



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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1983

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqag, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Curley, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Evaluarjuk, 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): Before I go into the orders of the day for Friday, September 9, I wonder if we may have an indication from Members, your desires with regard to sitting today, if we are not completed by noon. Do you wish to give the Speaker the option of sitting longer hours today to complete the business today? What is the wish of the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Then if that is agreed, we will set the hours from 9:30 until 12:30 and from 1:30 until the time required to complete the business of this House.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Is it your expectation that an hour will be a sufficient time for Members to get away and get back again. Would maybe 11:30 and 1:30 not be more acceptable?

MR. SPEAKER: Why is it that the skinny ones always need so much longer to eat than the fat ones?

---Laughter

Is that the desire of the House, that we take longer for lunch?

AN HON. MEMBER: From 12:00 to 1:30.

MR. SPEAKER: From 12:00 to 1:30, so be it. The hours then, will be set from 9:30 until 12:00 and from 1:30 until it is moved that the House be adjourned. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM NO. 2: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. Arlooktoo's Reply

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a short comment to make, as usual.

---Laughter

I just want to say thank you to all of you. Mainly, I want to thank the Commissioner and his staff, since we were able to get what we asked for sometimes maybe — I am mainly talking about Cape Dorset. As I said earlier I was very happy to have served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, and during the four years that I have served, I have learned a lot attending the Legislative Assembly meetings. We were able to say what we wanted through the interpreters. Perhaps if there were no interpreters some of us probably would not be able to sit in these meetings without them. I also wanted to say thank you for the Legislative Assembly allowing our spouses to come. It brings a closer relationship. I was also a Member of committee meetings, the standing committee on legislation and the standing committee on rules and procedures. I also had a lot of help from the interpreters.

Some of the things that we asked for, for Lake Harbour, we did not get, for example they wanted an extension to the airport but Local Government did not agree to giving us the extension to the airport. I was kind of sad about this. Another time we wanted a social worker in Lake Harbour and we never got our social worker. I was kind of sad about this. For the items I have just mentioned, I will be running again in the next election.

—Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for listening to what I had to say. I was very happy to be the first one to say something to you, and as I said, I do not go on for a long time. We will probably be seeing some of you again, maybe in January, if I am elected again. If they agree with what I have been doing so far, I will be back here again, and if they do not like me, I probably will not be here. Thank you.

—Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Members' replies. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley's Reply

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I probably will not be talking for very long, but I have something to say and since this is the last day for most of us, or maybe even tomorrow, I am talking about the people that have been elected before, some of us will not be doing things that we normally do. We are going to have to rely mainly on the Executive Members this time around. Perhaps this is what I say to them, try to do a good job up until the next election. I realize the Ministers will be working right up until the next election. I just want them to continue working with what they started out with before. Perhaps if I talk about this in English, it will be better. I have a lot to say, but I am not going to say it all. I realize this month we will cease to be Members of the Legislative Assembly, those of us that stopped, but the government will keep on going. I just wanted to be understood. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate that I should address a few remarks to the work that we have carried out as Members of this Legislature. I for one, as a junior Member of the Legislature, have had some very memorable experiences I think, that have helped me to at least develop confidence in the democratic process that we have in the North.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: I think it has been a very exciting and challenging experience, as a junior Member of the Legislature, because I was elected to this Legislature in 1979 and at that time I felt that I did not qualify to be elected to the position of Executive Member.

I believe, however much confidence you have in yourself, that a person ought not to rush to try and get into a position of authority without having experienced some of the responsibilities that are there. I have truly enjoyed my responsibility as an MLA because when I came here I decided, and I consulted with the people and friends of mine, that we have to prove that an ordinary representative can have some influence at least, in guiding the government or at least, in bringing about the strong views and concerns of the constituents.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: You are not ordinary, Tagak.

MR. CURLEY: The government as we have known it, as the history of the Northwest Territories is concerned, as it devolved from the federal government, I think, has always been known to be less than any normal democratic institution which normally carried out their duties. We have always been provided for by the Indian Affairs department and as such many of our communities in the Eastern Arctic have developed a dependency toward the government for any problem and for any solutions to problems that we face. But today I am encouraged to see that many of the settlements and hamlets and community councils in the Eastern Arctic no longer wish to be continuing wards of the government and they now are developing to the position where at least they now can express their concerns directly to the government and therefore take part. I have seen that and that is happening. I further see that, by evidence that we have in the communities in the regions developing into regional council status and we will again deal with that today, as we deal with the bill respecting tribal and regional councils. So I am pleased to have at least taken part in trying to bring about further involvement of the people.

Mr. Speaker, although my involvement in this Assembly has been short, during the last four years I too understand that we were also faced with very difficult and demanding priorities that we have set out through these last four years. I have been very much gratified to have been involved again in the major committees that this Assembly established, particularly the special committee on education in trying to bring about further changes to the Education Ordinance as it affects the people of the Northwest Territories. I will say though, even though some groups, particularly the NWT Teachers' Association, may think it is an answer to all educational problems in their view, as far as I am concerned, I will say, "No way". This is only the beginning of improvement and changes that the people of the North need. We have made further improvement to devolution of the educational programs of the government, but I think this is only the beginning. The problems will never be completely solved until possibly when we have developed into provincial status and two territories have been created in the Northwest Territories. So I must say that we have exercised our part and that the 10th Assembly will do its part to make further improvements to the system that we have.

Education Linked To Northern Economy

I find it one of the most important works of this Assembly because I cannot see how the northern economy, for instance, with the need for a qualified people and professional people can actually develop in the Territories without decent educational programs, without decent educational facilities and schools and high schools that are close to the people of the North. It is just, I think, not possible to believe that we can have a strong economy and that we can fill all the jobs in the Territories in the resource development sector, in the civil service sector as well as the non-government and private sector, where skilled positions are involved, without really having a good educational system. Education, I think surely everyone knows, must be the stepping stone for opportunities that are presently available in the North.

I am leading up to this. I think we have to deal with the educational question and then, the next Assembly, in my view, should concentrate on the economy of the North. The economy of the North is really complex and I think very difficult and always creates a predicament to this government and the Executive Council, particularly the Ministers involved in the economic development. I think the Minister alone should not be expected to create an injection into the northern programs, to create a stimulus for the northern economy, without the backing of the Assembly and the people involved.

Positions Going To Outsiders

We have people that are looking for jobs, unemployed people, young people, for instance, in my kind of area that have no hope of even trying to compete for government positions or private sector positions because the practice is those from outside who qualify must take those positions. I as a citizen of the North would like to see the day that our people, people in our communities and the young people of the North who are coming out of the schools would have the same confidence as someone in Edmonton or Winnipeg or Ottawa seeing the career advertisements in the Globe and Mail and would feel confident to say "Boy, would not that be an interesting position!" They would apply and send their resumes to the Government of Northwest Territories, to all the Personnel directors in the NWT in our government.

But I do not believe that they are really going to see that happening until the communities, the hamlet councils, municipalities, chambers of commerce, all various organizations and private companies start to seek and demand their place in having the right to have a job and employment in

the Northwest Territories. I for one would like to see the 10th Assembly take a strong, united position to try and ensure that whatever little we have, the North is really taking all the benefits that are going to all people. That is what I would like to see.

Economic Development A Priority

I have not been able to, and should say that I regret not giving the Ministers of Economic Development, both Mr. Braden when he was the Minister of Economic Development and Hon. Arnold McCallum, enough support to these efforts because I believe that our priorities were not laid out to set economic development as a major priority. I really believe the 10th Assembly should have a strong interest in the development of our economy. Sure the resource development is going to go ahead, everybody knows that, but the question is how are we going to get the young people involved? How can we create a sense of confidence that they too can have a role to play in developing that part of the North? I believe that the educational institutions, if we cannot commit our priorities to develop educational institutions so that technical training can be taken closer to home...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: ...so that the strong academic training programs can be taken closer to home, truly we should not expect that we can have a strong economy without these very essential programs being available to the people. So I hope those who will be back in the 10th Assembly will take part and seriously look at this unitedly because I think we need a united position as far as the northern economy is concerned.

Right now our history of the northern economy is "Do not do this, or do not do that until this or that question is resolved." I do not really believe that we are ever going to have a society in the North where people will ever agree 100 per cent, that one should not go ahead while the others are being dealt with. So in spite of the differences in principle and approach to finding jobs for people, we at least should always try to agree that people need to have a job and that these positions presently in the North, employment opportunities for jobs, should, at least the majority of them, go to the people. Sure, let us disagree on the approach but let us agree on not depriving the unemployed people of their right to have a first priority, particularly the residents of the NWT.

So, Mr. Speaker, I see that as a challenge and I see that challenge being a very serious one and I certainly would want to be involved in at least trying to help in that direction. If I can see the possibility in coming back, I will make sure that I do take part in finding better opportunities for our people, our unemployed people of the North.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to go too far on the political development and the constitutional development of the Territories, because I think again this is a very complex issue. I am satisfied with what we have done.

---Applause

That does not mean that the job is done. The job is still very much a challenge to those who are going to join the 10th Assembly. I believe that the positions and recommendations that this Assembly has taken, are a good framework to begin further work on the development. I look forward to the people at least getting all the various reports that the special committees of this Assembly have developed and produced with respect to the division question and will help the Members who will be coming in. As well, I think that now that the plebiscite has taken place with respect to the division and with the federal government's conditions to the division, it will be much easier for the 10th Assembly than it was when we first joined here. So, I look forward to seeing the developments taking place in that.

Improvements In Transportation

Mr. Speaker, there are a few other things that I would like to point out with respect to our part of the North, the Keewatin region. We have been fortunate to have had improvements with respect to transportation in the Territories. We have enjoyed the opportunity since I joined this Assembly of being able to travel without too much difficulty, coming to Yellowknife and to Frobisher Bay

and now we have direct contact with Winnipeg and the rest of Canada through the services of Northwest Territorial Airways. I think that should be acknowledged and Mr. Engle, who is the president of the Northwest Territorial Airways, should be given high recognition for his contribution in really opening up the exchange between the South and the North. Likewise, I think our people in the region would very much like to see that he at least be given a pat on the back for improving the transportation which has been a very difficult problem.

Renewable Resources

Mr. Speaker, I could probably go on and give an account of what I have done, but I do not think that that is my job here. My job is to try and bring out the concerns of the people. I wanted to bring to this House the area which I believe again must be taken much more seriously; review and work done by this government and the Ministers involved, particularly with respect to the renewable resources area. The Minister acknowledged the statement of the Minister of Economic Development. I think it reflects a true state of affairs of the renewable resources, particularly the fur economy and the very difficult and downward position, compared to other years. It has been a very difficult, tough year for people who live on the hunting and trapping economy. In that area, Mr. Speaker, I would very much like to see that we consider that other renewable resources policies be developed through this government. I believe that the Eastern Arctic, Baffin, Keewatin and parts of Kitikmeot have much more potential for developing the fisheries capabilities of the Territories, not only for arctic char but in the Baffin region I believe, they could eventually have a fisheries program similar to that carried out in Newfoundland.

In my view, we have to take a broader look and see whether or not we can develop that part of the resource. Our hunting economy, the trapping economy will likely continue to suffer. Therefore we need some other opportunity and in that respect I think the fisheries potential is one that should be looked at and carefully developed by this government. The questions that are asked presently will be answered. The people in the North will know that we have a renewable resource in the Territories that this government can give to the people to take advantage of; I would like to see that that takes place.

Mr. Speaker, I did want to point out too, the fact that the northern economy in my view, is many things really, and the fact that all the major native organizations of the Territories have now begun to create, and I think have created, all the kinds of private corporations that are needed to take part. I am encouraged, because four years ago when we came here, there was quite a bit of apprehension for native organizations to be involved in the private sector area.

I am glad also to give recognition to the Denendeh Development Corporation and to the Metis Development Corporation. I think these are the beginnings. If we expect our people to have competence and ability to compete in terms of government contracts or to take part in the development, we are going to be able to do that probably, by running various corporations, actively seeking opportunities. Therefore as a former president of one of the development corporations, the Nunasi Development Corporation, I wish to give high recognition and support to these corporations. I think that they have a very important role to play in northern development. I wish to give them all the encouragement and support that they will need in that field.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to go on too long, because we have quite a bit of work to do, but I look forward also to successful, I think, debate on the Regional and Tribal Councils Ordinance, because although it likely will create another level of government, at least it will be one that will help to devolve the government programs that we have been asking for. So I look forward to the successful completion of this ordinance today, as we deal with it.

Mr. Speaker, the last thing that I do want to say, is that the staff of the Legislative Assembly, I think, have done a very important work and service to this Ninth Assembly. We have been demanding and we have, I think, created so often a confusion to some of our staff that I am encouraged to see that they have handled their jobs with reasonable calm and patience to all of us that are less patient than some. So I wish to give my compliments for the good work that they have done and to the interpreters who I think are sometimes overworked. I believe that they should be given a special bonus each time these sessions are over, because they do have to put up with all the nonsense that we normally carry out here.

CBC Keeping Public Informed

One area that I would also like to give recognition to, is the small core of the press that we have in the North. Although some of us may not agree sometimes with what they say, I am satisfied with the programs that are being carried out. Particularly in my language, the Inuktitut language, the CBC I think is doing a very good job in the area of Inuktitut programs in Keewatin and Baffin for that matter. So I think that is one area that those of us in the East have been at least blessed with, that communication and informing the public of the important things that are taking place. I have been very satisfied, with the programs that come out daily and even early in the morning that I listen to, that they are keeping the people informed of the decisions that the government is taking. So Mr. Speaker, I will not go on too long and there are many things on my mind but I think it is much more important that we get this House dissolved so we can get on the campaign and I look forward to being involved. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' replies. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Mr. Evaluarjuk's Reply

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have a very long speech to make at this time. In the replies that we are given, I do not really see any big issue in Members' replies but it is very interesting to hear what the Members of the Legislative Assembly have been able to reply on. I can also say that on the Eighth Assembly there were some difficulties. People in the last Assembly were making complaints that the Eighth Assembly was not very good and we were hearing some rumours saying that maybe the 10th Assembly will say that the Ninth Assembly was not very good. Maybe so. Mr. Speaker, I am also very happy that I am able to say what I have been thinking too, mainly about human resources. We have been able to work together in the ITC for example. The MLAs in this House should be working more closely together instead of debating among ourselves but today I can see that the working relation between us is a lot better than in previous years. I can also say that in the seventies, I cannot say the exact date but close to 1979, I am not too sure, said -- was just coming into existence, and he meant, you are the children of the government and this was refused by the BRC, that the BRC was just coming into existence.

Need To Work Together Closely

I am happy to see that we are working together and only by working together can we get things done. I can also add that this will have to be worked on still. The thing is that the guidelines that each individual has, this is what you do and this is what we are going to do. We do not have to assess; we are going to do it so do not do anything about it. We should be getting the things organized so that we can also work together. Maybe if we work together more closely we probably would be spending less money and we probably would get more things done for the communities that request it. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that for the eight years that I have been here in this Assembly, most of the things that my constituents have requested have not been passed but I would like to see that dealt with in the future. I would also say that the Minister of Renewable Resources must be happy this session with the big bear. I have not said anything about polar bears this time.

---Laughter

I can ask you now Mr. Speaker, for the 10th Assembly there will be Members of the Legislature -- I would like to see that it could be me, or it could be anybody -- if a Member is not able to understand English, I would like to have a back-up behind us of people that know how to speak English and Inuktitut. The Ministers have back-up staff at the House at all times. It is very hard for the interpreters; I am not saying that the interpreters are not doing any work, but I am saying that it is very hard for the interpreters when we are talking about all kinds of different things. For that reason I would like to have someone as a back-up to sit at the House at all times at the 10th Assembly.

I do not have a very long speech, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank all the Members of this House. Also to the Speaker, you have been a very good chairman, my greatest appreciation to you and also to all the Members of the Legislature. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Evaluarjuk. Members' replies. Mr. McLaughlin.

Mr. McLaughlin's Reply

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have not used the opportunity of Members' replies too often, however, I feel that during this last session of the Assembly, I would like to say a few words. Especially in my reply to the Commissioner, I would like to say a few things about Commissioner Parker. I think, as other Members have said, what a great Commissioner of the Northwest Territories he has been and how he has helped this Assembly and worked with this Assembly toward the goal of responsible government in the Northwest Territories. He is a good gardener too, yes.

I would especially like to thank him for coming over to Pine Point this spring to the graduation ceremonies there, for meeting with the education committee there and for being very responsive to the education committee's requests at that time. There were three teachers who did not want to leave the community, who were laid off and they were all three of them teachers that the community wanted to keep. It was very important to us that they remained in the community. I would like to tell the Commissioner that during the seating arrangements after the grad ceremony, it was just a coincidence that one of those teachers, who is very personable, was sitting next to you, Mr. Commissioner.

I would also like to say a few words about the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Pilot. As Members are aware, during question period and on other occasions when I talked on the budgets, especially highways, I keep bringing up the stretch of highway between the border and Enterprise. I always ask when and if something is ever going to be done, if something can be done and what is going to be done. I know the Deputy Commissioner was prompting me a little earlier in the session to ask a question about the highway but I have not done that. But I did hear on the radio that something is being done because I hear that the vehicles currently trying to get from the border to Enterprise are being towed through the construction zone with heavy equipment. So I would like to thank the Deputy Commissioner and the Minister of the Department of Public Works for getting something done in that very important area. I would like to say that the Deputy Commissioner's role in the NWT has been a very important one, not only while he was Deputy Commissioner but also before, and I am sure that all Members will certainly want the federal government or the territorial government to find some role that the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Pilot, can continue to play in the Northwest Territories with our government because he has been a really fine northerner.

Ministers' Visits To Pine Point

Other Members of the Executive Committee have visited Pine Point at various times over the years I would like to thank George Braden and Arnold McCallum, in particular, for a visit they had there last spring. We had chances for them to meet on an informal basis with people in the community, with mine management, with union officials, with the different businessmen in town. That was about the time when the company first started sending out signals that there could be problems in Pine Point and it was very good to have them there at that time to reassure people that the Government of the Northwest Territories did have an active interest in Pine Point and was not just treating it like a company mining town; that the residents of Pine Point were residents of the NWT and would have attention paid to them.

I would also like to thank the Minister of Renewable Resources, Richard Nerysoo, for his visits to Pine Point and the time he spent with the Pine Point wildlife and wilderness club which is certainly concerned about many of the hunting and game regulations in the Northwest Territories; he did not skirt the issues. I was unable to be there for the barbecue dinner which was put on at the time he was there, but I know that the Pine Pointers who were there very much appreciated Richard's forthright and honest answers and the fact that he did not skirt the issues and dealt with them square on. They did not necessarily agree with what the government was doing but they were happy to have a person there who would tell them how things were.

I would thank also Mr. Patterson for his visits to Pine Point, I would like to call them eat, meet and run meetings. I think for anyone who has travelled very much with Mr. Patterson, it is a hectic thing to get him at the airport, in and out again. His last visit was especially that. They flew blind through a blizzard to get him to Pine Point in June or late May, just after the

session was over, when communities on that side of the lake had meetings on the proposed amendments concerning divisional boards. I would like to thank the Minister for taking into consideration the apprehension that some of the communities had there in making the necessary amendments that allayed any fears that they had that they would be forced to do things that they did not want to.

The Legislative Assembly Members all visited Pine Point on one occasion when they went to visit the mine, when we met in Hay River. Pine Pointers who were in attendance at the dinner very much appreciated having the Legislative Assembly there and I did wish at some time to try to get caucus to have a meeting there but it did not work out that way. But the Pine Pointers who were there I am sure will remember the opportunity of meeting all the Members of the Assembly from the various far reaches of the Northwest Territories. As well, I think some of the Members will remember the mine tour and the heavy equipment even if they do not remember the bus trip home.

MRS. SORENSEN: Speak for yourself.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: What bus trip?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I was smart enough not to get on the bus and I stayed there.

Creation Of Constituency Of Pine Point

Pine Point's place in the NWT, I guess its role and the feeling it has as to whether it belongs or not has, I think, changed considerably in the last four years possibly due to the fact that they have an MLA representing them for the first time, not necessarily because it is me, but just because they do have a person they can go directly to for their own community. We had previously been connected with Fort Smith or Hay River and their MLAs. Both of those are fairly large and ambitious communities so sometimes Pine Point got left out in a lot of things. That is one advantage. And I have to thank the last Assembly and our former MLA, Arnold McCallum, for making the effort that was necessary to create a Pine Point constituency.

I believe that the government has recently dealt really well with Pine Point. When our school burned down the government was very quick to get in there, get that school replaced and get the students back into the regular school, and I must say, built a very good building. We never have figured out who burned the school down, but I must say that the end result is a benefit to the community although I do not want to encourage that type of thing.

