are defined along tribal lines and there are later inequities, have and have-not areas, and struggles between them for the available resources, as long as those lines are drawn along tribal lines that could have the effect of exacerbating a social situation that is already difficult. That is a serious consideration. I can only say again I wish that the government had decided not to go so quickly with this bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments and questions. Mr. Tologanak.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to comment briefly about the government rushing to do this bill. I do not know what you mean by rushing. Rushing would be one session to another perhaps, whereas three or four years was the time the communities have been working on it. The councils and the people who are recognized to have meetings on behalf of their communities, settlement councils, hamlet councils or unorganized communities have been involved in these meetings before. More and more we see many other organizations forming regional organizations. I think we have to have some order, some system so that these bodies can at least be governed by one regional organization and with this Ordinance Respecting Regional and Tribal Councils, I think we are saying that these regional organizations are recognized by the government through an ordinance so that they may carry out the wishes and the needs of the people in those particular regions.

My particular region, the Kitikmeot region, has been waiting and pressing the Minister, and I myself as well have been pressing the Minister; when is the bill going to be introduced, why are you delaying it? Words to that effect, but not necessarily in those exact words. I think our people are tired of waiting. I am sorry some organizations are not quite ready to take on such duties as being a tribal council, or that such questions are in Members' minds, but you have to recognize as well that these people have been waiting for this ordinance to come through for quite some time. We see sitting in the gallery the members of the Keewatin Regional Council, and I am happy to see that the standing committee on legislation did respect some of those amendments that these various unorganized groups, or some semblance of organization, requesting amendments to the ordinance before us. I respect their views and I have been meeting with them for quite some time and I am glad that the Minister has decided to bring this bill forward. Otherwise we would never have known until probably next spring or so with the 10th Assembly just what form of direction we will be taking. I worked for the alliance as a member of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, but I think that, until there are changes made and the division has happened and perhaps some of these ordinances that this Assembly has been passing may have to be changed, in the meantime let us do the wishes of what the people want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Bill Has Not Been Rushed

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like my colleague from Kitikmeot, we in the regions would much prefer to have had this bill introduced months ago rather than now. The formation of regional councils began away back in 1975 in Baffin, eight years ago. The seed that was planted in 1975 has now grown to the point where we are organizing all of our regions and the work that has been done in the Keewatin, in Baffin and in Kitikmeot is work that has taken many, many hours and many, many weeks and many, many meetings to come up with what we have before us. I, in no way, think that this government is rushing this bill ahead. As I said before, if we had had our way Mr. Wah-Shee would have brought this bill forward in February, and I think that I let him know that a couple of times, so I am quite happy to see this bill brought forward.

I have some difficulty with the grouping of regional and tribal councils together in one ordinance, basically because of the major differences in community government between East and West. Our community government is not complicated by having a band council or a Metis local and a settlement council all in one community. It is much more straight forward in the East. I respect the Minister's attempt to try and put all of these bodies under one piece of legislation which might make it easier for the government, I guess, to deal with it.

Not A New Concept

The other comment that I will make, I picked it up from Mr. MacQuarrie the other day when he said that he was worried about another level of government being established. I would remind Mr. MacQuarrie that the regional level of government that we are now attempting to establish is a form of government that has been in existence in other countries for hundreds of years. It is certainly not a new concept to other places. It is a new concept in the North but it is not a new concept in other countries. It is actually a very preferable type of government and even more preferable when you look at the vast distance and the vast problems we have with our communities scattered across such a wide open area. So I, too, will be supporting this ordinance. There are a couple of problems we have with some of the amendments but we will be addressing those later on as we come to them. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, just before we go on to clause by clause, I would like to ask a question of the Commissioner as the chief federal representative of our government. This question really concerns the fact that we are getting into an area, I think, which we always are afraid of in the first place that we are getting into ethnic government concepts. However small, I believe the band councils are ethnic government, ethnic local government -- that I could not take part in the band council. What we are doing is putting forth the legislation, mixing it with the one form of public government and I really could not, with my trying to be of clear conscience, without prejudice to anybody, understand why we would interfere in legislating one form of ethnic organization or band council under the Indian Act directly into the territorial authority. So could the Commissioner indicate to and try to reassure me anyway, and I will accept what you say, as to whether or not what we are doing is really our jurisdiction by integrating the band council concept with another form of public government and institutions under our authority. Thank you.