—Laughter

Government Investment In Mining Operation

I would also like to say that the recent investment of \$600,000 that this government has made in the mining operation in Pine Point was a key to getting the mine going again. There was a bit of a deadlock between the company and the union as to whether there should be a 15 per cent roll-back in wages or not and that the government intervention with the \$600,000 was very timely and allowed the company to ask for only a 10 per cent roll-back. I said that it was a \$600,000 investment and that was because in 1983 because the mine was shut down for five months, this government and the federal government would collect about \$1.5 to two million dollars less in personal income taxes in Pine Point. So the \$600,000 was an investment that allowed that revenue to come in. That \$1.5 to two million dollars personal income tax does not include corporate taxes the company pays or that the individual companies operating as service industries to the mine and to the employees of all those companies would be paying in taxes. So \$600,000 was an investment that was very much appreciated by the community and the company in particular. During the shut-down I would also like to say that this government was very co-operative in helping sustain the community to a large degree.

Drilling School Held In Pine Point

Outside of the mine I imagine the major building or investment that any one person has in that community is the hotel and the shopping centre owned by one individual in town. Through the efforts of various people including myself, Thebacha College put on a drilling school in Pine Point and that helped out the hotel and restaurant quite a bit, and kept things going. To boot, it was a very successful school. Apparently when they have tried to hold these drilling schools in well rigging in the past in Edmonton the success rate has been only about 10 or 15 per cent. The students have got into a lot of trouble and failed to show up for classes and gone home. Apparently in Pine Point the success rate was somewhere around 80 or 90 per cent.

I am glad they took that opportunity to hold that school there and I think that in the future Pine Point has to look at doing something else rather than just being a mining town. The strength in Pine Point is the fact that it is a mining community and they have all the facilities and equipment. Perhaps in the future more work can be done in the area of training people in the technical mining skills as an extension of Thebacha College. I would also like to say that Mike Stilwell, the regional director, was also very co-operative in all endeavours and made sure all the necessary communications were made with the residents of Pine Point. There were extra people put in from the Hay River office to deal with social services problems, etc., and Mr. Stilwell also helped out a little bit by holding a few regional meetings for the Fort Smith region in Pine Point.

Importance Of Highways

I previously mentioned the importance of highways in our area. I think a lot of Members who do not live in this part of the Northwest Territories do not appreciate that some communities like ours do not have an adequate air strip or airport and highways are very important to us in the transportation of food, goods and services, so we are always concerned about them. I have always been pushing for asphaltic coating of highways in our area; not the hot pavement but just the asphalt coating to keep the dust down. That was done shortly after I was elected between Pine Point and Hay River, a test which was earlier done, and I once again thank Arnold McCallum for initiating that 20 mile stretch the first time, and the subsequent finishing of that road between Hay River was very important to us. That highway used to take the lives of two or three people every year and there has been no one killed on that highway since the asphalt coating was completed three years ago between Pine Point and Hay River. So there is more involved than just the comfort of driving on a highway without dust. There is also the safety element as well. I would really encourage the government to look very closely at paving the areas between Fort Smith and Pine Point which has a very good gravel base and it would be, I think, a successful area to do this. Also another area which would probably be successful would be from Enterprise to the Fort Providence crossing because in both cases you are on a high gravel area and you probably will not have much frost heaving. And I am sure it will pay for itself alone in the fact that you do not have to haul gravel and grade and what you save in lives is an immeasurable thing.

Public Input Into Proposed Legislation

One of the most memorable roles I played in this Assembly was being co-chairman of the special committee on education, and it really was a privilege to serve on that committee with the Members who were on it, as well with the Members who hosted us when we went to their communities for public hearings. I once said that I thought all the committees of this Assembly should hold their meetings out in the public. However, I have to think that a few of the special committee on education meetings were better held in camera as they were. Sometimes there was quite a bit of conflict between some of the Members as to what had to be done, but in the end I think it was a good exercise in compromise and consensus.

I think we possibly set a precedent for getting people in the Northwest Territories involved in their own future by asking their opinions before we went ahead and did something. In the past in most cases the government decided they had an idea and then tried to sell it. In this case we told the people we wanted to hear their ideas. It is not an easy thing to do because you get people's expectations up and you cannot be all things to all people, so you are going to have some people upset. I think what the people of the Northwest Territories should appreciate is that when the special committee on education did that, and also when the standing committee on legislation held its hearings on different proposed draft legislation and the public accounts committee held its meetings on the FIS system, that we were taking a new role as legislators in the Northwest Territories to make sure that the people in the Northwest Territories were heard.

It has caused a lot of controversy and debate in the public over some of the things we are doing, but the point that the general public should remember is that you as the general public now know what we are doing. Mr. Speaker, I think that is an element of democracy that has to be important. I know it has caused me turmoil in my own constituency once in a while over some of the positions the Assembly has taken, but now, more than ever before, the people in the Northwest Territories know the issues are being debated and they know the decisions are being made. They sometimes do not like them all but at least they are getting a chance to have an input which they did not have before. I think this Assembly will maybe be remembered more for that than anything, that the issues now are definitely out where the public can deal with them and that we are accessible to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Creation Of A Fourth Level Of Government

Another step that is going to be a big change is what we are dealing with later today, the Regional and Tribal Councils Ordinance. I guess no matter what a person thinks about that, whether you are creating a fourth level of government, whether that is a good idea or not -- I personally do not think it is -- but the point is that this government has regional headquarters and there are small governments out there. I have always called the regional directors the "little commissioners in the field," and they do have their empires out there and I guess what has happened is that the people in those areas feel that there is a council needed to advise those governments. However, myself, I have some doubts about creating a fourth level of government, especially when other things have not been decided, like land claims and division of the Northwest Territories.

Taxation Of Northern Benefits

Taxation of northern benefits, really I just cannot believe the bureaucratic nonsense that is going on right now, especially what came to light through Mr. MacQuarrie the other day, of their investigating small businessmen and very complicated rules that small businesses have to follow. Basically what it boils down to, unless you are an employee or an employer concerned with a large corporation or government, they are making it very difficult for your employees to benefit like other people in the Northwest Territories who work for large corporations. I am sure that all their turmoil and investigation is costing them more than the taxes they are going to get out of it. It is a sad situation, and I only wish that we did not have the taxation laws we do in Canada, where the employers must collect the taxes and deduct them off the employees pay and then send them in a lump sum, because, boy, we could sure have a tax revolt up here if each individual in the Northwest Territories decided whether he was going to pay his taxes or not, because they would never collect them. I think the feeling is there, for a tax revolt in the Northwest Territories, but you cannot do it under the present situation, because the employers are the ones who would be fined. The government just comes in and zaps your bank account in order to get those deductions, if you are not delivering them. So there is not much that you can do about it.

Lack Of Commitment At Constitutional Meetings

On other future issues, ongoing issues in the Northwest Territories, one I think that has to continue is the western constitutional situation which has resulted from our special committee on the constitution, for constitutional development in the West. I must say that I was unhappy to find that there was going to be no meeting this summer. I think some municipalities were looking forward to meeting with the different issues. I think one of the big faults of that committee was that there was no commitment forced upon the different groups that went to those meetings. Some of the decisions made at some of those meetings were a sort of show of hands and a mumbling of, "agreed, agreed", without any kind of commitment or any recorded vote. So people are going to be saying, "Oh, we did not say that." But they did, they were all there and they agreed to some of these things and now they are trying to say, "Oh, we did not agree to that." I think that if this is going to be so, I want us to continue with that during the next Assembly. I would like to see those meetings much more formalized as far as the decision-making process goes, that the different people who are involved make commitments and they are recorded as to where municipalities stood and how they voted, because you are never going to get consensus if no one can ever look back and find out who reached consensus and who did not.

A Boundary Acceptable To The West

The division of the Northwest Territories is something that I, certainly after the plebiscite and overwhelming vote that took place in the East for division, will definitely not be a person who is going to stand in the way of the ultimate division of the Northwest Territories. However, I think Members from the East have to be realistic and realize that where the boundary is to be, is a very important issue to people in the West, and that unless they are willing to give on that, the people in the West will hold up division until it takes place along the line that could be accepted by people of the West.

Domination By Yukon In NCPC

Other issues, like NCPC's ongoing -- I call them a clown corporation sometimes; it is really -- we have got to get moving on that, get the Penner Report implemented and get a territorial crown corporation for the Northwest Territories. It is ludicrous to have something like 40 or 50-odd

NCPC plants in the Northwest Territories, and maybe only half a dozen in the Yukon, yet have that crown corporation so dominated by people from the Yukon that it is totally unresponsive or totally lacking in understanding of what the issues are in the Northwest Territories...

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...what role NCPC plays in the Northwest Territories.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

MR. McLAUGHLIN: It is something that has to be done, and done fast. It must be very frustrating for Mr. Robertson in Inuvik to sit on that board, and be the only person who knows what the reality of NCPC is in the Northwest Territories. I also think that the crown corporation is going to have to look at another system of making assessments. Basically what they seem to do in their operations is to charge those who can afford to pay. For example, in a community they will charge the government a heck of a lot more than an ordinary person, or they will charge the Housing Corporation, because they know the Housing Corporation will pay. There are different rates in different communities for different people. I think there has to be a real hard look taken at that and they have to decide, if somebody is going to subsidize the power, that it should not be the corporation, but some department in the federal government that should take on that responsibility for subsidizing power for those people it wishes to subsidize. Having NCPC do it is not proper, I think. Especially when you have situations where they make 200 per cent profit in some areas and lose in others. It just does not seem right. I think it will continue to be a turmoil for that corporation if they have to deal with social issues, rather than just delivering power as they are supposed to in the first place.

Northern Preference Policy

The northern preference policy needs some fine tuning. I have had several letters from different government employees in Pine Point and the education committee there because of the way things seem to double in price. Some situations are so ridiculous, where a government employee trying to order something looks up what he wants in a catalogue put out by the say, ABC sporting goods company or something like that, somewhere in southern Canada. This is what he wants, so he orders it. Then he finds that the order has been diverted to a northern operator and the things come with 20, 40, 50, sometimes 200 per cent markup, for the same goods.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame!

MR. McLAUGHLIN: In one case, the person who was doing the eventual selling, the northern seller, phoned the government employee in Pine Point and wanted him to give him the numbers of where in this book to find this stuff. He was too lazy to look through the book and find it, to order it from the same ABC company. So that is a ridiculous situation and should not be allowed to continue, because the education committee in Pine Point as in other communities has a very small budget, and when stuff starts going up 10, 20, 40, 50 per cent on you, it gets out of hand. Especially when sometimes there is a time delay, because these people do not even carry these goods in stock, so you have to wait an extra two or three weeks for the paper work to be done because of that.

Another thing that I would like to talk to is again, an issue in the Western Arctic. It has to do with land claims and the whole Denendeh proposal. I think and I hope that the new executive of the Dene Nation and the current recently elected executive of the Metis Association will start dealing with reality in some of these situations. I think that the Denendeh proposal is a good proposal, if it is going to deal with the land and the areas that are given over specifically to the Dene during land claims. But to try to impose the style of government they want on others who moved and settled in the Northwest Territories, sometimes throughout their lives, on the Inuvialuit and the Inuit of the Central Arctic who may or may not be in this territory, certainly is not going to be a proposition that is going to be acceptable. I think there is a reality there that they have to deal with; that the very essence of the Denendeh proposal goes against what is wanted. They want to have a large area of Central Arctic and areas claimed by ITC and Nunavut as part of their territory. The very essence of their Denendeh proposal will drive those people from wanting to be in that territory. The Denendeh proposal is sort of counter-productive to what they really want to do in the end. I think that is something that is going to have to be dealt with before we get anywhere in the West, as far as an agreement on constitutional development goes.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin, how much longer are you going to be, please?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Just a few minutes I think, Mr. Speaker. Among the last things I would like to mention are the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. The impression people have in the West, certainly in my constituency, is that the Nunavut Constitutional Forum is running all over the Western Constitutional Forum, that the Western Constitutional Forum has tried to hold meetings and not held them several times. There is certainly a disillusionment to date with what they are working on.

Role Of Public Accounts Committee

The other thing I would like to mention is an ongoing thing, ongoing, I guess, as of yesterday and maybe this afternoon. That is the whole situation on FIS and the public accounts committee. I meant to mention that a little earlier when I dealt with the public accounts committee and its role. I would like to just respond to a few things Mr. MacQuarrie said yesterday. It was the public accounts committee, fairly early in our mandate shortly after we were appointed, which became concerned with FIS, its cost, what was it doing and would it be on time? And it was the public accounts committee which asked the Auditor General to do a complete audit of the whole FIS system and its history. And it was our committee that held public hearings on it and it was our committee that made recommendations to the government which have just been responded to. I think if Mr. MacQuarrie had an appreciation of public accounts committees he would realize that it is not their job to discipline, it is not their job to make specific recommendations on what happened. It is their job to make sure things like that do not happen again and to point out to the government and the Executive Committee the faults that were in place, to make sure they do not happen again. It is the Executive Committee's responsibility to deal with this item further if they feel it is necessary, or if they do not, then it is the Legislative Assembly which has to take the initiative, maybe, and force the Executive Committee to deal with it. As far as I am concerned the finance and public accounts committee took the lead role in bringing this issue out to the public and getting all the facts compiled and together. I know that Mr. MacQuarrie received some brown paper envelopes that we did not receive, but that is what happens in these types of situations. We certainly did take, I would say, a lead role in bringing this issue to light, and individual Members in this House did, like Mr. Patterson who is silent now, maybe because he is on the Executive Committee and maybe he knows that it is such a good system that he did not know before. Right, Mr. Patterson? Right, he nods.

---Laughter

MRS. SORENSEN: He is shaking his head.

Function Of Caucus Meetings

MR. McLAUGHLIN: In closing, I would just like to thank the Members of the Assembly for giving me the opportunity to be the caucus chairman. I learned quite a bit doing that. I tried to run caucus on a first-name basis. There were no rules, and it was hard to do sometimes, but I think, mostly, we got through it all. Early on in caucus we seemed to be dealing just with the timing of when things would happen. The press was very interested in what was going on in there, but really initially not too much was happening. Later, as the press lost interest and did not ask me any more what was happening in caucus meetings, caucus really did become a forum for a few things. Some people may see cause for a little fear in that, but I do not. I think that it is not much different from any other assembly where caucuses discuss items and come to an agreement on what is going to happen. I know there are no parties here but I can assure the press and the general public that whenever individual Members did not like what the group was doing, they brought the issue to the floor themselves during question period and with motions. So I do not think any democracy was lost because our caucus meetings were held.

Appreciation Of Staff

I would like to thank the Members for also appointing me to the other committees I served on. I learned quite a bit about the Northwest Territories and about how the government runs in general and I very much appreciated this term. I certainly hope to be back here again if my constituency sees fit to send me. I will be putting my name up and I do hope to return. I would like at this time to thank the Assembly staff. I really think we have been well-served in here. I just wish every civil servant and every head of every department cared and worked as hard as these people

do. Maybe it is because we outnumber them 22 to 10. But they do work hard and they have been just super. Mr. Remnant, when he was here, and Mr. Hamilton, as Clerk and Clerk Assistant and as secretary of our various committees, just did monumental work for us and were just excellent servants.

Hansard Staff

We always thank the interpreters and the Pages and the people we can see and I think a lot of times we neglect the Hansard staff. I think that they do a tremendous job of mincing up our words, fixing up our sentences, making us look like we are making sense, dotting our i's and putting the commas in the right place. They do a tremendous work back there. I know right now this session they are having a little difficulty because they worked so long on a manual system, they had it down to a fine T and now they are starting to put everything on word processors, to take advantage of that but for the very fact the mechanics have changed, they are going through a heck of a time this session. I think it is also appropriate that we should congratulate Marie Coe, who is the editor of our Hansard, for just being elected president of the Hansard Association of Canada.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. McLAUGHLIN: In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for the excellent work you have done as Speaker. You have put us down lots of times and brought us to order when we needed to be brought to order, but that is the job we gave you. I think you cannot have a Legislative Assembly running unless it is disciplined and the administration is working well. You have done a tremendous job of that and I thank you for the role you have played. Thank you.

---Applause

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

---SHORT RECESS

I call the House back to order. We are on Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Wray.

Mr. Wray's Reply

MR. WRAY: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It gives me great honour to make my first reply to the Commissioner's Address and also my last one at the same time. So it makes things easy for me. I, unlike the other MLAs in this House, have only been present here for a very short time and as such I do not have the historical perspective that some of you might have on the terms of your service. The one thing I do have though is probably a little bit more ability to tell you in terms of the general public how you have done and what you have done from an outside position. Some of you know, and a lot of my friends know, that five or six years ago I would not have stood in this House. I spent a lot of my time trying to destroy this government and to destroy this Assembly. I did not think that it was good for the North and I saw nothing but negative decisions being taken which affected us and really it seemed that we had no control over it.

I have to tell you now that it is my own personal opinion that if this present Assembly had been in operation 10 years ago, the history of the North might have been changed considerably. As it is, certain things have happened and we will find ourselves within the next five years heading for division. Nunavut to us in the East is just more than an administrative split. Nunavut to us is the realization of many of our dreams. One of the reasons I ran for this House was that I started to hear rumours of ethnic government, of people trying to destroy Nunavut on the basis of race, and I said that if I can run and I can win, I can prove to the people of the North that in the East we have luckily lost any ideas that we may have had in terms of a racial split. We in the East have been very successful in integrating ourselves with each other. Certainly it has been easier than in the West -- and I am not criticizing the West for not achieving this same type of integration and the same type of co-operation that we have in the East -- we have an easier job but we have achieved it. And there should be no mistakes made, Nunavut is not only an Inuit concept. Nunavut is supported and backed by all segments of society in the East including the non-native society.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WRAY: People should understand that and they should realize that and they should realize that we will not give Nunavut up. We will achieve Nunavut; one way or the other Nunavut will be achieved. People might try and throw roadblocks up and people might try and throw scare tactics into the federal government, but Nunavut will be achieved. You can take my word for that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MRS. SORENSEN: As long as it has the right boundaries.

Assembly Responsive To Wishes Of People

MR. WRAY: Boundaries was my next topic, Mrs. Sorensen. This House and the people in this House, while they will have a say in the boundaries, to my way of thinking will not determine where those boundaries lie. The people in the communities who are going to be affected will determine where the boundaries lie, and once they have made that decision then it is up to us to carry out their desires.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WRAY: Everything that this Assembly has done in the last four years has been orientated toward allowing the people to speak, allowing the people to tell you what they want. You did it through your education committee, you did it through the WCF, you have done it through the NCF and to reverse this trend or for anybody to try and dictate where boundaries are going to be, will be to reverse your credibility in the eyes of the public. This Assembly...

MRS. SORENSEN: Like Holman Island.

MR. WRAY: Well, that is another argument...

---Laughter

...and it is not mine; it is not my argument. This Assembly has for the first time in the history of the North established its credibility among all segments of society in the North. That you should be proud of. You have achieved a credibility which has made things so much easier for everybody to understand government and for everybody to participate in government. You should take credit for it and, you know, I hear some people replying to the Commissioner's Address and they do not want to laud their praises but I am really serious about this. You should be very proud of what you have done in the last four years. You have turned people like me around and to do that you had to work really hard at it. You have turned others around, I think in the West more than the East. You have turned many segments in society in the West around. You still have a lot of work to do in the West and you still have to understand that you cannot continue fighting among yourselves. When the crunch comes we all have one common foe and that foe lies south of the 60th line.

MRS. SORENSEN: Tell that to Nick.

MR. WRAY: You tell him. In the North, because of our small population and because of the many diverse cultures we have, we have spent so much time in the last 15 years attempting to destroy each other and it has allowed outside forces to walk in here and take over and now we are having to fight back and we are having to re-establish control, we have to try and get in control. I do not think we can allow that to happen any more.

Mr. MacQuarrie, in his speech yesterday, alluded to party politics and luckily it died because from my own point of view, party politics at this point in time in the North would have been disastrous. We still have too much collective fighting to do without fighting with each other. One day party politics will come. It might be four years from now, it might be eight years from now, but let the people decide when they want party politics. Do not let the politicians decide. Let the people say, "Now we want to move into party politics." The history of the North has always been government from the top down. From the day I walked in here in 1969 I noticed government was always from the top down and people had very little or no say in it. Over the last 10, 12, 14 years that position has reversed itself and a lot of credit has to go to the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner for doing that. They have allowed government to take a back seat and they have

allowed the politicians and the native groups to take over. While there is a lot of, sometimes, negative reaction about that, that is the way things have to go, that is the orderly state of things. Social change is something that you will not change, you can only affect and when people determine that it is the time for them to step in and take control then all we can do is assist them. If we fight them then we will never go anywhere.

Economy And Education Are Problem Areas

The major thrust of this last Assembly has been political and constitutional development and much needed reform was made and the groundwork has been laid for further work. Like my colleague, Mr. Curley, it is my opinion that the next Assembly has to concentrate on two areas, the economy and education. We can have all the political institutions in the world and good political institutions but if we are running 70 and 80 per cent unemployment in our communities and our kids are not getting a proper education, political solutions will not do us any good whatsoever. People have to feel that they are part of society. People have to feel that they are contributing and they are taking out from society.

Education, as you know, has been a very emotional subject, particularly in the Keewatin. People have always asked me why the Keewatin is always bitching about education. Why is it the Keewatin that is always angry about this? Well, maybe it is because many years ago, and Mr. Butters and Mr. MacQuarrie will remember this, the Keewatin decided that if they were to go anywhere, the children had to have education and they took almost a whole generation of children and they sent them out. They sent them to Churchill and they sent them to Ottawa and they sent them to Winnipeg. And that group now forms the basis of the leadership in the East. It also forms the basis of our senior management in the government and it forms the basis of our most senior native politicians.

What has happened though is that we now have a vacuum. We have a major vacuum in the East, where the leaders and the technocrats and the doctors and the lawyers and the engineers and architects are not coming up through the system. We have stopped. That has always been a problem for us and it was always one that we have tried to deal with. What caused it? Was it Frobisher Bay school? Was it the Yellowknife school? Was it television? We could never really pinpoint why there was such a reversal in this whole trend. So we start to do some digging and one very interesting fact came to light as we went back into the attendance registers of the schools from 1958 onward.

Reversal In Education Policy, 1973

From 1958 through 1973, attendance in the Baker Lake School never went below 94 per cent. From 1973 to the present, it has dropped off at an average of 5 per cent a year to where we now have 60 per cent attendance and we have about 100 less kids in our school than we did 10 years ago.

Following up on that, in all of the other communities, not just in the East but in the West, the same trend happened. In 1972-73, something happened that started a major drop in attendance and when that drop in attendance occurred, the drop in standards and educational standards also occurred. So the next question obviously was, what happened? It was not principals, because we had the same principal before and the same principal after the change. It was not television, television did not come until four years later. Then digging further, we found that in 1973, the government and the Department of Education in its wisdom took what was known at that time as the red and green books and threw them out. They said no, this education is wrong. We are going to come up with a new system of education. If you want to learn maths you go to that corner of the room; if you want to learn English you go to that corner of the room; if you want to play in the gym, you can go to the gym. So we had three people in maths, two in English and 17 in the gymnasium.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: That is Paul Robinson.

MR. WRAY: Exactly. What happened is that in the space of about one year, we took our whole education system and we flipped it 180 degrees. And what that did to people was, people all of sudden did not know what school was all about any more. For 20 years they knew that school was where you send your children to learn and when those children learned and when they came out of the school system, they were as equal and capable of taking jobs as any of us. And the system was therefore worth something to them. When we flip-flopped and the kids were waking up in the morning and saying, "Well, we do not want to go to school." "Well why?" "Well, we are doing the same thing there as we are doing at home, nothing. Why go to school?" And that was why the attendance started to drop, because the children were not learning anything. They were playing.

We allowed that to happen for eight or nine years and what it means to us now, and I will put it very strictly in terms of a community perspective, is that in Baker Lake we have 107 children that we have to go back and re-educate, we have to go back and we have to give them -- we will never bring them up to a grade 12 standard any more, it is too late for that, but we have to give them a very basic education to give them the confidence to go out and look for jobs. When the special task force on education went around the communities it was amazing to me to sit in the school gymnasium in Baker Lake, in the back seat, and watch older Inuit people stand up and say, "We want walls in our classroom. We want a grade system. We want our children to get academic learning." And I say to myself maybe, just maybe, we can reverse this whole trend again. Once again, we have to go back and reverse the whole trend and luckily and hopefully through Mr. Patterson and his department that trend has started to reverse itself. I do not know, if we have done so much damage, whether we will ever get back to where we were before, but I can tell you, we cannot get any worse.

Limited Objectives Of Training Programs

This government, and when I say "government" I do not mean this Assembly and I do not mean the Commissioner, I just mean the government in general, has always assumed that the proper jobs for native people were clerk typists or heavy equipment operators or clerk Is or clerk IIs. The government has never operated on the assumption that given the right education, Inuit can be doctors or can be lawyers or can be architects. We have developed our government that way. I remember hearing just about a month ago a major announcement about a program we were starting in Fort Smith where we were going to train survey assistants. There were press releases and it was, "We are training survey assistants for the North." Why the hell can we not train surveyors? Why do we have to train survey assistants? Why can we not train surveyors? But nobody ever thinks that way. We train classroom assistants. Why do we not train teachers? We train assistant fish and wildlife officers and I have to give Mr. Nerysoo credit because in the last two years his department, more than any other government department, has brought native people into this government and are training them for senior field management positions. It is very good to see because if there is one area where the native people have an obvious advantage over the non-native people, it is in the area of wildlife and resource development. That is their life, that is what they are used to.

But we seem to always want to train people to a certain standard and then stop there. There is never the admission that people can go further than that. I suggest to those who think that way, come to Baker Lake and I will show you 35 people who are in senior management and who have senior business positions that are as good as anybody in this country. And if you go around the North you will find lots of them, and there is no reason why we cannot insist upon, put in and expect strict academic standards to produce the quality of people that we are looking for. If anything happens in education, I sincerely hope that that is what happens, that we concentrate on the academic side of things and that we start producing from our system people capable of taking major and senior positions in all sectors of our society.

There has been much discussion from the Keewatin; we always seem to be saying, "We want our kids to go to Yellowknife, or we want our kids to go to Churchill; we do not want to go to Frobisher Bay." I want to correct something for the record. Mr. Patterson gets very defensive sometimes about Frobisher Bay and I can understand that, but he has to understand that what he is hearing from the Keewatin is a cry for help. The Keewatin people know they have a problem and they need help to solve that problem, and I hope Mr. Patterson understands that. Sometimes we will say things and sometimes we might sound very harsh but it is not because we are anti-this or anti-that. We want to try and help ourselves and we want to try and help our people and our children. We see a problem and we want to solve that problem.

I have no illusions, and I am doing this for the benefit of CBC who got me in trouble before in Frobisher Bay about the quality of Ukkivik residence. Ukkivik residence is one of the finest residences in the North. If any of you had ever seen the CVC residence, which Mr. Patterson never saw because he was not in the North then -- but I saw it and if there was ever anywhere close to a prison, that was it. In fact Ukkivik looks like the Hilton Hotel compared to what CVC used to be all about. So have no illusions about that, Mr. Patterson. You will not hear any criticism from us about the quality of the Ukkivik residence. It is a fine institution.

Reasons For Criticism Of GREC

I am sure GREC is also a fine institution, but I cannot be so easy in my plaudits about GREC because GREC caused us trouble. Maybe it was done out of empathy or sympathy, but children were accepted into the GREC high school who should never have been taken in there. They were not qualified for GREC and that is the reason you hear so much criticism about GREC. We were sending children to grade nine and grade 10 in GREC who had only been given a grade five or a grade six in the community. When GREC took those children, instead of taking them from grade 10 to grade 12, which the parents thought was happening, GREC was educating the kids from a grade six to about a grade nine level, because that was as much as they could do in the time that they had. Consequently, some of the children coming out of grade 12 of that system, really did not have a grade 12, they had a grade nine or a grade eight. And it was not GREC's fault, it was the community's fault because we did not give them the right education in the first place. But what was perceived by the people was that these kids were not getting proper education in GREC, and for a long time that problem was hidden because nobody admitted or wanted to admit that the problem lay in our communities, that it was at the community level that we were not doing the job.

Now that admission has been made and that recognition is now there, and I am glad to see that the grade nine departmental exams have been introduced. If I had my way, there would be exams from grade six onward every year in the school system so that we can identify at a very early stage the potential of children; we can identify who is doing their job. If the average for grade six in Baker Lake is 45 per cent and the average in Inuvik is 60 per cent and the average in Yellowknife is 70 per cent, then we know we have a problem in Baker Lake. It is as simple as that.

Right now we have no way of telling, is this a good teacher or a bad teacher. A supervisor of schools comes in for one day, talks to the principal, wanders around the school, goes back out of town and rates the teacher. That is no way to rate teachers. I can remember when I was going to school inspectors would just appear out of nowhere. They would walk into your class and they would sit there and they would sit there for two days, sometimes three days in one classroom, and they would watch that teacher. They would watch him teaching and they would watch his ability with the children, then they would rate their teacher. But we, for the last 10 years, have never been able to tell you, the education committee cannot tell you, and I suspect that the principals and the vice-principals of the local schools cannot tell you either, whether or not that particular teacher is doing a good job. In terms of the teaching profession it has hurt them because you have undoubtedly some very fine teachers in our system but you have some poor teachers too and it is the poor teachers that we always pick up on and they reflect on teachers as a whole. I think one of the ways to solve this problem is examinations from grade six and grade seven onward. It is one way we can identify right there at a very early age what has gone wrong with our children. Right now we cannot do that.

Education Inadequate For Job Opportunities

The lack of education for our children or the lack of major academic education has caused us problems not only in government, it has caused us problems in the private sector and in the community government level. When I was the secretary manager of the hamlet of Rankin Inlet in 1975 there was myself and another guy in Central Arctic, and we were the only two non-native section managers in the Eastern Arctic and 10 years later, native section managers are in the minority. One of the reasons is that the education system has not been producing the people to step into those roles. Not only are we losing that impetus in local government, we are losing it in housing and through all the sectors in our communities, where the communities themselves are going out and hiring people from the South because they cannot find people within their own system, within our own community to do that job. That, I think, is an indication of the way the trend is going and it is a trend that we have to stop and reverse immediately.

In the private sector it is the same problem. For the first time in 14 years as a businessman I have had to seriously consider going south to hire. I never had to do it before, and now I find myself in a position of being unable to find people within my community to take certain roles within our companies, and we have to go south. That really bothers me, given the fact that 10 years ago I did not have that problem. In fact, 10 years ago, we had so many people wanting to work with us that we could not hire them all. Now we do not have anybody. I really hope that if I am back or somebody else is back this Assembly takes education firmly under control and make sure that we stop these trends and we start placing the emphasis back on education the way it was 10 years ago. That is not only in the North. That is a problem right throughout this country and as usual in the North we are five to 10 years behind. We are only recognizing it now. In the South they were recognizing it five years ago.

Economic Potential

I will not say too much more other than in terms of our economy. I have told you before, unemployment in our community runs anywhere from between 60 and 80 per cent. This is a situation that is completely intolerable, but after saying that people say, "Yes, but what are you going to do?" I mean there is only so much you can do in some of those communities and there is no more that we can do. Well, I do not know if we have done everything we could do in the first place. Tourism has major potential. Commercial fishing has major potential. Like my colleague, I think that resource development is going to come and it is going to have to come, and the people in the communities are starting to say that it is going to have to come. I have no major objections to resource development. My only conditions are that a) it provides economic benefits to northerners and b) environmentally, it satisfies all of our concerns. Unless resource development can satisfy those two concerns we might as well not have resource development because it is not going to do us any good anyway. The lights are going out on me.

I will finish up by saying it has been a real pleasure being here. It is the first time in 12 years I have been able to criticize the government and get paid for it, and for a Scotsman, that is just a dream. I am going to run again but I am not running in Keewatin North. I will be running in Keewatin West. I might be back, I might not be back, but if I am not back I really would, like the other Members, like to take time to thank the Assembly staff and the interpreters. For somebody like me coming in cold like this when you were into your term for three years, it was very difficult because you were all experienced and I was trying to learn the rules, what do I say and how do I say it, and what I can do and what I cannot do. Mr. Hamilton and his staff were extremely helpful to me and they made my job all that much easier. Thank you, Mr. Hamilton, I appreciated it. To the interpreters, I sometimes think we really do not give the interpreters the credit that they are due. Interpreting is an extremely, extremely difficult job and we sometimes underrate the interpreters. We think that it is a natural function and people do not understand the intellectual exercise that the interpreters have to go through in order to interpret us, particularly Mr. MacQuarrie and people like that who are eloquent. They have to take things in and put them right back out within a matter of seconds and really, let us give the interpreters their credit, they do a very difficult job and they should be paid a hell of a lot more money than they are getting paid now too. They will like that, eh?

I would also like to thank Mrs. Sorensen from the public accounts and finance committee. I have had fun and she has helped me a lot in terms of showing me how these things work. In terms of the FIS system, Mr. MacQuarrie, I agree with you. Most people do not understand it. Most people never will understand it. I think Mr. Nielsen of Finance is a perfect example where when he comes out with some bureaucratic "speakese" you know what you are doing, and I am not saying that in a derogatory way. I have a lot of respect for Mr. Nielsen. He is the first civil servant I have met who can snow me. I know he is snowing me and I cannot do anything about it.

---Laughter

I would just like to say thank you to all of you and maybe we will see you again next year. If not, it has been fun. Thank you.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Do we have a request of the Commissioner? Lunch time is pretty close at this time and for those who have not made replies I guess time is going to be a little short. We will go for lunch now. We will resume the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Okay? If you are going to be recessing for lunch now you can go ahead. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, this morning, I understood the Speaker to say that he could carry on until 1:00 p.m. if that had to be the case and we did agree that we could extend the hours. I would not care if we went on until 1:00 because I know when it is going to start over lunch hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members' replies. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Nerysoo.

Mr. Nerysoo's Reply

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise to speak, to respond to, I might say, not the Commissioner's speech but the Executive Council's speech as stated by the Commissioner. Now, I am not an individual who usually gets up to speak but that is actually the

truth. I have only risen to speak to the Commissioner's Address twice since I was elected. I just would like to express my appreciation to first a number of people, the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, to my Executive Council colleagues who, while I was a new Member in the Executive Council, helped me during those times when I did not know what route to take or how to respond to issues, how to deal with the department itself. But, even more, I think that, while I have not always risen in this House to speak or raise issues of concerns for my constituency, I have been able, on a personal basis, to raise the issues with the appropriate Ministers and the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner. I have had an opportunity to raise those particular issues without ever having to rise in the House, with a few exceptions.

Issues Of Concern

Now, I just want to, before expressing my appreciation to my department, raise a number of issues that I think it is necessary to raise. They are issues that seem to be the same concerns that are being raised by other constituencies. In particular, with the issue of the RCMP, that is not to say that they are doing a bad job, but with regard to how they respond to issues at the community level. Presently, they are answering only through an answering service, in particular, in the case of Aklavik and McPherson and Arctic Red. The answering service suggests that we should call Yellowknife so that they can respond to a problem in Fort McPherson. Now, in my opinion, that should not occur, and in fact if anything, that should change and I certainly had some assurances from the Minister that it will. But I still wish to raise it, so that the Minister is well aware of the situation itself.

With regard to the issue of local government, I would just like to indicate that I am somewhat disappointed that the Minister of Local Government did not proceed with the community government ordinance. However, he has tabled that particular document before the hamlet councils and also for review by the municipal councils and the chief and band councils in the community. I am concerned that he did not proceed with that, particularly when there were communities that indicated that they would like to implement some of the ideas that he had been proposing.

With regard to economic development, I think that it is necessary to indicate that there still seems to be a problem with the process of approving financial support to businesses in the Northwest Territories. There seems to be a delay in responding to businesses that have put forward proposals and I think that if there is one issue that is pretty clear here, it is that businesses in the community do not come to this government as a funding agency of last resort. Reality is that they come to this government as a lender or a financial support of first nature. When they cannot get support from this government, they proceed to other institutions or other funding agencies. That just seems to be the way they approach this government.

In the case of medical services, I think that there still seem to be some serious problems in the community with regard to the way in which individuals or patients are given their service, the way in which people are being treated. The nurses do not seem to want to go to patients that are very ill. They have, in fact, indicated that through a directive that the patients, whether they can or cannot get out of the bed, are supposed to call a cab and/or taxi service in the community and be able to pick themselves out of a sickbed and go to the nursing stations. I do not think that that type of service is a kind of service that people require or that the people deserve. I think that something has to be done with regard to that type of service.

Now, I think I must say that an issue that Ms Cournoyea raised yesterday or two days ago, was an important one. That had to do with hard topping. I know that my colleagues know that I have raised that particular issue a number of times. The idea of trying to at least have the main streets of the communities hard topped as has been implemented in Greenland, where the main streets of most communities have hard top, so that they can at least have one street that can fare up to the winter or to the type of traffic that goes through it. So, I really suggest that we look seriously at the idea of implementing a policy of that nature.

Departmental Issues

I would like to go from those issues to departmental issues. Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to my departmental officials. In particular, to Jim Bourque...

---Applause

...I know it was somewhat difficult getting the gentleman to come to this government from being the president of the Metis Association. Some people have questioned that move, but I am extremely happy and pleased with that particular individual and the kind of thoughtfulness and work that he has put into the department and the direction that he has taken that department. While I have not always agreed with that direction, it has been one that he has taken firstly as a professional wildlife officer and secondly, as an individual who knows well from his work experience how to work with people. I would like to express my appreciation to him for his time, his effort and all the work that he has put into the department.

While I am concentrating on one individual, I do not think that I should ignore the fact that Hugh Monaghan, who has come on as the assistant deputy minister, has in fact played a significant role in the technical direction in the department, and I would like to express my appreciation to him and to all the other staff and to the other divisions that have been implemented since my tenure as Minister. I would like to express my appreciation for all the work that they have done and the kind of technical expertise they have given to me.

Secondly, the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat, I would just like to indicate that to Al Zariwny, who assumed the role as secretary to the secretariat, along with the present staff. We all began this whole process with my honourable colleague, George Braden, but it was actually implemented under my direction and I would like to indicate my appreciation for the continuous work they have given, the long hours, particularly in trying to improve the profile of this government in resource development, and the kind of professional work and the kind of discussions we have gone into with other governments and in particular the federal government.

I just further would like to express my appreciation to Sue Look, who has been my executive assistant and to Russ, her husband, who has put up with all the times that I had to take Sue out of town and away from her family. Unfortunately that is the case. I think that I would also like to express my appreciation to my own family, in that Lorraine and my two little girls have put up with all the time that I have had to travel out of this city, and have supported me during my tenure as Member and as Minister. I thank you all.

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. The time being 12:00 now, I will recess the House until 1:30.

---LUNCHEON RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I call the House back to order. Orders of the day, Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Pudluk.

Mr. Pudluk's Reply

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a short speech. At the Eighth Assembly I used to reply to the Commissioner's Address every time but at the Ninth Assembly I have replied only a few times because at the Eighth Assembly I realized that we were saying things that were not very important and even when we are trying to make a good speech nobody would really listen to the speeches. For this reason I am going to make a short speech and I have made short speeches. I know that the Ninth Assembly are working very hard and they have not finished the tasks that they have tried and I know that the 10th Assembly will complete the ones that are not done. I am not going to give a speech on the government because the last speakers were talking about the government.

First I would like to thank the Department of Public Works because they are working very well in our community and I realize that the government are not just listening to what we want. So I would like to thank them for this. I have been working with the Eighth and Ninth Assemblies about the budgets. I have been with the finance committee in these Assemblies and the chairman of the standing committee on finance and the Ninth Assembly have worked very hard. We even went to different communities to meet so I would like to thank her for this. If we are both elected at the next Assembly I would be happy to work with Mrs. Sorensen again. It is very hard to work with finance and the budget and it is very hard to give it out to all the areas when it is not enough. It is hard to satisfy all the communities with this amount of money. I am not trying to go against the government for what they have been working on the budget because I know it is very hard to deal with the budget.

Renewable Resources

I used to talk a lot about wildlife in the Eighth and Ninth Assemblies and Renewable Resources of the Northwest Territories have been working very hard and I would like to thank them. I have been very unhappy with Fisheries and Oceans Canada because they have an office in the Northwest Territories but they do not have enough employees in the Northwest Territories. I would like to see the Fisheries and Oceans be transferred to the Northwest Territories government at the 10th Assembly. I would be happier if they are transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories. I would like to say a little bit about the renewable resources of the Territories. I am not very happy about the position regarding polar bears in the Northwest Territories in our areas. Whale hunting in my area -- the other people from the communities go hunting whales in our area. Perhaps if I am re-elected again I will look into it further at the 10th Assembly.