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

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure that I can say that I have looked at the question exactly in the light that the honourable Member has mentioned and, indeed, he raises an interesting approach. But what I can say is that it is clear to all that band councils exist, they are a fact of life and their formation and existence is outlined in a federal act, the Indian Act. Therefore, having bodies in existence like that, the Executive Council, this particular one and its predecessors have wrestled with the problem of trying to draw together a community style of government that will give recognition to the fact that the band councils exist and that they have certain powers and that they are, to some extent, a preferred form of community government in certain communities.

In wrestling with this problem then, the Minister, Mr. Wah-Shee, together with his colleagues, have worked long and hard to try and find a way of drawing these two forms of government together -- a community-style government or a hamlet-style, if you wish, and the band council. For some time it seemed as though we were trying to act as if the band councils did not exist, as if they were not in fact there, that they were not a factor in many of the Dene communities. But the realization has come of course that the band councils are alive and well, that they are founded as I indicated in the Indian Act and therefore in order to come up with a form of government, it seemed necessary to integrate them or to try and draw them together. I do not believe that the legislation that is before you today causes any jurisdictional problem. I do not really think I can say anything more than to reiterate that fact that I do not think that there is a jurisdictional problem. I think that what is being sought is a practical solution to a problem of representation, recognizing the existence of band councils.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. General comments and questions.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are you ready for clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 2, definitions. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Motion To Amend Clause 2, Bill 8-83 (2), Carried

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 8-83(2), An Ordinance Respecting Regional and Tribal Councils, be amended by adding the following words at the end of the paragraph 2(a). Mr. Chairman, this is in response to the recommendation being made by the standing committee. I would like to add the following words: "and 'band council' means the council of the band as defined in the Indian Act, Canada" and add to the marginal note to paragraph 2(a) the words "and band council".

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

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hands. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Clause 2, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 3, regional and tribal councils. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Motion To Amend Clause 3, Bill 8-83 (2), Carried

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I move that clause 3 be amended by renumbering subclauses 3(3), (4) and (5) as subclauses 3(5), (6) and (7) respectively. Mr. Chairman, this is to just basically renumber this particular section here.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hands. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 3, Mr. Wah-Shee.

Motion To Further Amend Clause 3, Bill 8-83 (2)

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I further move, Mr. Chairman, that subclause 3(2) be deleted and the following subclauses be substituted:

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a council may, by resolution, appoint such other persons as voting or non-voting members of the council, or revoke any such appointment as it deems advisable, but a council shall not appoint any person as a voting member without the prior approval of the Minister.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), where at a plebiscite held for the purpose at least two thirds of the qualified voters want the community to withdraw from the region and its membership from the council, the community through its voting member shall give notice in writing to the council of its intention to so withdraw and upon the expiration of six months from the day upon which the notice is received from the council, the community ceases to be included in the region and the voting and non-voting members from that community cease to be members of the council.

(4) Upon receipt of the notice referred to in subsection (3), the council shall notify the Minister of the intention of the community to withdraw and shall cause the notice to be published in the Northwest Territories Gazette.

I further move that subclause 3(6) be amended by deleting the word "subsection (3)" and substituting the word "subsection (5)".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Wah-Shee, I think you have to read the marginal notes for subclauses (2), (3) and (4).

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, under subclause 3(2) the marginal note for (2) is "additional voting and non-voting members". Under (3) it is "withdrawal from council". Under (4) it is "notice of resignation".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Yes, a question, Mr. Chairman. Under what rule are we allowed to move more than one motion because it makes it rather difficult in my view, as far as the rules are concerned, to make an amendment and so on. I do not recall at any point, throughout the experience that we have had, in making an amendment by moving more than one motion by using the words "further move" and all that. So could I get a procedural advice on that, please?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Report progress.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Progress.