I also realized in 1983 our government in the Baffin Island and Yellowknife do not communicate back and forth enough. I would like them to work more closely together and communicate to one another more often. Mr. Speaker, as I have said earlier at the beginning I will be making a short speech and I also want to say something to my friend, Mr. MacQuarrie regarding his motion in the papers that I have in front of me. It is a tie, the question was a tie, the recorded vote was a tie. If he wants to know what I am talking about he can look at the same book that I am looking at. He would probably become less unhappy if he looked into it. I just want to say thanks to all of the people I worked with, especially during the Ninth Assembly and some of the people I worked with on the Eighth Assembly. At the time there were only 15 of us and we added seven more to join the Assembly. We added seven more for the Ninth Assembly. But for the 10th Assembly we are going to add two more seats and we can pretty well see that we have been working pretty hard on the Eighth and Ninth Assemblies.

I want to say one more thing. I was appointed to be the Deputy Speaker but I did not want to move where the Deputy Speaker usually sits, I want to remain where I am standing now. I did not want to be too far away from my Baffin colleagues. With regard to the question of the Nunavut boundaries, I want to be involved in the boundaries commission. Because I want to be involved in the boundaries commission I hope that I will be re-elected. I do not know how things are going to be in the future but that will be up to the people who are voting for the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I would now like to thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard earlier on this morning that some of the Members thanked the government and others. I thank you all for listening to me.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Patterson.

Mr. Patterson's Reply

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be brief. I have a few important things I feel I must say. I recognize we are short on time. Mr. Speaker, I would like, however, to cast briefly back to 1979 in the same vein as Mr. Sibbeston did so well on his opening reply to the Commissioner's Address at this beginning of this particular session. I did look through my first reply to the Commissioner's Address at that time and without reading it again, I would just like to point out a few things I said then that I have taken some satisfaction in seeing happen through the support of this House. I noted then that the Baffin Regional Council had called for the creation of a regional education board to take charge of education matters in the Baffin region, and that the council had asked that the superintendent of Education would report to this new board. I stated that I know that this idea is surprising and perhaps will be unpopular with Education department officials, but this government must work to persuade them otherwise. And if legislative change is required since the Education Ordinance at present does not recognize other than local authorities for schools, then I would hope to have the support of this Assembly for those changes.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Members of this Assembly for having given that support for such legislation this session to me, as Minister of Education, and I would like to say that back in November 1979 when I said those words, I had never dreamed that I would become Minister of Education. Mr. McCallum was right in his remarks the other day. It has been a privilege to serve on the Executive. I too feel very lucky. I am grateful to this House for the confidence that has been placed in me and since I got appointed I have had a tremendous opportunity to travel to all

parts of the Northwest Territories. I would like to thank the able pilots of the Northwest Territories who have taken me all over this beautiful country in all kinds of weather safely. Perhaps I should especially mention the crew of NWT Air on the Frobisher-Yellowknife run who I have gotten to know quite well in recent years.

I also noted in that address, Mr. Speaker, that I felt there are lessons to be learned for political development everywhere in the Territories from the Baffin Regional Council which I described in the speech, and I am very pleased that not only was a Baffin Regional Council Ordinance passed in 1980, but it has inspired legislation which will, I am sure, shortly be passed by this House.

I also talked about division, Mr. Speaker, and I am not going to dwell on it at length, but I did urge the House then to study this question positively. I said, "Let us consider this question in a responsible manner and seek a decision which will truly reflect the best interests of all the people of the Northwest Territories." And I think we have done that, Mr. Speaker. I can cite as some examples of the responsible work we have done, the impact of division report, the formidable report just presented to the subcommittee on division, tabled yesterday, research of the two forums and the Western Constitutional committee, which to date has produced at least seven notable research works that have come to my attention. I would like to acknowledge the role of the federal government in assisting us to consult with people of the Northwest Territories, through contributions to the alliance, and particularly the positive reception we have had, beginning with Hon. Jake Epp and carrying through to Hon. John Munro, Senator Austin, Hon. Mark MacGuigan, Hon. Serge Joyal, the Prime Minister and many others.

I also noted, Mr. Speaker, in 1979, my belief in the need for more devolution of authority in areas such as health, wildlife management, education. I said that people needed to feel more in control of their destiny in my part of the world and I am very happy to say that so much has been accomplished in that short time since we were elected in 1979. I cite the establishment of the Baffin Regional Hospital and its transfer of board to the Baffin, through the good offices of Mr. McCallum and Mr. Tologanak; the transfer of social services to the town of Frobisher Bay; and the evolution I mentioned in education. I also would just like to note one other thing that concerned me at the time. I said, "The archaic prohibition of freedom of speech of civil servants in the Public Service Ordinance is wrong, I believe." I said, "It is a relic of bygone days when civil servants were thought to swing a lot of weight. Their opinions are as important as anyone else's, but they have no particular influence on our people, although perhaps upper level civil servants should have the discretion and perhaps it can be reflected in any legal changes to remain independent from the political process." Well, that has been done as well, Mr. Speaker, with the amendments to the Public Service Ordinance. I take great satisfaction from having seen these and many other changes that I am not going to detail today, occur through the co-operation of this House.

Tributes To Colleagues

I would like to pay some tribute, Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues in this House, and beginning with my colleagues from the Eastern Arctic, my Katimahatitiiqii here, I would like to particularly thank Ipeelee Kilabuk and Ludy Pudluk, Joe Arlooktoo and Mark Evaluarjuk and Moses Appaqaq for their dedication, humour and wisdom. Mark and Ludy and Ipeelee were trailblazers. I know it was very tough when they were first elected. They helped us newcomers a great deal when we came in in 1979. Mr. Curley; I would like to thank him for his friendship and support, and for moving the establishment of the special committee on education, which was a privilege to have worked on and I believe a basis for a blueprint for educational reform in the future. I would like to mention William Noah, who was an anchor, Gordon Wray for his hard work and co-operation since elected, and I would also like to thank him for his kind remarks today about GREC and Ukkivik and his acknowledgement that he may have been harsh. I understand too, that it is a cry for help and I hope that in some way I have responded and can respond, if I am to have the privilege of being involved in education again in future. To my colleague on the Executive who joined with me, Hon. Kane Tologanak, I think we have been treated very fairly by the Executive Council, although sometimes I guess I still have considered that we are in a bit of a minority. I would like to say, in future I think we need more Ministers from Nunavut in the Executive Council, whether white or Inuit, men or women, it does not matter. I am confident that things will be a little bit better balanced on the next Executive Council as far as Nunavut representation is concerned. I would like to thank the Dene Members of the Assembly for helping me to better understand the people and a part of the Northwest Territories I had never known before.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to say very much about the Executive Council, because many Members on that Council have put it well that we share a special bond of comradeship and I think we have got a lot done, but with regard to the Executive, I would like to single out my colleague, Hon. George Braden, and say that I really am sorry that he will not be returning to this Legislative Assembly as a Member. I expect that we will still see him in some capacity in the Northwest Territories and I look forward to continuing to associate with him, once he breaks the suspense and reveals the question on everybody's mind, about what he is going to do.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Pitch for the Expos.

---Laughter

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: For Mr. McLaughlin's devotion to the education committee and his friendship, thank you. I would also like to perhaps, if this will not surprise her, say some good things about Mrs. Sorensen. I am softening a bit, maybe like Nick Sibbeston, but I do have the highest regard for Mrs. Sorensen. I think that she sets a standard for us all to aim for, in terms of diligence and preparedness as an MLA. I must, if I may, just note that I spoke to a cab driver yesterday, who lives in Mrs. Sorensen's constituency, he thinks that she is terrific. He asked her for a letter of recommendation with regard to a certain matter, and she not only wrote a wonderful letter, but she visited his home personally and met his family, so that she would know who she was talking about. This kind of thoroughness in her has always impressed me as well, of course, as her dedication to reviving the finance committee and creating the public accounts committee.

I would also like to recognize another distinguished woman in our Assembly, Ms Nellie Cournoyea, for her dedication, really, of her life, to the Inuvialuit. My friend Bob MacQuarrie for his eloquence. He was magnificent in Ottawa, when we all went down to try to do something about our constitutional future. We did get something done. Bob is a magnificent orator and he has been magnificent this session as well. To you, Mr. Speaker, for being able to get along with this new, and sometimes naive blood that swept in, in 1979. I am not going to say much, I am not going to repeat what was said about our staff and interpreters. I fully subscribe to everything that other Members have said much better than I, in that regard.

Constituency Concerns

A few words, Mr. Speaker, about my constituency. There are still some problems to address in Frobisher Bay. Apex needs a new community hall. There are still far too many transients occupying jobs that long-term local people should hold. I am very concerned along with Mrs. Sorensen I believe, about the federal government's deplorable record in offering local business opportunities and employment in their business dealings in the North. It is shocking to me to see the way the federal government operates and I cite the Department of Public Works.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Inaudible comment.

Housing

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I hope so. I hope whoever is the government, that the attitude of the Department of Public Works is going to change. Trucks which were capable of being purchased locally were brought up from the South by the federal DPW. For federal staff housing in Frobisher Bay, can you believe that the federal government, same department, flew materials up in a hurry to build a number of federal staff units in Frobisher Bay but forgot essential materials? So, the houses have sat, partly finished and still unoccupied, for the last two years. That is a sad contrast to the way our government operates.

I would like to mention the co-op housing movement. I believe it has tremendous potential for easing housing shortages in the North, Mr. Speaker. I believe this government needs to develop a policy to address this growing movement and how it might be responsibly supported. I am very pleased myself, to have been involved in the establishment of the Hillside Housing Co-op in Frobisher Bay, which I am happy to report, will see 20 units built by Christmas, in Frobisher Bay. I would like to thank the Department of Local Government for their assistance given in subdivision design; and through the new land evaluation policy; and for our government's part in the energy conservation grant; along with the regional director, Jim Britton, Mayor Martine Johnson and town council of Frobisher Bay, and especially to Charlie Ruttan, president of the Hillside Housing Co-op, for his devoted work.

Without the help of Hon. John Munro and the Hon. Herb Gray and our MP, Peter Ittinuar and others, the project would never have happened. I think we are making great improvements in housing in Frobisher Bay, Mr. Speaker. In the last two years alone 40 units have been rehabilitated under the Housing Corporation, including porches. This government's new staff housing policy, which I am very proud to have worked on in Mr. Braden's priorities and planning committee as a new Minister, along with the Housing Corporation's private ownership program, are having dramatic effects in Frobisher Bay. Listen to this. Since January 1, 1983, 56 new building permits have been issued in Frobisher Bay for residential construction, 31 new houses and 25 so-called rehabs. The next step which I know we will be taking, is for the territorial government to offer its staff units for sale to employees and the public, perhaps even row housing units could be managed privately.

Tourism

In tourism, Mr. Speaker, we are making great strides in Frobisher Bay, but much is still to be done. The town is much cleaner. The new museum which will take advantage of the old Iqalugajuk Hudson's Bay Store, will be moved to Iqaluit, Frobisher Bay, from its present location in Apex, and rehabilitated, thanks to Mr. Braden and the Frobisher Bay museum society. Peale Point is on the way to becoming a very important historic site and tourist attraction. These are excavated Thule houses very near to Frobisher Bay, Mr. Speaker. They still have the bowhead whalebone rib construction and fire pits evident. This is a significant development which will bring tourists.

I would like to see the Ministry of Transport Canada, and other offending federal departments clean up the mess they still have left behind in Frobisher Bay. I mention MOT, Mr. Speaker, because they have toppled huge telecommunications towers like trees, whenever they have become obsolete. Where the twisted steel and paint lies, in one case is the water which is the source for our drinking supply. Something more has got to be done to get MOT and other agencies, companies and departments responsible to clean up their mess. Frobisher Bay tourist association is a good start in promoting tourism in Frobisher Bay. I believe that along with sport hunting and outfitting, tourism will be an important factor in the economic growth of Frobisher Bay in the future. I would just like to note the work of the Frobisher Bay local improvement committee, as well including Mr. Andre Theriault in particular, for the enormous amount of work that they have done already.

Air Service

Mr. Speaker, one word about air service. I suppose it is not politic in the North to praise an airline operating in the North, because fares are very high and they always seem to be inexorably increasing. But Nordair, I believe, has made a genuine effort to improve its service in the past year or two, during the time when fare increases are at least slowing a bit from previous levels. The service, including hot meals on all northern flights, is far superior to that of Pacific Western Airlines. Northern customers of Nordair are now given the privilege of limousine service or hotel subsidy, the same as southern customers, by Nordair. Nordair has reduced its excess baggage charges, has appointed a northerner to its board of directors, and instituted weekend excursion fares to Ottawa and Toronto, in addition to those presently offered in Montreal. First Air, too offers good frequency on its Baffin routes with its very appropriate Hawker-Siddeley 748 services. It also offers excursion rates and special stand-by fares.

More needs to be done, Mr. Speaker, to address the cost of living in remote communities, such as the one I represent. I think there is great potential to work with the Hudson's Bay Company, in particular. They have been responsive in some areas, I would like to note. Christmas toy prices were reduced as I reported earlier to this House; my usual brand of ammunition 22/250, has dropped six dollars a box in the last year or so, from \$19 down to \$13 and change. I think that we must continue to pursue the company to make our concerns known and urge them to make other improvements of this kind.

One final word about my constituency, Mr. Speaker. I speak with pride of the work done this summer in hosting the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. It put Frobisher Bay on the map. The community deserves credit for housing and feeding many times the over 500 official delegates. Mr. Speaker, I am proud also that there was not a single police call related to the conference in the entire seven days that it took place.

Possibility Of Nuclear War

I would like to just touch on a few other issues, Mr. Speaker. Events since our important debate on the Cruise testing, have shown me how close we really are to the horrible possibility of nuclear war. If the Korean Airlines 747 was not a spy plane and there is certainly some strong evidence emerging to suggest that it was, but if it was not a spy plane trying to monitor missile tests, and if the Russians did not know it was an innocent civilian airliner, then they have made a terrible mistake. What scares me, is that if they made a mistake on this one, killing some 270 people, what if they made a similar mistake and thought they had detected Pershing missiles. The tapes released from the encounter seem to suggest a crushing military machine with no heart or humanity. I would submit, Mr. Speaker, in retrospect, that the Korean Airlines incident was an appropriate setting for this important debate that we had, because the plodding deliberation of the Russian military machine easily illustrated how close we could have been to being snuffed out in a nuclear holocaust in a few minutes. This is the issue that was underlying that important debate, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to just mention, that I was very encouraged to hear some Members in that debate say that they would support the North being a nuclear free zone.

MRS. SORENSEN: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I must note that a book recently published, reveals evidence that casts startling doubt on the truth of my colleague, Mr. Butters' assertion during that debate "Canada's non-proliferation safeguards policy is being developed to ensure that our exports of nuclear material, uranium, does not contribute to nuclear proliferation." In a book, called "Canada and the Nuclear Arms Race", published by James Lorimer and Co., Publishers of Toronto, Dr. Gordon Edwards demonstrated conclusively that a lot of Canadian uranium ends up in H-bombs. I am not going to go into how that comes about, Mr. Speaker, given the time today. But I think this is a matter we should be ever vigilant on.

Speaking of uranium, Mr. Speaker, we never did really properly complete the important debate on uranium mining and exploration. William Noah, who had really been involved at the beginning, had left and it never did really get concluded. I would like to say that I believe there was very worthwhile information presented. This government was stimulated to develop more plans to face these contingencies that were adverted to in the debate. Important new information has surfaced, as well since this debate. I would like to simply mention a report commissioned and published by the Atomic Energy Control Board, dated September, 1982, entitled, "Risk Estimates for the Health Effects of Alpha Radiation", by Duncan C. Thomas and K.G. McNeil, an epidemiologist and physicist at McGill and University of Toronto respectively. This report shows that there are much higher risks of cancer deaths for miners working at permissible levels than we were led to believe by the witnesses from Atomic Energy Canada, who appeared before this House. In spite of this evidence from a report commissioned by Atomic Energy Control Board themselves, they are still trying to increase the permissible working levels from four working level months per year to five.

With the recent announcement by Japanese interests and Urangesellschaft of Germany of their intention to be in production in Baker Lake area in 1990, these questions must be looked at very carefully by the 10th Assembly. I also think if production is to go ahead, we have to know how radio active tailings will be disposed of and who will pay. The short-term economic benefits of uranium exploration mining and production must still be considered by this Assembly, alongside of the long-term, and I mean long-term, costs of tailing disposal and clean-up.

Visits By Nunavut Constitutional Forum

Finally, Mr. Speaker, since I will apparently not have a chance to discuss this in caucus, I would like to touch on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. I would like to announce in my capacity as chairman of the NCF that at a teleconference meeting September 6, NCF reconsidered its earlier decision on the matter of MLA candidates and community visits and now we welcome all declared candidates in the forthcoming NWT election to join the Nunavut Constitutional Forum at scheduled departure points for community visits. I would like to also -- perhaps not community by community -- just explain broadly, Mr. Speaker, that so far our schedule calls for us to visit the Keewatin in the week of October 4, north Baffin the week of October 10 and south Baffin through the following week. We will be publishing, shortly, a detailed schedule. We also have visits scheduled for the Kitikmeot beginning November 1 and expect that it may also be possible to arrange to visit Inuvialuit communities after the Kitikmeot visit.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I have just got to say something about division. On the boundary question, I thank Mr. MacQuarrie for his advice, not to be too greedy and I accept it. I see the issue as being resolved first by talking to the communities. We must find out what each community thinks. And at the same time we must as a Constitutional Alliance meet and as its principal priorities seriously discuss all aspects of the boundary question. The Alliance embraces all interests and all the players, I believe. I am confident that with good will, hard work and a willingness to listen to public opinion and a willingness to compromise consensus can be reached. May I say here, Mr. Speaker, I would be most delighted to continue working with Mr. MacQuarrie on this matter should we be so privileged as to be re-elected and recommended to represent this House again in the Constitutional Alliance. Perhaps we can even play some kind of leadership role in bringing the leaders of West and East, particularly the native leaders, together for real talks. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned I am not going to repeat thanks that have been given to our staff, yourself and all the others who have supported this Assembly so capably. I would like to give special thanks though to my assistant, Gina Blondin. She has put up with many frustrations working with me and I am very grateful for her help.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people of Frobisher Bay for their support over these exciting four years, to Marie Uviluq and our children for their support, too, in putting up with my absences from home. I hope to be back to continue the privilege of working in this House for the things I believe in, including careful implementation of division by the end of the life of the 10th Assembly. That is my goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 2, orders of the day, Members' replies. Ms Cournoyea.

Ms Cournoyea's Reply

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to have a few words before we end our term here in the Ninth Assembly. I guess I could go over many of the accolades that have been paid to staff as well, but I believe I have tried to say thank you to the people who have given good service when we have been such a hard crew to work for from time to time.

I guess if we take our rightful position and try to represent our communities, certainly I believe I have lived up to my reputation of being a little rough around the edges and that comes really from the area in which I live. It has been an area that has been impacted by development for a long time and from different kinds of development. The kind of impact that is in the Beaufort Sea area comes from oil and gas development and the very high rate of turnover that these companies have and their ability to move at a great deal of speed. It is difficult when you are living in that area to try to respond as quickly as necessary to take in the benefits that could be had from this type of activity in any given area. The companies move fast, they have an ability and great amounts of money to get a great many experts who would back them up and do a good job. Oftentimes it is difficult for the community to try to get a point across and get to a conclusion of any given understanding between company and community. Mainly because a lot of the communities have not got the resources that the large development companies have. Now, I have had to make some critical decisions in my four years here and I have tried to respond to the needs of how the communities are being impacted. I would like to say that I certainly enjoyed working on several of the committees, with Mr. Braden, with Lynda Sorensen, with Tagak and Bruce.

The Beaufort Sea region is really not up for grabs. The Inuvialuit use that as their home. That is their home, and I guess we are in a very difficult position because of just exactly where we are. In terms of dealing with the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, the reason that I feel that we should be within that forum is because at least that is where we are listened to, in that forum, and we are respected for our position. I certainly continue to take the position that in areas where work has to be done, the government has to be in the position to respond and help people overcome the problems in meeting with people, coming to conclusions, so that we would not be left behind. Basically I still cannot feel comfortable that this government has the ability to respond when oil and gas and high impact areas are put into place. Communities do not have the necessary back-up to make that response themselves, as well.

Things Moving Very Quickly In Beaufort Area

It may be in a lot of the communities that are not impacted by development that things move a little slower, and I suppose even at home we wish that things could slow down from time to time. I remember Thomas Berger and what he had said, that we needed 10 years to put things in place. I feel disappointed that we did not take that 10 years to put things in place. But I guess we are trying our best and maybe it is just because that the companies have much more experience on how to get around and much more resources.

In the community particularly of Tuk, I have tried my best to have people come to that community to see just how much work has to be done in that particular community. I did not want to be in a decision-making position to take funding away from other communities and when Commissioner Parker made the announcement a year ago May, I suppose my reaction was, as I stated, where is the money coming from? I felt that the territorial budget probably did not have \$2.5 million to place at our doorstep. I wish they had and I wish it was free money. However, we had been in negotiations with John Munro, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, and I thought that we had gained a great deal of ground with him in terms of him specially recognizing an impact community. I thought for a while that he had come up with the funds to deal with particular issues. You see, when the community, any community, sees very quickly right on its doorstep, a Gulf camp going up in a year, a brand new NTCL camp go up, a new Esso facility all with the latest equipment and all with very expensive recreational facilities yet we are still struggling trying to build an arena and fix up the community.

Planning For Roads Was Difficult

The road problem in that community has been one of the issues that we have been trying to address for quite a few years and the funding that was set aside for that particular program was only part of the total program that we had to address. Now when the \$2.5 million was assigned, we had to run over a lot of hoops to get that money, it was not as though it was just there. We had to put our people together and go through a massive town plan. We had the help of Mr. Igal Roth and we worked very hard and in a community such as Tuk with 800 or a little more of population in that area to try to put a group of people together, to get everybody sitting down, coming up with what is acceptable to them and what is acceptable to the government is a pretty difficult chore, the process you have to go through to make sure that your decisions are right because you are planning for a long future ahead. But we did it, and in doing it, we were able just last year before the very, very last point of time that gravel could be hauled, we were able to finalize the town plan and we almost lost the funds then. This is the last of the two year program. Earlier this year, we almost lost the community centre, as well, because the bids were high, the cost of the building was extremely high. We almost lost that; we kept that on a hair's breadth.

Extravagant Facilities Not Required

I would like to say something that I found when I was wondering why a lot of the programs and projects were being cancelled. I believe some of that problem is in the Department of Public Works and the architectural and engineering designers that are being hired to put together the various buildings. I do not believe that the communities are asking for Cadillac type of buildings; they are asking for something that is functional. I think that it bears investigation to look at the process of how the government handles the architectural firms and what direction they are given in terms of the parameters of what they are to deliver. I can give some examples that I was not very pleased to hear where in one building we have two sinks and three toilets and that is all that is in the building in terms of those facilities -- \$35,000 for plumbing, just for the plumbing. It does not seem right. A ramp to take people up to the building -- in the area of \$40,000. I think we can meet the needs of the people without luxurious designing. It is nice to have it if you can afford it.

In our area of the Beaufort Sea, and particularly that community of Tuk, if we can come to a conclusion and try to meet that particular area's demands I think we will go a long way to solving other areas when they are impacted at the rate that Tuk is. I feel that the community representatives have to go to too many meetings to try to get one small thing done. From time to time, the meetings are so often that I guess if you took all that money, you could probably do the project.

Response From Local Government

In terms of Local Government, the issues that I spoke about really should be more in getting Local Government to respond a lot more quickly. I realize that their workload is heavy from time to time but if we are going to earmark a community or area as "impact" I think it is fine to have it on paper, it is fine to talk about it, we did our work and we have the basic criteria and outline, but if those communities do not see action and all we do is talk about it and then, to me, I do not think that is success. I just think it is another bunch of paper. And from time to time I see that Local Government has a great deal of turnover on who goes into the community, how often meetings take place just to do a very small job. I think that has to be cleaned up. I think basically, communities sit down and say, "Well, this is what we want." But I do not believe that the Department of Local Government should send a person up, then have no regard at all for the discussions have already taken place and we have to start all over with someone else. I think that type of cleaning up should be looked at.

Constitutional Development

In constitutional development, I guess we are the biggest cobweb in our area as well, but I believe that the constitutional development process is in place now. I hope that although we are going to be finished with our Assembly those talks will go on. They should go on, because in Denendeh, if the proposal in that area is not pursued then Nunavut will always have to be held back because these decisions have not been made, people do not know where they are going, they cannot get together and they cannot meet. At some point of time, the conclusion of these discussions has to take place, but the Western Constitutional Forum should not be holding up Nunavut just because they do not quite get around to doing what they want to do or do not have a meeting. As I say, I do not think much of meetings because I have been to a lot of them, but people seem to feel that a meeting is important to get that information across. I believe that even though this forum is not here, this Legislative Assembly is not operating, the Western Constitutional Forum should proceed and get some of the work done.

COPE Land Claim

In terms of land claims, aboriginal rights, the organization, the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement is very close to reaching the conclusion of a land claim and I am proud to say that I was part of that. We have not answered everybody's concerns, we have not got everything we wanted but we have worked hard to do a job. I think that the document has been on the table for a long time so if anyone was interested, there is really no excuse for not knowing what is there. However, I believe my continued criticism of Aboriginal Rights Secretariat — I feel the same way about it. It is doing nothing. I have asked on a number of occasions that in terms of the COPE claim, the Inuvialuit claim, we really should be addressing things in detail. It is no longer a philosophical idea or a theoretical one, it is in very much detail. The people that are hired to work on it should be able to work in that scope. It just cannot be somebody who just gets thrown in there and he is back on his philosophical free run again because we are not at that stage and we do not intend to start over. I do not believe that the Executive Committee lends much support to the Inuvialuit land claims. I have not seen anything that was positive generated from the Executive. I suppose I know most of the reasons why not.

However, in saying that, the past motions of this Legislative Assembly which directed the territorial government to try to be a facilitator, to try to help, I think have not been recognized. There has been a lot of acclaim to Denendeh and other things, but when you are in a theoretical situation that is easy to do because you are not dealing with details, so we can all be motherhood again, this theoretical thing with simple statements of objectives. But when you are coming down to the crunch I find that the NWT government will start crying that they were not involved, once again. To me, I do not believe that the Inuvialuit should pay because that job was not done.

Position Of Minister In This Situation

I was asked on several occasions that the Minister responsible, James Wah-Shee, be replaced, and someone who has possibly less of a conflict of interest and a person who would have less of a vested interest for his own claim, that another person be put in his place. On one occasion in a discussion with the Commissioner and Mr. Wah-Shee, I thought I had a tentative agreement that perhaps maybe it would be best to put someone who was more used to working with detail in that

position. I felt very happy that we were able to resolve that in a very calm way and in a mutual way. However, as soon as I left after the Assembly session was finished, I understand that the decision was to leave Mr. Wah-Shee in that position.

I cannot see the rationale for not granting a simple request mainly because when we are dealing in negotiations, it is somewhat tedious. It takes a lot of work and you have to be on top of things all the time. Little things like access, little things like participation agreements require someone who is used to and likes that type of discussion, debate or dealing with that type of detail. Now in terms of Mr. Wah-Shee's position, and him coming from Fort Rae, and he being an aboriginal Dene, I cannot see how a person with that could be fair to the Inuvialuit. The Dene claim practically the Beaufort Sea, the North Slope of the Yukon almost up to Coppermine. Mr. Wah-Shee is going to be asking for the votes of Fort Rae and it is a stronghold of that position. I cannot see how I or a person in his place could, in that particular background and those issues to deal with, be fair about dealing, straightforward and aboveboard, on the Inuvialuit claim.

In terms of the negotiations, I had hoped and I thought we were going to meet a little longer to bring some of our negotiators to the Legislative Assembly so that you could question them and get those details. I really do not know how we are going to deal with it now because by the time there is another election, I hope that the claim will be signed, sealed and delivered. Now, it is a deep process in terms of how we do that, the ratification process that has to go on and it is difficult. But I feel that if things are not put in place under Mr. Wah-Shee, however he is handling the secretariat or not handling the secretariat, if it is not put in place then I would like to put on notice that it is not the fault of the Inuvialuit.

Liquor-Related Problems

In terms of alcohol and the problems of alcohol, I would like to say thank you to Mr. Braden for trying to help our communities put some restriction on the sale of alcohol. Contrary to what everybody says, I believe it worked. Now that control was not for control of how much you consume because you certainly got enough and you were able to get enough, but it was mainly to try to restrict a lot of the bootlegging that is going on. I will announce -- but I do not like to announce -- but it is thick, hot and heavy now and we are having a lot of problems. I think if you take your RCMP records in the last couple of months you will see the kinds of problems. We have a sharp increase in suicide, all pretty well liquor-related. Problems that people are facing in personal breakdowns, all liquor-related. The way that I look at liquor is that that is a prime number one enemy of the people. I wonder what it would be like here if there was no alcohol or everybody could control it. But the fact of life is that most people have a weakness when it comes to when you want to cut off and when is a good time to go home. It is a problem, and I believe that has to be addressed, but I guess more fundamentally is that I wonder why there is such a heavy use of liquor. What is the background?

I guess then we should go to the Department of Social Services and suggest, and I would suggest, that they take into consideration a look at our region to see if there is anything that can be done in terms of handling the social concerns of those communities, particularly close around the general Inuvik area. We cannot allow our people to kill themselves. I think the attitude that it is everybody's poison and if people want to drink poison let them go ahead, and they have to learn, but sometimes I think you have to do something about it because it is causing a great deal of problem even to non-drinkers. They have to live next to the problem. I think Social Services has not really addressed that issue, or why we are having such a high degree of alcohol problems?

Renewable Resources

In terms of hunters and trappers, renewable resource development, I believe that I think it is finally getting the recognition it deserves. I hope that the work will go on and continue to expand, and that the budget of the Renewable Resources division will not be cut, that they will not be asked to put some strings on how much they can spend and how quickly they will have to cut back if they did get some extra money. Minister John Munro just a couple of days before Northern Games was able to put a meeting together with the Minister of Revenue and I was very pleased when the Prime Minister of Canada came to Inuvik and announced that the hunters and trappers will not be penalized for back taxes and will be forgiven. I was very pleased about that.

I would like to say that in renewable resource development I think this is our prime opportunity to give it a boost because, with industrial development here we can use a lot of the extra funds and money to promote some of the renewable resources, for food or anything in that area to the companies, and then try to build on that for our future when maybe the companies will not be here.

In terms of education, I want to say that I would like to see the school built in Holman Island mainly because I have been very pleased with a number of young people who come out of such a small community and they have come out well. I think a lot of that had to do with the special committee on education's higher profile on education. They do need a new school, and if people are willing to come out I think then we should capture that imagination and try to give service to it. There was a promise that the school would be moved ahead, but it does not appear to have been moved ahead that much.

Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation; Mr. McCallum, could you please keep working on that if possible? I have a lot more to say but a lot of the things that I have to say have been said by other Members. I suppose I have not been as kind as some of the Members, but in our area sometimes life is not kind because we do not have the ability a lot of times to make the decisions because things are moving too fast and the people that are in the area are a mix of people. When you are from different areas, oftentimes you cannot get the community spirit because people are continually moving around. There are particular problems that we want to be able to overcome but we need a commitment from the government and we need the back-up and we need understanding and we need the resources to be available when we want to move, and we have to move. Sometimes it is not even wanting to move but it is because that is the scene there, that is exactly what is happening.

Companies Living Up To Commitments

The employment picture this year was not good, as soon as you relax your diligence on the oil and gas industry, they go right back to the same practices as they had before. Many of the really strong hard workers were not hired until just recently. The companies are getting less tolerant because they now have their foot in the door and I believe they can be put back on track but it is not as easy as just making a policy or just getting them to sit down and agree. It has to be like a policed activity at all times. Is that company really living up to the commitments? Is the company really doing as much as it can in terms of promoting local people and local businesses? I do not believe that we are keeping enough of an eye on whether they are or not. I know they are not, but it is not good enough because the government does have a responsibility, because the social-economic agreements that are signed come from Yellowknife and they are written up, I suppose, in negotiations. I would like to see that more policed. Rather than dealing only with the figures of employment from the companies, I think we should do our own figures as well.

Mr. Speaker, I had a list of people I wanted to mention but when I was writing them down, it was an awfully long list. They were not people who work here or anything like that. They were people that we have lost in the last couple of years, older people, young people -- and I had two pages. We do not have a lot of people in the Mackenzie Delta or in the Beaufort Sea area and I think as much as possible if their social well-being can be melded into this changing North, I hope that we can get help to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We will be breaking at 3:15 p.m. and whoever has the floor at that time, would they try and have their remarks in such a manner that we could stop at that time to have our break and you can have the floor after we come back. Are there any other speakers? Replies? Mr. Tologanak.

Mr. Tologanak's Reply

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, I would like, as some of my honourable colleagues have done, to pay tribute to the work of this Ninth Assembly. I have been very fortunate to be the Member representing the people of the Kitikmeot region, an administrative region established during the lifetime of this Assembly. This Assembly has seen rapid progress in evolution of our politics, an evolution keeping step and in harmony with the wishes of the original peoples of this vast territory. I have been privileged to have a voice on these political forums, the task force for a Western Arctic regional municipality, the Constitutional Alliance and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. I was privileged to be one of the Members who made the historic trip to Ottawa to speak to our federal counterparts on aboriginal rights in our constitution. Mr. Speaker, the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission was mandated by this Assembly to do a necessary and a timely job. The next Assembly will see the results of its work with the addition of two new Members. With

the backing of the communities in my region we fought hard and achieved the establishment of two electoral districts in the Central Arctic, Kitikmeot East and Kitikmeot West, and I thank the people for giving me support in that regard.

Holman Island And Kitikmeot West

But as well, Mr. Speaker, it was a disappointment to me and to some people that this Assembly did not see fit to include Holman in Kitikmeot West, some people in that community including the local council which many communities across the Territories recognize as being the governing body in a local community situation. There were votes taken in that community, with an independent officer looking after the vote and counting those voting. Despite that, the wishes of the people were not listened to. I hope in the 10th Assembly, that the 10th Assembly recognize it, if the people still continue to wish to be part of Kitikmeot West only in a political sense and not necessarily on aboriginal claims or claims that are being supported by some of the people. But I support whatever the wishes of the majority of the people in that community are to do since my family has established itself in Holman Island. The people in Holman and our traditional ties that this community has with the people of Kitikmeot cannot be underestimated or ignored.

It has also been a disappointment to me that I have not been able to secure the position of an adult educator for Coppermine. There is no question in my mind that this position is necessary and will benefit the people of that vital community. It is not only in Coppermine but also in Spence Bay that I have been working ever since those positions were cut back from the department's budget and priorities and these positions have been vacant. It is my hope, and I have been assured time and time again that some time in the future these positions would be filled.

However, my disappointments during the life of this Ninth Assembly have been few. Coppermine, Gjoa Haven and Pelly Bay received hamlet status. It is also my expectation some time in the very near future that the long overdue hamlet status for Cambridge Bay will be achieved. During this term I was delighted to take part in the opening of the community complex in Pelly Bay. The one in Coppermine is not quite as complete as it should be but with the support of the architects and Local Government I hope that this complex will be completed before winter sets in once again. It has been a source of satisfaction and pride to know that more NWT Housing Corporation contracts are being awarded to Kitikmeot residents. As well, after much effort on the part of many, the Pelly Bay food subsidy was achieved. This has brought some relief to my constituents in that community with the highest food prices in the Northwest Territories. Media coverage for my region is inadequate and I hope to see a full-time CBC correspondent for that area in the future as was promised by the director of CBC for northern Canada. NorthwesTel has upgraded its services. We have had 15 lines until two days ago, now they are down to five lines, but all in all, placing a phone call is not quite as frustrating as it used to be some days.

Harvesting Of Gyrfalcons

With the co-operation of our Department of Renewable Resources I have seen the beginning of gyrfalcon harvesting by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and certain communities, and it is my understanding that applications have been received for two gyrfalcons captured this year by the communities of Coppermine and Spence Bay. Negotiations are still continuing right to this afternoon as to the number of gyrfalcons that can be caught in certain areas.

There has been an increase in tourism this year in Cambridge Bay. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has indicated that our region is the number one priority for tourism studies to be carried out as soon as funding becomes available. From a small office in Fort Smith in 1972 to headquarters in Cambridge Bay the Kitikmeot region now boasts a staff of about 200 employees. Most programs and services are now offered in the region and I wish to compliment and commend the regional director, Mr. Gary Black, and his staff on the excellent services provided to my constituents. The lines of communication -- I am not talking about NorthwesTel -- the lines of communication between my constituents and regional staff are always open and they are good.

Services Provided By Willy Laserich

At this point, I would like to mention an outstanding constituent of mine, Willy Laserich, who has for many years provided my constituents with much-needed air services including medivacs and emergency flights. Mr. Laserich endured a recent court case, which was well-publicized, with characteristic staying power and candor. Now again, we all know that Mr. Laserich's licence has

been cancelled. I would like to commend Mr. Laserich publicly and thank him for his continuing excellent services. I might add as well, to the end of August, Mr. Speaker, our government, our regional staff has hired Mr. Laserich 65 times and moved 500 employees within that region. Mr. Laserich not only serves our government but also serves those regional organizations, and serves the federal government organizations. This service is also support to the local, everyday person who walks around in the communities. Last year, in December, before Christmas, was the first time in many years that a group of people have been able to hire and charter an aircraft out of their own pocket money to come shopping down to Yellowknife, and those two communities were Holman and Spence Bay. As well, as you noted in today's News/North if you read the headlines concerning Willy Laserich, some of his achievements are listed there as well, including one of the most important to the economy of the Cambridge Bay residents which is the fishery. That information is also available in the paper. I am not trying to advertise the paper but the facts are there and the facts being provided are true.

In January 1981, I became the Executive Member responsible for the new Department of Government Services. This was a learning experience for me to be part of the day to day running of our government at the Executive level. It has been a privilege for me to serve as a Member on various in-house committees, priorities and planning, House planning and legislation and the Financial Management Board. During my term as Minister of Government Services, I saw the opening of the unique Fort Providence gasification plant and the department's thrust for energy conservation and the growth of our government's reliance on computer systems and its subsequent modernization.

Achievements Of Departments Of Health And Social Services

After a reshuffle of Executive Members in July 1982, I have served as your Minister of Health and of Social Services. The Commissioner mentioned many accomplishments of the Ninth Assembly, and he mentioned specifically some of the accomplishments of the Departments of Social Services and Health. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that Mr. Parker mentioned that I am particularly pleased about is a greater involvement of the smaller communities in the Northwest Territories in the actual delivery of social services and health programs. Some of this work was begun by Mr. McCallum when he was the Minister of Health and Social Services, and I am very pleased that I was able to carry on and expand on the good work that he started and add my own ideas to this whole area. I think the most visible expression of community participation in Social Services has been the devolution of social services to the town of Frobisher Bay and the most visible in Health is the transfer of administration of the hospital in Frobisher Bay to a local board. Work initiatives began on these two developments even prior to the election of this Assembly and with much hard work a final turnover of social services to the town of Frobisher Bay took place in 1981, and the turnover of the hospital took place in 1982.

I have been very pleased with the report that I have received about the fine quality of care that the Frobisher Bay social services staff have been able to provide to the people of Frobisher Bay and also with the continuing efficient operation of the hospital. Under my direction a procedure for the department to follow in carrying out the devolution of social services programs to other communities was developed in 1982. Since then, several communities have discussed taking on responsibilities for social services programs and are at various stages of looking at that possibility following Frobisher Bay's example.

Community Participation In Social Services Programs

The other way that community participation has increased a great deal, at least in my Department of Social Services, during the life of this Ninth Assembly is that we have used local agencies and organizations to carry out small portions of the social services programs. For example, in 1980 the Dene band at Hay River entered into a contract with the department to provide a summer camp experience for local children. This initiative rose out of an observation that our juvenile offenders rate seemed to go up quite remarkably each summer. Essentially kids were getting into trouble during their school summer holidays. The first summer camp proved to be very successful in terms of the enjoyment it provided to the children, the local employment it provided and the effect on the local juvenile delinquency offence rate. In subsequent years, camps were opened in other communities and during the summer of 1983 there were four different communities providing summer camps for older children and adolescents. This past year, 123 children participated in these camps

for periods of two weeks to six weeks. The camps have evolved into situations that provide cultural and historical experience and training, exposure to traditional life, exposure to gun safety and water safety training, and in one case this past summer, a trip to the Universiade Games and a visit to the Enoch Reserve just outside Edmonton.

Four years ago, Mr. Speaker, our home care services to the aged and handicapped were just starting. We now have home care or home support services in a wide number of communities and these are all provided with the involvement of local groups. In August of 1980 we opened a senior citizens home in Fort Providence. Right now, studies about the need for nursing homes are going on in three communities and the architectural work is under way on the personal care and senior citizens home for Rae-Edzo. As soon as these planning figures are available, final work will begin on a personal care unit in Fort Simpson. Here in Yellowknife, the YWCA is negotiating a contract with our department to operate a personal care unit. We expect this unit will be open to accept clients within the next few weeks. This achievement is a direct result of the involvement and initiative of local citizens and the staff of my department.

I have approved and just hired a co-ordinator of community corrections. One of the major tasks of this person will be to attempt to focus corrections into the communities that offenders come from, and prevent an increase in the severe overcrowding of our jails that we have now been experiencing.