MR. CURLEY: Are you kidding? Why do you not just leave? Go home.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I can do it either way. Clause 3, we are going to deal with subclause (2) first, or three at the same time, or each one at a time. I am going to be easy on you guys. Do you want to deal with subclause (2) first and then go on to subclauses (3) and (4)? Okay, let us do it that way then. Okay, we are going to deal with (2) first. Is there any question on subclause (2)? Mr. Wray.

Reasoning Behind "Approval Of Minister"

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A question for the Minister. The last line of that subclause (2) says, "without the prior approval of the Minister". We have some difficulty with that inasmuch as the regional councils were given a certain level of authority but then it was taken back by saying, "You cannot do a certain thing unless I approve of it." I am just wondering what the reasoning behind that line is. Why would the Minister have to approve an addition of a voting member? Why would that not be up to the council itself? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the reason why we have the prior approval of the Minister is that it is felt by the Executive Council that it does have a financial implication and there is public money involved, being delegated or being made available to the regional councils, and that the voting members will be receiving honoraria for attending the meetings. The Minister is responsible for all the municipal councils as well as these regional councils and this is the reason why it was felt that some control should be exercised in regard to any changes to the voting members as well as non-voting members who will be a part of these regional councils.

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

Regional Council A Democratic Institution

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I cannot understand that reasoning either. It is understandable that sure, it involves public money, but in democracy I do not think you ever question as to who is to take part in a democratic forum. That is what we are dealing with. We are creating a democratic institution; as to who the members are should not really at all be the concern of the Minister. It could be he has to do that with the band council; I can tell you that, yes, because it is affected by the federal Indian Act. But as far as the regional council institution is concerned I really cannot understand why the Minister would have to have an approval. If I was an ordinary citizen, not the MLA appointed to replace certain members of the community or hamlet council, as a member of that regional council I would not understand why the Minister of Local Government would have to give his consent for me to take part in the democratic institution. I think that this section, legally and constitutionally, should not be allowed because it interferes with freedom of the elected representatives. So therefore I would ask the Law Clerk to see and advise me whether or not that particular section, which allows the Minister to have a prior approval, is really legal or not.

AN HON. MEMBER: Progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Law Clerk.

Law Clerk's Opinion

LAW CLERK (Mr. Fuglsang): I understand the question is, is it legal for a Minister or the government to put into the ordinance a requirement that any additional voting members first receive the approval of the Minister? Let me first state that this area of the ordinance is to establish the membership of a regional council and it may do so whichever way it chooses. What it appears to me to have chosen is to take elected representatives from the communities and put them on the council, and if the Minister or if the Assembly wishes to pass a bill which requires that any other members who are to be appointed to that council first require the approval of the Minister, then that is just simply as it is requested to be and it is perfectly legal to use that limitation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Law Clerk. The hour being 6:00 o'clock, I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 8-83(2), REGIONAL AND TRIBAL COUNCILS ORDINANCE

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, we have been considering Bill 8-83(2) and we wish to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to make something clear about earlier in the day when the honourable Member for Yellowknife South was concerned about remarks I had made and I would like to clarify them. I say that the phrase I used, "the big shrug at the top", was not intended to include the standing committee on finance, but rather I used it particularly in reference to the Minister of Finance and to the Executive Committee which later sanctioned his position. And when I said that most Members of the House are not interested in that matter, even in saying that and I still say it, I recognize that some Members of the House and particularly some Members on the standing committee on finance and public accounts are indeed interested and that certainly includes the chairman of the standing committee on finance, who I recognize did a great deal of work to sort out what went on with respect to FIS. And if there was an implied criticism in what I said it would be only that that committee did not go far enough, in my opinion, when it had the opportunity to do so.

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

ITEM NO.18: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day, Friday, September 9th.

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: Bill 8-83(2); Report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures; First and Third Reports of the Standing Committee on Finance and Public Accounts
16. Third Reading of Bills
17. Assent to Bills
18. Dissolution

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, September 9, 9:30 a.m.

—ADJOURNMENT

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