The other major emphasis and thrust that I have been concerned with is the recruitment and training and use of northerners and the provision of services in local communities. As you know the provision of direct health services in most communities still rests with the federal government, but the delivery of social services is under our control. This emphasis on recruiting and training northern people has resulted in approximately 60 per cent Social Services department staff being native northerners. We are now seeing an increase in the number of native northerners rising into somewhat more senior positions within the department. This is a trend that I hope continues in the future.

Services Focussing On Children

My emphasis upon using native foster and adoptive homes for native children has borne some good results. Within the last year especially, there has been much better results in finding foster homes and adoptive homes that are of the same cultural background as the child to be placed. I have also been concerned about the lack of resources for the children in the Territories, which has sometimes resulted in a need to send children far from their home communities. One of the things that pleases me very much, is that during 1981, the first group home in the Kitikmeot area was opened, in Cambridge Bay. In the Baffin region, children with profound and multiple handicaps, are now able to stay closer to their families and home communities because we opened a group home for them in Frobisher Bay, during 1982. We have acquired funds and started work on a major curriculum guide for school children to teach healthy living habits and to prevent alcohol and drug use. I think that services to children are a major concern and I hope this focus on services to children, especially on preventative and community based programs, will be carried on in the future as well.

There are of course many other things that have happened within the Departments of Health and of Social Services, but I think that this emphasis on community level involvement is a particularly productive one. The emphasis for many of these improvements has come from the people of the Northwest Territories. The people have coped with many changes over the past several years and have coped well.

I might add that my colleague from the Western Arctic mentioned the alcohol problem in the Delta and in the Beaufort region. I have been concerned for quite some time about the number of suicides that are occurring, not only in that region, but as well in other regions such as Keewatin. I am particularly concerned and personally upset as well, but I have instructed my deputy minister to make sure that our social workers have information about ways to help people who are very depressed, and ways to prevent suicides. I have also instructed my department as well to gather some concerned people who are professionally well trained in that area, whether it has to be from the other parts of the Territories, or from down south to work with these workers in the regions, and in the communities as well, and to work with those people if necessary. I think it is very important that everyone in the communities works together to help to prevent these tragedies.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I have served this House for the past four years. Many people have supported me in the work that I have been doing. I thank all the Members of this House for giving me support. I have had personal tragedies over the years, and with the help of my family who have been able to give me support and enable us to live in Yellowknife, and I thank the people in Yellowknife for putting up with us for the last three years, and providing us with some good weather. I have not been able to go hunting as much because we do not have trees in our area, and I do not know what is behind trees.

I hope that we have all contributed to an improvement in the quality of life of the people of the North. I would like to close my comments by saying that it has been a distinct honour to serve the people of the Northwest Territories, in my Executive capacity, and in particular a privilege to serve my people of the Kitikmeot region. I would like to thank all the members of my staff in the Departments of Health and of Social Services and the people whom I worked with before, in Government Services as well, the people that supported me and put up with me for the last couple of years. As well I would like to thank the Members and the staff of the Legislative Assembly office and you, Mr. Speaker. I will always remember the day we went to Coppermine to go fishing and we did not get much further up the falls, but we did enjoy ourselves, and we enjoyed a good rest. I would like to thank my colleagues here in the Assembly and my fellow Executive Council Members for their continued support and I might add that it is not my intention to seek re-election but to seek some rest and practise my cultural background more than I have done in the last past 10 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Tologanak. The House will recess for 15 minutes. This is the usual 4:00 p.m. break, this will be the only break until the supper break.

---SHORT RECESS

The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the House to order, please. Orders of the day, Item 2. Members' replies. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Mr. Wah-Shee's Reply

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make mine extremely brief because of the limited time period we have, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to indicate that it was quite an experience working with a collection of characters in this House, who have been elected by their constituents in various areas, advocates of different activity, if I could say so. It really has been an experience working with all of you. I would have to say that we did not necessarily see eye to eye all the time, and from time to time I would differ with my colleague from Deh Cho, and he would sometimes wonder where I am coming from. I may add, Mr. Speaker, that I felt the same way about the honourable Member when we were debating different issues. However, I would have to say that during the four years that we have been working together, I find that I have come to know the individuals a lot better, and I have come to have a great deal of respect for each and every one of the MLAs representing the different constituencies.

Likewise, it has been an honour to work on the Executive Council with the confidence of the Members of this House. It has been quite an experience to get to know how the bureaucracy functions and I would imagine sometimes the direction we are going is not fully appreciated nor supported at times, when dealing with different program directions. However, I would have to say that it has been a pleasure working with all of my colleagues on the Executive and it has also been a pleasure working with all of you in this House, and I would hope, for those of you who do intend to run again, that we will see you again in the 10th Assembly.

Appreciation Of Support Of Staff And Constituents

I would like to indicate my appreciation for the support of my staff in the Department of Local Government. As you know in 1979, Larry Elkin was my deputy minister and he is the one who was very helpful in introducing me to the activities of the Department of Local Government. As well, I would like to state my appreciation of the support of my current deputy minister, Mike Moore, and all of the senior staff that work under him. Likewise, I would have to state my appreciation for all the hard work, commitment and time that my staff in Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development have put in over the last four years. At times, I know that their efforts are not

appreciated, but as the Minister responsible for that portfolio, I have no hesitation whatsoever to state that it has been a pleasure working with them and as far as I am concerned they have contributed a great deal to all the work in the whole area of constitutional development and aboriginal claims. I will get back later on to the whole area of the claims process which I feel needs some clarification.

I would like to say that it has been a pleasure to represent my area. As you know, the majority of my people in my constituency are the Dogrib tribe, which is the tribe that I come from. I have enjoyed the support of the chiefs, sub chiefs, the mayors and the councillors in Rae-Lac la Martre, Rae Lakes and Snare. I have also been working very closely with my good friend, the Leader of the Elected Members on the Executive, in the Detah village and Lot 500.

I will not go into all these various things that have been taking place in my area for the last four years, for instance, recreational facilities, airstrips, new schools, for which I would have to express my appreciation to the Department of Education. However, I will in my own way communicate all the various past activity in the last four years to my people. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, if there was one thing that I regret in the last four years, it is that it was not appropriate for me to speak in my own language, particularly in the Dogrib language because it would be more of an inconvenience to my colleagues in this House. However, I feel that I would continue to speak English at this point, but hopefully in the future, there will be more arrangements made for Dene languages to be spoken in this House. I do believe that plans are under way to accommodate that.

I would have to say we still desire a divisional school board in my area. We have a Rae-Edzo area office which is a real improvement as far as I am concerned. However, the whole area of economic activity is something else which really requires more support, in terms of long range and short-term planning because, Mr. Speaker, my area is not a megaproject area, and so there has to be some emphasis being given, I believe, in the future in regard to those areas that do not have the advantage of being in an area where you have major development taking place.

I also would have to indicate as Minister of Local Government, that there has been a number of things that we have done, which I feel are worth mentioning in the area of home-ownership, with the support of the Department of Local Government and with the encouragement of my colleagues on the Executive. This afternoon, I would hope that we would get into the whole area of regional and tribal councils. This again, is in response to the regional aspirations of the various regions at this time. So I look forward to going through the ordinance in that area.

Valuable Contributions From Different Backgrounds

I think there is a point of clarification that ought to be made in the whole area of the claims process. It is unfortunate that some Members feel that as a Dene, because of my background and my association with the Dene people, that I should not somehow be permitted to provide leadership nor hold portfolios in certain claims areas. This is rather unfortunate and I feel that that kind of thinking is really contrary to my thinking because I do believe that anybody who is elected and has the confidence of this House should be assigned any portfolio...

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Hear, hear!

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: ...unless there is a clear indication of conflict of interest and I did make my opinions known in this area. I do believe that once we start getting involved in the whole racial area in terms of what this person ought to be responsible for because of his birth, then I would be the first one to fight against that kind of thinking. I do not think that we need this kind of racial discrimination in these chambers particularly when we are trying to promote harmony in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I must say that it has taken a lot of time and it has only been in the last four years that we have managed to have everybody working together, and I would like to see the same direction being continued. We have a lot to offer as Dene, Inuvialuit, Inuit, Metis and the others.

---Applause

So I do believe that we are trying to create a society which does respect each other in terms of language, history and we want to build upon our different backgrounds and I would hope the trend would continue.

Getting into the whole area of the claims process, I must say that the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat certainly was under a lot of criticism at the very beginning when I had taken it over and since then the staff in the secretariat has been involved in working with the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, the Western Constitutional Forum, even with the Alliance, and so I believe that we have made a positive contribution and I look forward to seeing them make more contributions in the future.

Claims Process Complex

In the whole area of claims, a lot of issues that this government has concerns about I do believe ought to be part of the claims process. I think that is the place where all these differences in terms of points of view and priorities ought to be negotiated. I do not like this approach of having to wash your dirty laundry publicly in regard to the whole area of the claims process because I would prefer to leave that up to the negotiators of our government, leave it to the negotiators that represent the various claims groups.

I think that the issues are complex and as far as I am concerned, I get a little sick and tired of listening to statements being made which overly simplify the claims process. The claims process has been an issue with the aboriginal peoples for a very long time, and if it was such a simple thing, then why in hell have those claims not been settled 15 years ago? The reason why, Mr. Speaker, it has not been settled thus far is because the whole issue is really complex, it is very difficult and it is really give-and-take. One group or one party in the claims process cannot say to another party "You are definitely doing everything in your power to work against our interest in this claims process." I think a lot of it really has to do with attitudes. A lot of it really has to deal with the proper information being fed to those people who are making decisions. I support the whole area of having these claims settled in a fair manner. I want to ensure that the aboriginal people who are part of the claims process are satisfied with their claims when it comes down to the final agreement in principle.

Government Represents Interests Of All People

However, in between, you have to allow flexibility and I feel that as a Member of the Executive Council, I have to represent the interests of the institution of government, and it is a very difficult role at times. I think that it may be that the aboriginal people at large may have some difficulty with understanding the issues that we are raising which are in the best interests not only of the government as an institution, but as representing the interests of everybody, not just representing the interests of one little group, but the total group. When I decided to run in 1979, I went in with the intention of not only representing the Dogrib tribe and my area, but also providing good government for everybody.

---Applause

So I feel that in terms of dealing with policies and programs we have to somehow not continue to have this parochial perspective. I believe that the Northwest Territories is a big country. It goes all the way from the Mackenzie Mountains/Yukon border right all the way east into Frobisher Bay, from Resolute way down into Hudson Bay and Sanikiluaq. So when we are dealing with legislation or government programs, I think these are the kinds of things we have to keep in mind. We cannot say, "Well, I want some fundamental changes because my little area wants that, and I will not agree to anything else." There has to be a flexibility. We have to think about everybody. We have to think about the Dene, the Inuit people, the non-native people and I think that that is the way that I view government. It is not just a government for a particular group of people. So I feel that in the last four years that is the perspective that I have taken.

Most of you know that I have been associated with the Dene chiefs for a long time and when I got into this Legislative Assembly I wanted to know a little more about different areas in the Northwest Territories. Now I have had that opportunity the last four years and I thank you very much for giving me that opportunity to travel from one end of the Territories to the other. I must say that with a collection of characters like myself and those associates of mine on the Executive Council, it has really been a pleasure because we have different viewpoints. In the end, it really comes down to what would be the best policy or the best type of program that will be acceptable to everybody. I think this is what we should keep in mind when we are dealing with these various policies in government.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I must say that everything else that I wanted to say was said by not only my colleagues on the Executive but also my colleagues, the MLAs of this House, in thanking the Legislative staff, the interpreters and last but not least I think something ought to be said in terms of appreciation to the Speaker as well because he has the difficult role of keeping order in this House. Sometimes people get overly involved with the issue emotionally, like throwing glasses and just about punching other associates...

---Laughter

...so at times Mr. Speaker, this House may have been viewed by people who are not associated with this House as being a circus. Perhaps that may be, but I think that aside from that, we have done a great deal in the last four years and I look forward to being associated with the House again in the next term, so for the information of my colleagues, I do intend to seek another election for my area.

---Applause

I look forward to seeing you all back and so thank you very much for all the support in the last four years. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Item 2, Members' replies.

MRS. SORENSEN: Go for it.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Go for the record. Set a new record.

MRS. SORENSEN: Progress.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Is somebody moving down there? Mr. Butters.

Mr. Butters' Reply And Motion Of Appreciation Seconded

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, first I would like to respond briefly to remarks made by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre before I address the motion of appreciation for the Commissioner's Address. I notice that in the remarks of both the Member for Yellowknife Centre and the Member for Frobisher Bay that the Cruise missile debate was touched on during their replies, somewhat like a tongue returning to a vacant tooth socket. I was pleased yesterday to hear Mr. MacQuarrie's supplementary remarks on the Cruise and doubly pleased to hear him acknowledge that in his motion, which was supported by only a very slim majority in this House, was not a plea for disarmament, but for a constructive negotiation and compromise.

I trust that the honourable Member has been able over the past week to associate himself with the outpouring of shock at, and condemnation of, the murder of 269 innocent passengers on the Korean Airline flight 007 by the Russian government. I trust when reading the statement of Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, which appeared in the Edmonton Journal yesterday to the effect that his government was perfectly justified in shooting down the commercial aircraft that violated sacred Soviet airspace and that he experienced anger at the Russian leaders' callousness and disregard for human life. I trust that he and his colleague from Frobisher Bay also had time to read the transcript in the recent Globe and Mail issue of the radio transmissions of the Soviet pilots as they tracked the aircraft for some 46 minutes, observed its blinking navigation lights, which is an international signal of surrender and willingness to accept direction and orders from the tracking aircraft. Mr. Speaker, the suggestion from the member for Frobisher Bay that the aircraft was some type of an American spy plane -- I cannot believe that that suggestion is made in any seriousness by any individual. I would say that the military people that fly those aircraft can pick out a silhouette of their own aircraft or an enemy aircraft in a blink of an eye, at nighttime or daytime at whatever position that aircraft may be coming in. There is no difficulty in determining the fact that that aircraft that was shot down was a commercial airliner. I hope they can recall as I do the cold and inhuman confirmation that the pilot had fired his missiles and the target had disappeared from his radar screen. Although I still regret the position adopted by this

Legislature shortly after that day of infamy, I am grateful that at least I was able to vote in opposition to the Member's naive and unrealistic strategy for achieving a peaceful planet.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, Hear!

Financial Information System

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I would also like to respond to the comments of the honourable Member for Yellowknife South with regard to the Financial Information System -- Centre, Centre, I beg your pardon, he did not notice I practised that shrug all night and for the last five years, but possibly what he would like is something that our Prime Minister has been able to do which is more like this -- but I do wish to speak to the matter of the Financial Information System, and I will be referring to comments that he made because he went over, at some length, the facts which he saw were pertinent and important in developing his perception of what occurred.

One of his comments is that, quote "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." Now, that is so incorrect. "It was never discussed by anybody." The major report, as we know, took some 600 man hours of the Auditor General's staff and then this government went through the most incisive examination of its actions over the last three or four years that probably any jurisdiction has ever experienced. I would suggest that the public accounts committee under Mrs. Sorensen's direction and guidance, gave an example to public accounts committees in other provinces and to our House of Commons on how to conduct such an examination of the expenditure of public funds. Discussion -- we had it, days of it, hours of it.

"The second reason is", again I am quoting the Member now, "because I think 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." Well, laxity is the last word you could use to describe what happened with regard to that process. There were sins of omission, there were sins of commission, but there were not sins of laxity. Look at the Commissioner's hair, it has turned grey in that period of time and the FIS was one of his problems that...

MR. MacQUARRIE: I rest my case.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Well, I have other things that I wish to say to this. I would also like to comment on a suggestion made with regard to something I had said -- "I would say that the results of this report show clearly that rumours circulating earlier" and this is referring to the Auditor General's report, "were not, absolutely not 'baseless innuendo', and those words are in the 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 hearings." The honourable Member, who is a professional teacher and knows how research is conducted obviously did not conduct sufficient research in this case. Had he done so and had he read the record of the public accounts committee, he would have been familiar with the opening remarks of Mrs. Sorensen who said, "The committee is interested in getting the facts out onto the table in an open and orderly fashion so that we can deal with the facts and come to some conclusions with respect to the process that was used over the years. We are not interested in rumour and innuendo; we are interested in facts."

Committee Presented Facts

The words were used first by the chairman of the public accounts committee, and rightfully so. In her letter to me, she uses the same terminology, that she is not interested in rumours and innuendo, she wishes to deal with facts. That is what her committee dealt with. Innuendo is really a suggestion of an intent or a nod, and there was much baseless innuendo. There was some innuendo that was factual, but I believe that the public accounts committee did separate the baseless innuendo from the facts and so presented it to us as it was tabled yesterday. This government does not deny that.

We, in responding to the committee's recommendations, on very few occasions could argue that the perception that the committee had taken was incorrect or improperly based. We agreed on many of the recommendations and, in fact, most of the recommendations that were made to government. I, no

more than you, Mr. Speaker, wish to go on and hammer this thing to death, but I do feel that the question has been thoroughly examined and that possibly we can now bury this matter. I just wish to assure the Member that I did not in any way, suggest that some of the rumours and innuendo that were coming to his ears were baseless.

I apologize for any time I may take over the next few minutes, but I did come into this House in January of 1971, as green as anybody here when they first appeared. I, like the Member for Frobisher Bay, went back to my early remarks and looked at what I had said at that time. I have not usually spoken often during the replies to the Commissioner's Address over the last four years, in fact, very rarely. The reason that I have done this is because I do not believe that an individual should have two opportunities to speak. As Mr. Braden made quite clear, the speech from the throne is now read by a lieutenant-governor, in effect. We, the elected Executive, are the ones who develop those remarks, and it is odd that we should feel it necessary to reply to our own text. Admittedly, the Commissioner puts it together, but what goes into it, goes into it with the approval of the elected Executive.

Topics Raised In Seventh Assembly, 1971

To return to 1971 very, very briefly, I just looked at some of the things that I had raised at that time, and I am not going to read them all out, but I would just like to refer to them. I talked about the northern cross-country skiers coming out of the Delta and out of the Mackenzie and it is heartening to see that two of those young people, Sharon and Shirley Firth, recipients of the Commissioner's Award for sports, were recently recognized with a grant from this government and from this Legislature to assist them to go and represent Canada and the Northwest Territories in the upcoming Winter Olympics.

I also spoke then on the need for the decentralization of the government responsibility to hamlet Councils. I spoke on the Chumtuk radio station, and we have seen major improvement not only in the provision of local radio, but television as well, into the smaller communities. I spoke about the Northern Games in Inuvik, and the Northern Games is a result of my colleague, Ms Cornoyea's long involvement and participation and lately other people from the whole of the Arctic have been increasingly involved.

I spoke of northern land use regulations and the ways to ensure multiplicity of use; on Treaties 8 and 11 and land claims; on our teacher training program which had been instituted earlier by our education people and which has been so developed and improved by our current Minister of Education. I spoke of developing a research arm of this government and under Mr. Nerysoo's direction and initiative, there is major progress being taken in that area. I spoke of implementation of the Morrow Commission report.

I talked about alcohol and the need to develop treatment centres and that has proceeded, although while not to the extent that one would have liked, it has proceeded in large measure; about NCPC and the generation of local power; about an airstrip for Paulatuk; about tourism. I guess one of the major concerns in which I do not think we have made too much progress -- while this House and the previous House did recognize the need and contributed for the elderly of the Territories a supplementary pension allowance, suggested by myself in the Eighth Assembly and Mr. Evaluarjuk in the Ninth, there has been very, very little else done, I think, for our old age pensioners. Mr. Patterson and I did present briefs to the federal pension committee when it met in Yellowknife two days ago, and these will be tabled shortly.

At those times we were excited and pleased because the exploration companies were meeting with us and wanted to meet with us. Now, it is almost the case as Ms Cournoyea pointed out, that we are being met with so much that we cannot really respond to the day to day needs of our communities and our families.

Mr. Speaker, it is extremely unfortunate that you will not be speaking on this occasion. Certainly your recollection goes back much further than mine in the area of the evolution of the Territorial Council. I knew you before you were a Member of Council. I do recall meeting you on many occasions as you travelled through the North as a Member of the Sixth Assembly. As a Member of the Seventh Assembly I was always irked when Fred Henne would say that we were not a wholly elected Council, and that was true. While we were politicians, we were not recognized in other jurisdictions and in other centres as northern politicians. The politicians of those days, sir, were yourself, Paul Kaeser and Fred Henne. I still travel in the southern jurisdictions and people ask me about the political interest and the people that carried those initiatives in those early days. As I say, it was the municipal leaders of those three communities which provided the Territories political dimension in the early 1970s.

Composition Of Seventh Assembly

The Seventh Assembly had 14 Members, 10 of whom were elected, four appointed. The appointed people ran that Council. Maybe they did so because they were selected for their knowledge and their expertise and their administrative ability and those people, as you will recall, were Deputy Commissioner Parker, there was Mr. Lemieux, there was Louis Hamelin, Air Marshal Campbell, and later Pierre Genest replaced Mr. Lemieux. The Commissioner at that time too was not only Commissioner responsible for the government but he ran the Chair. He was our Speaker and I can recall some bitter, bitter arguments that we had with our Speaker of those days, and I am very pleased to say that the Speaker's role of today has now become what a Speaker should be, which is a servant of the House, although the first and foremost of all its Members.

The elected Members of those days and -- I might just repeat their names very briefly -- were Willie Adams, who now is a Senator. Nick Sibbeston was a Member at that time and I recall the shock to me when Nick was the first one to look at our budget and have the fortitude to delete money from that budget. It was an interesting item because it was \$7000 for a sawmill at Wrigley. I was on the horns of a dilemma because the Commissioner had put it in. In those days we used to have the chiefs from around Yellowknife coming into the sixth floor of the Laing Building, or the building across the road, a lot more frequently than they do today to see the Commissioner, and as a result of one of those visits, the Wrigley chief attained \$7000 for a sawmill. Nick had not been advised of that and Nick took it out. Interestingly enough, the next day we were travelling, because we used the weekends to travel to various communities, and we were travelling to Fort Simpson, and nobody was more pleased than Nick that we did not make a side trip to Wrigley.

---Laughter

Jim Rabesca, who represented the Rae-Lac la Martre riding; Paul Kaeser from the Slave; Weldy Phipps, who served for a couple of years and was later replaced by Paul Koolerk, represented the High Arctic. Lena Pedersen was from the Central Arctic, David Searle from Yellowknife -- they only had one Member at that time -- Bryan Pearson, Lyle Trimble, and myself. I just would like to say that this Assembly owes much to Bryan Pearson for the addition to this House of the interpreter service.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Bryan Pearson was the Member who fought long and hard to ensure that Inuktitut-speaking Members of this House would have an opportunity to make themselves clearly understood by not only their colleagues but the press and anybody else who was listening.

During those days we addressed many important issues. There were pipeline guidelines; there was extraordinary funding which was not resolved until Mrs. Sorensen's finance committee got it going again; land claims. In 1974, the federal Minister of that time, Jean Chrétien, spoke in the Elks Hall just down from here and indicated that the Government of Canada supported the construction of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. In his speech he said that, "To ensure that the terms and conditions do not negatively influence or affect the environment or the people, I will be naming a small commission to look at this matter."

---Laughter

What an aftermath.

I have been riled in the House on a number of occasions, but I was never so riled and never so angry as in a situation that occurred in 1973. In those days we knew exactly when the House was going to rise and the reason we did, I think, was because our appointed Members were on boards and they had to get to this meeting or that meeting, so it was important that they knew that the House was going to rise on February 8 so they made their travel plans and could get away.

On that particular occasion there were still some motions to discuss and still some business to discuss and Louis Hamelin, who sat on this side, made the mistake on the closing Friday of recognizing the clock. So what do you do? You recognize the clock. The Commissioner could not prorogue. So everybody trotted off except the, so-called "Bush and the Barren Land Party", a small group in opposition of which I was a Member at that time -- and I was in opposition, you know. There is nothing wrong with being in opposition. It is her Majesty's loyal opposition responsibility to caution the government; that day I cautioned the government as Ms Cournoyea and Mr. Pudluk and Mrs. Sorensen and Mr. MacQuarrie caution us today. So we had a number of motions we

wished to discuss. We came back on the Monday with new rules and the Commissioner with his Mace was half an hour late. It is amazing to think that Commissioner Hodgson would be half an hour late for a session, but he had not taken cognizance of the new rule change. So we attempted to talk our motions out through the device of using information items, and because there were only five of us — Paul Kaeser did not get back -- we had to get somebody to take the chair. On that day of prorogation, the House was prorogued with me on my feet, with my mouth open saying, "Mr. Commissioner...", and he just shut us down, just shut us down. I found that the most difficult few minutes of my time in this Assembly. I say that about Commissioner Hodgson I would also say that when you won a battle, you won the battle. You did not have to turn around and fight it again and again. You got it. But you had to earn it, and you had to earn it with struggle and strife and we did that frequently in the Seventh Assembly.

Achievements Of The Eighth Assembly

Mr. Pearson in that Assembly, sought to convince Mr. Chretien that the Eighth Assembly should have 15 Members and he was successful in doing this. When the Eighth Assembly convened we had David Searle and Dave Nickerson representing Yellowknife; Mr. McCallum came in for Slave River, Peter Ernerk for the Keewatin; Don Stewart from Hay River; Mr. Wah-Shee, my colleague, came in representing Rae-Lac la Martre; John Steen from Tuktoyaktuk; George Barnaby from the Great Bear area; Bill Lafferty from the Liard area; Bill Lyall from the Central Arctic; Ipeelee Kilabuk; Ludy Pudluk; Mark Evaluarjuk; Bryan Pearson and myself. I think that we were a good Council.

A lot of people have turned their backs on us and I really appreciated the remarks of Mr. Kilabuk when he replaced James Arreak. He indicated that he was sorry that there had been so much criticism of the work done by the Eighth Assembly because we had worked together co-operatively and we made some changes, and I think we had made some very productive changes. I also remember too, the first move of this House, when the work that Mr. McCallum had put into the constitution was shelved, deferred and put aside. Yet he and I have had very many little smiles and laughs as we have seen our Executive colleagues pulling the proposals back off the shelf again.

---Laughter

And I think that if you look today at Mr. McCallum's report, you will find that a lot of it has been incorporated into what is now the policy of this government.

I remember very well the contribution from the Eastern Arctic Members. I recall one time in Rankin Inlet I was sitting in the chair where Mr. Pudluk sits now so ably, and was providing the chairmanship for the debate on education. I was rolling along "36 agreed, 37 agreed, 38 agreed" and Mr. Pudluk stopped me and he said, "Look at the English text that you people are reading from and look at the Inuktitut." We had about 10 pages and they had about 10 lines. Mr. Pudluk said, "Enough of this. I am going home." And he went home and he took everybody with him. That was the end of the Rankin Inlet session. The Commissioner responded and said "We will do something about this. We will get airplanes, we will get charters, we will go out and have these community consultations." So I was very impressed how one Member could change the action and direction of the Assembly. Mr. Pudluk did it on that occasion, and as a result, the current Education Ordinance is a much better document than it would have been had he not interrupted and stopped us from proceeding.

I do not wish to take much time. I know that there are many other things to do, but I can recollect thinking back on the last House of the important work done by Mr. McCallum to change the Northwest Territories Act and bring into this House 22 Members.

---Applause

That was a labour of Hercules because nobody thought it could happen. We could not convince our sitting Member at that time that it should happen. Mr. McCallum, almost alone, beat his head on the stones of Ottawa and at the last minute, at the eleventh and a half hour, achieved that goal. Everybody has talked about how successful we have been in the Ninth Assembly, but I think that the architect of that success is Mr. McCallum and his determination that the Assembly of the Northwest Territories would be 22 elected Members.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Before I look at the 22 elected Members, I always recall when we moved from the Seventh to the Eighth Assembly and there was to be a totally elected Assembly, a lot of people said, "Oh, by gosh, how are you going to function without Air Marshal Campbell, without John Parker in there?" I do not think anybody thought that 15 characters, as Mr. Wah-Shee described them and us, would be able to put together any kind of a government, any kind of direction. However I think that that perception was disabused very, very quickly, as this House has disabused any such perception.

Working Together In The Ninth Assembly

When the Ninth Assembly was elected and I sat listening to the returns on the radio that night, I recall saying that the problem in the past in bringing people together was that the native organizations, this Assembly and various other organizations were really "other voices other rooms" talking to themselves. If somebody told me four years ago or seven years ago that I would be working so closely with Mr. Wah-Shee and Mr. Nerysoo, with whom I have had in the past very strong disagreements in public, I remember in the Eighth Assembly when we stood behind Jake Epp at Fort Providence and there, on the other side of the table, was the honourable Richard Nerysoo, only at that time he was the vice-president of the Dene Nation. Those angers and those oppositions and those recriminations have disappeared. I wish to talk about my Executive Council Members in a few minutes, but I could not think of any more effective Members than Mr. Wah-Shee and Mr. Nerysoo to sit on that body.

I would say the same words of praise as other Members have about yourself, sir, and about Mr. MacQuarrie when he served this House. You have both served us with objectivity and fairness and humour, as did David Searle before you.

Again, my thanks to the Commissioner for the very effective advice and counsel I have always received from him. When I first met him he was the mayor of Yellowknife and a member of the Carrothers Commission. Also to the Deputy Commissioner, whose administrative moxie probably is unrivalled in the north country. He is a top-flight administrator and my association with him has been one of admiration at his ability to put things together and make the wheels go round. I too would thank our interpreters who have given the House so much assistance and understanding over the past 10 years. To the Clerk's office -- they have been always supportive and not only ever-supportive but most efficient. Mr. Remnant and Mr. Hamilton and the staff in the office on the second floor; and Marie Coe, as Mr. McLaughlin mentioned, in the Hansard operation.

Appreciation Of Support From Staff

Too, I would like to recognize the civil servants, the staff who have worked for me. I am grateful for the support and assistance received by me from Mr. Nielsen in the Department of Finance and Mr. Nelson, the comptroller general; Mr. Quirke in Government Services and Mr. Bowyer in Personnel; Bob Stewart and Lew Voytilla in the Financial Management Secretariat. They have been most supportive as have many other civil servants with whom I have come in contact.

Ministerial Government

One thing I should say, though. In every situation, the incoming elected Member has had to overcome the type of empire that existed earlier where the Commissioner was everything. I can recall when, at the end of the Eighth Assembly, we had a meeting called "Directions for the 80s". As I recall, Mr. McCallum and I were there, but we did not say very much. The words were said by the officials and the bureaucrats and the senior civil servants. There is nothing wrong with that because these are dedicated people, but during this session they have learned that one of the major directions for the 1980s was ministerial government, and ministerial government requires that they take orders from the elected people who will have to be responsible for their actions. They have accepted this, I would say, very, very well. It has not gone always easily. I am quite sure, and while I have not heard, but I am quite sure that each of my colleagues has had to sit down and tell their senior people exactly where their direction and their orders were coming from. They have accepted that, and I think that ministerial government in the Northwest Territories is alive and well. I think this is a major legacy which we pass on to the Members of the 10th Assembly and the eight people who will serve on the Executive Council of that Assembly.

I would like to briefly thank the people on my personal staff; Audrey Billing, who has served me as my secretary for many years; and my executive assistants, Betty Brewster first and Jeanne Brezinski, who served this Assembly with dedication and efficiency for many years. I recall my shock to learn on her tragic death that we did not then have a requirement to make smoke detectors mandatory in leased apartments. That omission has now been corrected by legislation, but at what a cost. And last, I would thank Phyllis Sartor who I have been able to second from the Financial Management Secretariat and who has been very helpful to me, providing me with financial skills and her knowledge.

Members Of The Ninth Assembly

I would like to just close by speaking about the Members of this House. I would start with you, Mr. Speaker, as a Member, because often we forget that you are a Member representing a constituency, the constituency of Hay River. Not only have you served us well as Speaker, but you have served your constituents well as a Member of this House and as a Speaker. I regret the fact that your role has now prevented you from providing your most singular perception of the North and its people. Before I sat in this House, I frequently witnessed you in action and I always enjoy listening to you speak, because if there is any man whose name is "Mr. Common Sense", it is Don Stewart. I have missed your contributions to this House these last two years.

Mr. Evaluarjuk for Foxe Basin: I made his acquaintance in the Eighth Assembly and on committees and caucus. I have found him a very, very wise man, truly a leader of his people and one who should always be listened to, for example, his remarks just today are indicative as he pointed out that Inuktitut-speaking Members coming to this House require more than the services of the interpreters --they also require researchers who can provide support and back-up, written and oral. I am surprised that we have never thought of this before; it is a major oversight.

Mr. Arlooktoo I met for the first time when this Assembly convened and he too has represented his constituents well. I admire his persistence, because I had heard about the airport requirement in Lake Harbour. When I went to Lake Harbour, I was surprised to see that on one end of the air strip it dropped off into the sea it seemed and the other end it went up into a mountain. So I just was never sure exactly how Mr. Wah-Shee was going to extend that airport and I am still not sure. What I have visions of now, in Lake Harbour, is a mountain with a hole in it. We will see what DPW will work out.

---Laughter

Ipeelee Kilabuk, I first met as a Member of the Eighth Assembly and is a man of great humanity and sincere affection for, not only his own people, but all human kind. My association with him has been most valuable and memorable.

Dennis Patterson, I cannot tell you how happy I was when he became Minister of Education.

---Laughter

---Applause

I remember taking it, in that chair hour after hour from the Hon. Dennis Patterson, Nick Sibbeston and Ms Cournoyea, and I was so delighted when he took over that portfolio. I admit that he has made a number of changes, that he did, but it sure quieted him down.

---Laughter

As they say if you want to turn a radical or rebel into a conservative, you give him a little responsibility. Now we gave the Minister of Education a lot of responsibility and I do not think there is a busier man, John Munro included, in getting things done. While you may move as quickly as John Munro, at least you write your own letters, which I do not think the Minister does. But it has been an experience to work with you, not only in the House but on the Executive Committee.

I should just talk about the Executive Committee for a minute. Not only is this Assembly a consensus Assembly, so is our Executive Committee, and as Mr. Wah-Shee intimated, some of the arguments we have on that committee are very fiery and very heated, but when the coals are reduced to ashes, we do as he said, develop a consensus approach which is in the best interests of all northern people.

Ludy Pudluk, as I have mentioned, has been very effective in many ways. It does not take much for him to turn the career of an Assembly around by saying just a few words and it begins to veer off, or as I say, prorogues and goes home; but Ludy has been a very effective Member of this Assembly. I am sorry that I have not been able to do anything with NCPC, but I do not know of anybody that can do anything with NCPC, including Keith Penner.

Moses Appaqaq -- I first met Moses when he came from Sanikiluaq. I am just delighted that Mr. Evaluarjuk persisted and pursued the requirement to have the Belcher Islands, Sanikiluaq, represented in this Assembly. It was an excellent decision and the Member from that community has been an excellent representative, and my association with him has been most valuable.

Kane Tologanak -- I have known Kane for a long time. Believe it or not, he took pictures for me at one time for The Drum, I knew him as a student. I guess this is one of the things in my experience in the North, that I am pleased about is to see, that the people I knew as students have now taken over the positions that were once occupied by federal civil servants, by territorial civil servants, and are now in charge of those departments and in charge of those programs. When I first came to the Delta, Mr. Nerysoo was going into grade one...

---Laughter

...and I could not find a more brilliant analytical mind, I think in any political arena, than Mr. Nerysoo's when he brings it to a problem or a task. And Mr. Tologanak too has brought his many talents to the Executive Committee, and we wish him well in the years ahead and trust that after a sojourn on the land he might once again yearn for colour television and flush toilets and various other things that are part of the Yellowknife milieu.

Ms Cournoyea and I have known each other for many, many, many years. In fact, I have known Nellie probably longer than any other Member. We do not exactly see eye to eye on many things and have never probably seen eye to eye on many things, but I would hope that she reciprocates with me the very deep respect that I have for her. You cannot get a harder-working Member anywhere. Tough, yes; rough around the edges, but Nellie has always been that way, because she knows that is the way you get things done, and has, as I say, never been afraid of hard work. I can recall when Nellie ran the radio station, with about 12 or 14 people. Occasionally they would go on strike and that station was operating 18 hours a day. Well, they would be out on strike for 18 hours a day for a week and Nellie Cournoyea would be running that station alone. Nellie Cournoyea takes a back seat to nobody when it comes to work.

Tagak Curley -- I have known Tagak for many years and I was delighted when he came into this House and livened it up. As Mrs. Sorensen found, he brought into this House parliamentary debate. I believe one of the press went over to Mrs. Sorensen one time and said "My, was he not insulting, always gibing at you, gibing at you!" She said, "What? That is the greatest thing that has happened," and it was the greatest thing that has happened to our debates. The liveliness of this Assembly to a large extent is the result of the appearance here of Tagak Curley, his sense of humour and his punch, punch, punch until he achieves his objective, and when you meet him outside the ropes after he has thumped you or you have thumped him, there is a big smile and a shake of his hand.

Gordon Wray -- I knew Gordon when he was an opponent of this system. Although he was an opponent of the system, he was a most charming one.

AN HON. MEMBER: Charming?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, he was, yes and he still is charming. But I think too of his predecessor, William Noah, and William Noah is a perfect example, I think, of the young man who went out and got his education at all costs. When I came into the Territories, only 45 per cent of the young people of school age were in schools. William Noah, as I recollect, was not one of those who had the advantage of the school system, so he went and he got an education on his own as many, many people at Baker Lake and the Keewatin did. There is a strong esprit de corps; especially among the people of the Keewatin who went to the Churchill school. It was tough and it was rough, but by God they are proud to have gone through it and been part of it, because they know that it left them able to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. So we have had good representation from Baker Lake, both Mr. Wray and his predecessor, William Noah.

Nick Sibbeston, as I have mentioned, I have known many years. After removing the \$7000 from our estimates in about 1972, he went away and became the first Dene lawyer in the Northwest Territories, and his contribution to the House has always been thoughtful, and not exactly welcome sometimes, because he has a tendency to stick you wherever he can but he has been an effective Member for the last 12 years.

Bob Sayine...

AN HON. MEMBER: Who?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Bob Sayine...

---Laughter

...is now, I know, welcoming and hosting the Dene Nation in Fort Resolution. I do thank Bob for his advice and assistance in the past. Admittedly, a lot of that was due to the sawmill which turned my hair grey, and I see Mr. McCallum has got rid of that.

Arnold McCallum -- I have mentioned how important his contribution was in the previous Assembly of this House. We know that he is a very earnest and active Member and he is carrying a load that probably no other Minister in Canada in any jurisdiction has to carry with his portfolios of Economic Development and Public Works and the Housing Corporation. He is doing an excellent job, and it is a portfolio combination which I suggested to the Commissioner when I became one of the Members of the Executive Council.

James Wah-Shee -- I spoke earlier about James and his talents, and James is probably, of any Member of the Executive Committee, the most articulate. He has the ability to synthesize the ethos around him, the environment around him, the oral environment and put it into simple, understandable language, as he did just a few minutes ago when he spoke of the responsibility of Members not to represent a particular ethnic group or a particular viewpoint, but to represent the interests of all people of the Northwest Territories. No statement of mine could better describe that ability that he has as than the remarks that he made a few minutes ago.

George Braden and I have not always been on as good terms as we are now. I remember George as a worker for Bud Drury and I can recall a long, heated debate with George, on an aircraft when we flew over to BRC, on the merits of this Assembly and I think that both of us since that time have learned a little more. I think that George has agreed that maybe the system is not as bad as it seemed and with a few changes it could be a lot more effective. Well, changes have occurred and it is more effective. I thank George for his co-operation in many areas and many things and the leadership that he has provided to the Executive Committee as Leader of the Elected Executive. Not only has it been valuable to this Assembly, but it has been extremely valuable to the Executive, and while the Commissioner sits in that chair, we know that his influence on the decisions that are made are no more than any other Member, and that you, Mr. Braden, provide a lot of the leadership and guidance in the Executive Council.

Mr. Nerysoo -- I have spoken of the fine ability he has to manage as a Minister and this government has been indeed fortunate that he has served as a Member of the Executive Council for Renewable Resources and for Energy. There have been major strides made in those portfolios and the credit goes to him. He suggests that in the beginning he was helped by maybe Mr. McCallum and I and others; well, that is not exactly true. Richard is a very quick student and he required very, very little guidance and instruction.

Mr. McLaughlin -- Pine Point has had a good representative in Mr. McLaughlin. I was a little sorry that he did not recall the time, some many years ago, when I was Minister of Education and early one Saturday morning because there had been, either a pyroghy party or something the night before, and I phoned him up to say his school had burned down -- it was the Commissioner's Ball -- what is a Commissioner's Ball? That is right. I phoned him up to say his school had burned down and would he come with me to Pine Point? He was a little slow getting out of bed that morning, but we did go and I am pleased to have been part of the Executive Committee that did move to restore that school to its present completion.

Mrs. Sorensen, from Yellowknife -- we have always had able representatives from this community in my experience. David Searle and Dave Nickerson, and in George Braden, Lynda Sorensen and Bob MacQuarrie, the community has had excellent representation...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. TOM BUTTERS: ...and I can understand Mr. Curley saying in the debate on Yellowknife needing a fourth seat that it is not numbers that count; it is the quality of the material that they contribute to this House, and the quality of the material that Yellowknife has contributed has been excellent. I do not know of any Member that, in my experience, has done the research that Mrs. Sorensen has done. You cannot top her for going to the bottom of the problem and digging out all the facts, analysing and collating and compiling those facts, and presenting them in a very simple way. My association with her on the standing committee on finance has been very rewarding and valuable and we have attempted to put into place many of the things she and her committee have asked for.

MRS. SORENSEN: Do you want to work on my campaign?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I am doing that right now.

---Laughter

The reason we have done this is because we know that the recommendations of your committee have been most reasonable and wise. Let me tell you that when I say, "Look, Lynda Sorensen wants this or Lynda Sorensen is looking for that, or Lynda Sorensen is after this," the civil servants jump. They know that the material they present for you and your committee has to be the best possible.

Bob MacQuarrie -- I have a lot of respect for Bob. As I say, I was sorry that he found the Office of Speaker restricting to him, because he did give us excellent guidance as Speaker. As a Member of the House, he has, I can understand, an opportunity to make many contributions and has done so ably and well over the past three years. It mattered not whether he stood alone or stood with 21 others; he made his points and he made them exceedingly well and took the vote as it came or went.

I much regret that Pete Fraser, the Member for Mackenzie Great Bear, is not in the House. I met Pete before the Eighth Assembly. Pete is another very practical man. There is not very much you can tell Pete about the bush or about how to get from A to B, or how to make things work. Pete always had a laugh or a quip or a joke and the only thing he never did was tell political jokes, and I guess the reason for that is he knew that too many got elected or re-elected or whatever.

Challenge Of Division

I just have a few words on the next Assembly. The challenge that we are leaving the next Assembly is a monumental one. It is the challenge of division. We have pointed the way, but we have not done much more than that, and the 24 Members of the next Assembly will have their work cut out for them from the day they arrive. I trust that they will not be torn asunder by division, by an argument on the boundary, with pulling and pushing so that that House divides 11 to 11, so that that House does not agree to the directions to be taken. That House will have to address division, and it will be a monumental task. So I guess with those remarks I would say that we leave to them a task that is incomplete, and I am sure that we all wish to the next Assembly the strength and the wisdom and the dedication to continue and complete many of the initiatives that were begun by the Ninth Assembly and previous Assemblies. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your kind words, Mr. Butters. Members' replies. I believe if I counted right, that is it. Item 3, the third item on your agenda, oral questions. Mr. Wray.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 39-83(2): Funding For Alcohol Project, Rankin Inlet

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Could the Minister please inform me as to whether or not the Sappujjit alcohol project in Rankin Inlet is at the point now that because of a shortage of funds it is going to have to close its doors? If this is the case, could the Minister tell me what he intends to do about it to ensure that there is a continuation of this project, particularly in the community of Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tologanak.

Return To Question 39-83(2): Funding For Alcohol Project, Rankin Inlet

HON. KANE TULOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, at the meeting of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council in February, they approved projects in excess of \$1,081,000. This represented an overcommitment of \$74,000. Consequently, in order to treat all communities equally, contracts for all projects including Sappujjit, were only signed for the period ending December 31 rather than the full fiscal year. Once an evaluation of mid-year variance reports is completed and amounts lapsed by the projects in the previous fiscal year are recovered, we will be able to assess exactly how much contribution funding remains and it will be allocated proportionately between all projects, including Sappujjit.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 40-83(2): Plans For Legislative Assembly Building

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly where to direct this question so I will just direct it to the Leader of the Executive. It is just a clarification. I am wondering if we could be told if there are some active plans being pursued to design and construct a Legislative Assembly building.

MR. SPEAKER: Possibly Mr. McCallum as the Member sitting on MSB might prefer to answer that question, or would you care to handle it, Mr. Braden?

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I was just going to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that someone from the Management and Services Board would be the appropriate individual to respond, given that it is the Management and Services Board that is responsible for the various services, including accommodation, that are provided for the Legislative Assembly.

Return To Question 40-83(2): Plans For Legislative Assembly Building

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, just as a Member of the Management and Services Board, as Mr. Braden has indicated, that Management and Services Board is responsible for accommodation, not only of the Legislature, the actual meeting place, but obviously for a number of other accommodation services for Members as well. In all of these things we are now into an arrangement with this hotel at present. We would be somewhat remiss not to start thinking in terms of what may be required in the future; but we are not, as the Management and Services Board, at the present time, in negotiation with anybody to build a new building. We are not in any kind of negotiations with anybody. We are dealing with the present owner as to what may be required in order to house 25 people and the staff of the Clerk's office who are now housed in the smaller building down from the Laing Building, which may not be able to look after and care for the number of personnel that are within the Clerk's office, if you like.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Wray.

Question 41-83(2): Phase Two Of Baker Lake Hamlet Office

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Minister of Local Government or DPW, I am not too sure which one. The new hamlet office in Baker Lake is presently under construction and there is now a realization that the new hamlet office which we have not even moved into yet is too small, and that walls are now having to be knocked out to make more off-season and storage spaces. Would the Minister please inform me if phase two of this project, which I believe was in danger of being cancelled, is going to be on stream for next year, given the fact that we just spent \$600,000 on an office which is too small? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the information right at this moment, but what I will do, Mr. Speaker, is give a written reply directly to the honourable Member.

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

Question 42-83(2): Current Status Of Adlair Aviation Limited

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Hon. Tom Butters, Minister of Government Services. Would the Minister be good enough to advise me as to the current status of Adlair Aviation Limited? As he is aware, Mr. Laserich's licence has been cancelled, but I am given to understand that there have been further meetings in Ottawa with a view to extending Adlair's licence, at least until the appeal date in September. I would appreciate an update on the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 42-83(2): Current Status Of Adlair Aviation Limited

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for giving me notice of the question. I noticed that the News/North today in paragraph two says, "Unofficially, the licence cancellation order, in effect since August 17, is likely to be lifted today pending a full inquiry into the company's affairs." And later on the story indicates -- which I think is the true situation, "ATC has informed News/North that the cancellation of Laserich's licence will stand until the appeal is concluded. A stay of execution is unlikely." As a result of the news story, we checked to confirm just what the current position was, and we have a few moments ago received the following wire: "Licence No. ATC-3086/80(c) was cancelled by order number 1983(a)364 as of August 17, 1983. Adlair Aviation Limited has no authority to operate a commercial air service. A reply to your request concerning class seven services will be mailed."

At the request of the Member and of Mr. Laserich, I did phone Mr. Levailant, the secretary of the Air Transport Commission, and indicated to him much the same argument that was provided by Mr. Tologanak for maintaining that operator's licence in the Central Arctic: that he has provided and provides an extremely important service to all people; and I pointed out that there was a need to ensure that that service would not be jeopardized. There is some problem, though, with regard to the company's current financial status. The CTC apparently does not know whether the company is in receivership or, if it is in receivership, with whom they should be speaking. So there would appear to be some questions in that regard. I felt on discussing the... (Power failure)

---Applause

...they would look favourably on some action or some means to get an adequate answer from the receiver or the company's owners, and they are attempting to do that at the present time.

MR. WRAY: See? You should not say bad things about NCPC?

MR. SPEAKER: Is it your wish that we continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the House back to order. We were on oral questions. Item 4, written questions. Are there any written questions? Mr. Appaqaq.

ITEM NO. 4: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 43-83(2): Tests For Hepatitis "B", Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. You have written to the mayor of Sanikiluaq last year stating that the residents of Sanikiluaq were to be tested to find out if they had been in contact with hepatitis "B". This summer, we were informed that the doctor could not make it to Sanikiluaq due to lack of money and that Sanikiluaq was considered too far away. I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services if he could be of assistance financially so that this doctor will be able to come to Sanikiluaq so the residents could be tested for hepatitis "B" and I would also like you to write a letter to the mayor of Sanikiluaq.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Written questions. Item 5, returns. Are there any returns? Mr. Braden.

ITEM NO. 5: RETURNS

Return To Question 10-83(2): RCMP Officer For Hall Beach

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I have two returns. One is concerning a return to written Question 10-83(2) asked by Mr. Evaluarjuk. In response to the Member's written question concerning the RCMP officer at Hall Beach, I wish to inform him that the RCMP are unable to post an officer in the community due to lack of suitable housing. Initiatives are continuing between this government and the RCMP to attempt to find accommodation for the officer; however, the RCMP have indicated that they will not have funds in place for housing for some time to come.

Return To Question 13-83(2): Increase In Maximum Claim, Small Claims Court Procedure

I also have a return to oral Question 13-83(2), asked by Mrs. Sorensen. In response to the Member's oral question with regard to the proposed increase of the monetary jurisdiction of the small claims court from \$500 to \$3000, I am pleased to inform the Member that the rules committee of the territorial court has for some time been involved in a complete review of the rules of that court and has completed its deliberations. It is contemplated that later this fall the rules committee will be able to present to the Commissioner a complete set of rules of procedure for the territorial court, including new forms for small claims court procedure and request the Commissioner's approval of such rules in accordance with the Territorial Court Ordinance and further requesting the Commissioner to pass regulations raising the monetary jurisdiction of small claims court to the sum of \$3000.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further returns? Mr. Nerysoo.

Response To Petition 5-83(1) From Sanikiluaq

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is a response to Petition 5-83(1), presented by Mr. Appagaq on May 16, 1983 on behalf of the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association.

The Wildlife Ordinance and regulations were made to protect animal populations for use and enjoyment by people now and in the future as well as to allow for hunting and trapping when pelts are prime and marketable. These laws were developed in consultation with hunters and trappers associations with the intent of managing wildlife for the economic benefit of the residents of the North. There was no intent of making laws that would affect the livelihood of hunters and trappers. The government cannot consider this request for compensation. The government, however, can work with the people of Sanikiluaq to develop other means of earning a living during that time of year when fox pelts and polar bear skins have no value. Unemployment insurance coverage is only available to those persons who are employed and contribute to the premiums, or to certain classes of self-employment, or to employed persons who pay the premiums on their own. Hunters and trappers do not pay premiums; therefore, they are not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

Return To Question 26-83(2): Reimbursement For Pangnirtung HTA

Mr. Speaker, I have another return. It is a reply to written Question 26-83(2) asked by Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk on the issue of the hunters and trappers association requiring reimbursement for the refitting of a longliner. The Department of Renewable Resources determined that the cost of refitting and maintaining the longliner Qasiqiaq in a seaworthy condition was in excess of its value to the department, therefore, recommended disposal through normal channels. Last July the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Association expressed a strong desire that the boat be turned over to them. They assured the department that they had sufficient funds to put the boat in operating condition and were prepared to accept it as is, where is and with no funding. They felt that the boat would provide sufficient revenue through hauling contracts for outpost camps and transporting soapstone. The Department of Renewable Resources recommended to Government Services that they turn over the vessel to the HTA as is.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further returns? Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 2-83(2): Assessment Of Small Businesses By Revenue Canada

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I feel I should respond to Mr. MacQuarrie's Question 2-83(2), with regard to the taxation of northern benefits to the extent that I can before we rise.

This information I received through my staff from Mr. Ken Farmer, chief of verifications and collections, and I believe it will be in our hands in writing in the very near future. All benefits provided by employees in the North are subject to CPP and UI. Furthermore, any benefits not covered by the moratorium are taxable. The moratorium covers only the following benefits: low-cost housing benefit, subsidized housing allowance, and travel assistance payments where the benefit is received or the allowance is paid in an isolated post. Mr. Farmer advised that his auditors found situations where the employer was providing subsidized utilities. Since it is not covered by the moratorium, the value of this benefit is taxable. Other benefits that would be taxable are subsidized food costs, personal use of company vehicles, subsidized heating oil, etc. Therefore, any business beginning a benefit package after November 13, 1981, which was the date of the announcement in the House by Mr. MacEachen of the moratorium, is not covered by the moratorium and such benefits provided are taxable. There is no requirement that the benefit has to be pursuant to a union or a collective bargaining agreement to be covered by the moratorium.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further returns? Mr. McCallum.

Return To Question 30-83(2): Copyrights On Inuit Art

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral Question 30-83(2), asked by the Member for Foxe Basin, regarding the copyrights for Inuit artists and their products. At the outset, I want to say to the Member that I know of his concern; he has raised it before and I want to assure him that the department and the government share the same concerns. Imitation carvings which look to some people like Inuit carvings are being sold. However, unless these fake carvings are advertised or labelled as Inuit carvings, there is no legal recourse. Individual carvings cannot be copied, so if copies of an artist's work were being marketed, legal action could be taken.

Inuit Tapirisat of Canada have recently completed a study of this problem. However, I have not, nor has to my knowledge the government, received a copy of that report. As most sales of these particular products occur in the South and as there are Inuit people as well who live in Quebec, the matter up to now has been dealt with by the Inuit and Indian Affairs division of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. If copyrights were to be obtained for these works of art or for the crafts, it is my belief that it would be an international matter and there may be something then that would require federal involvement. So I guess, Mr. Speaker, I cannot at this particular time indicate to the Member that we can do anything, but we are concerned and we are trying to keep a watch over it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a further return to a question asked by the Member for Keewatin South, but since the Member is not here may I simply table it at this time?

---Agreed

As the Member will be aware, the Northwest Territories is forced at the present time to market the major portion of its freshwater fish through the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board. We have in the past attempted to get exemption from this requirement, however have not been successful to this point in time. At the present time my department is undertaking a study of the current needs of fishermen and the fishing industry in the North. This updated information will be used to develop future policy in this area. This study will include the eastern part of the Northwest Territories as well as the West.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further returns? Mr. Wah-Shee.

Return To Question 6-83(2): Non-Native Representation In Municipal Affairs

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written Question 6-83(2), asked by Mr. MacQuarrie on August 31, and it is in regard to the non-native representation at the municipal

level in the Northwest Territories. I am pleased Mr. MacQuarrie has raised this matter because it is an important issue that is causing some concern with the Executive Council and with many of the communities in the Mackenzie Valley.

There are some communities in the West, Mr. Speaker, which do not have municipal councils or organized settlement councils. In some of these communities, the Government of the Northwest Territories has recognized the band council as a body which can deliver municipal services to the residents and accept some of the other responsibilities which normally fall to a settlement or municipal council. This has been done because it is impractical in some cases to establish a separate council and local government administration which occasionally is more divisive than a unifying force in the community.

The communities where the department recognizes the band council as the community government are the following: Snowdrift, Fort Liard, Wrigley, Arctic Red River and Snare Lake. The effect of this arrangement has in some cases led to complaints from non-native residents that their interests are not being properly represented. Generally the complaints have not been about municipal services but about lack of proper representation at the local level. Mr. Speaker, I recognize this situation exists in a few communities, and I am concerned about it, which is why we have begun work on a new piece of legislation -- the local government ordinance -- which is intended to provide a solution to these problems.

I am hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that the ideas which were outlined in the discussion paper "Design for Devolution" will make it possible for a democratic form of local government to be established in communities which will respect and preserve the band councils as important institutions and at the same time ensure that every resident has a vote and is entitled to run for office in the community government, subject to certain residency requirements.

I realize that this is a tall order, Mr. Speaker, but my department is working with the Dene Nation and with community representatives to find the solution. In fact, a meeting of representatives of community councils and the Dene Nation will hopefully be held in the next few weeks to continue discussion on this issue and to advise me on how best to deal with this issue in the proposed local government ordinance. As far as I am concerned, this is a fundamental problem which must be solved before local governments can make any more progress in the Mackenzie Valley. How successful we are will be apparent, Mr. Speaker, when the next Legislative Assembly comes to consider the proposed local government ordinance. In the interim, Mr. Speaker, my department is actively working with some communities toward developing specific community agreements on the establishment of a form of local government which will ensure the participation of all residents in the running of their local governments.

I think one point is important to make on this subject and that is that all municipal councils established under the current Municipal Ordinance are elected according to the provisions of the ordinance, which allows every resident who has lived in the community for six months to run for office or vote in the municipal election. The issue that Mr. MacQuarrie has raised is in large part due to the lack of suitable legislation for local governments in the Mackenzie Valley. Thank you.

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

ITEM NO. 6: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On DIAND Vocational Training Section, Ottawa

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerning the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs vocational training section in Ottawa, I have just received information from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that it has been decided that the closure of the vocational training section in Ottawa should be deferred to the end of the calendar year to provide further examination of the situation. According to the Minister, a skeleton staff only will remain. It is unlikely that the vocational training section will be fully revived. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude Ministers' statements. Item 7, petitions. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM NO. 7: PETITIONS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Petition 2-83(2), on taxation of northern benefits, with 550 signatures of people from Frobisher Bay and communities in Baffin Island protesting the imposition of an additional taxation burden on the benefits given to northern earners, and stating that the taxation of northern benefits are being imposed upon us by a government in Ottawa that is unaware and indifferent to the cost of living and conditions in the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Petitions. Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Mrs. Sorensen.

ITEM NO. 8: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Fourth Report Of Standing Committee On Finance And Public Accounts

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the fourth report of the standing committee on finance and public accounts. During the May session, the public accounts committee met on several occasions in order to complete its report on the Auditor General's report on any other matter and on the territorial accounts. And during the course of the meeting, the matter of the Housing Corporation, its mandate, the cost to the taxpayer and the service which it has been providing and continues to provide over the years since it was first established as a quasi-crown corporation by the former Commissioner Stuart Hodgson, I believe, in the early 1970s.

Comprehensive Audit Of Housing Corporation

The standing committee eventually came to the conclusion that it was not ready to make any final and concrete comments and recommendations with respect to where the corporation had failed, where it had and has succeeded, and where it should go from here. What it did conclude, however, is that there are major problems within the corporation and that it was time for a review, a type of reassessment and some strong direction in the whole area of housing for the future for the NWT. The standing committee on public accounts has discussed the possibility of a comprehensive audit of the Housing Corporation with the Deputy Auditor General, and he has indicated a willingness to proceed with such an audit should this House request it. A comprehensive audit will tell us where we have been financially in the Housing Corporation, where we are financially now, how much the corporation has utilized the money it has received over the years, what kinds of housing we have, whether it is financially efficient, and whether it is cost-efficient, how well contracts have been tendered and monitored, and once awarded, how they have been monitored with respect to ongoing building, and other such similar and interesting and important issues that the Auditor General and the standing committee of the 10th Assembly may see fit.

Once the audit is finished, it would then go to the standing committee on finance and public accounts for a review and discussion in a public forum, and it would be at this point that with a good base of information from the Auditor General, that MLAs from the 10th Assembly could begin the study of where the Housing Corporation should go from here. Obviously, the government would be involved and finally, once the conclusions and recommendations were put together, the entire subject of the Housing Corporation would come before the whole Assembly for debate and final direction.

I would see it, and the public accounts committee would see this as a process to coming to terms with the difficulties that we have been having with the whole area of housing in the Northwest Territories, as certainly indicated by Ludy Pudluk the other day in his motion with respect to quality of housing that we have in some of the communities, probably a lot of the communities.

Initiative For Study Should Come From Assembly

There is another way, of course, that we could have approached it. The PAC committee could have proceeded with a recommendation to this House that the government establish a special commission to review the mandate of the Housing Corporation, but we rejected that option simply because we believe that the Legislature needs to get this corporation under its control, needs to understand it, and needs to debate the topic in the House, because if MLAs do not do it, the PAC committee is convinced that change will not happen and direction will not be forthcoming. The government may wish, of course, to proceed with a study of its own, but we feel the Assembly must initiate it through the PAC committee if it agrees, and proceed in the next year to give specific direction to that multimillion dollar corporation.

Motion To Request Comprehensive Audit Of Housing Corporation By Auditor General For Discussion And Review By Committee And 10th Assembly

So having said that, then, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the standing committee on finance and public accounts, I would move that this House request that the Auditor General complete a comprehensive audit on the Housing Corporation, and that the audit be referred to the 10th Assembly's standing committee on finance and public accounts for public review and discussion, and that the recommendations then be presented to the Legislature for its review and decision.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. McCallum. To the motion. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, could I have the motion repeated, please?

MR. SPEAKER: Could you repeat the motion, please?

MRS. SORENSEN: That this House request that the Auditor General complete a comprehensive audit on the Housing Corporation and that the audit be referred to the 10th Assembly's standing committee on finance and public accounts for public review and discussion, and further, that it goes to the Legislative Assembly for its recommendations and review.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Braden, I will take your first comment as a question and allow you to speak again. This is your second. To the motion now, Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: To the motion, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that the public accounts committee has the authority to request that the Auditor General of Canada do an audit of the Housing Corporation. The public accounts committee, in my understanding, can recommend to the Government of the Northwest Territories that the Auditor General of Canada be brought in to do a thorough audit of the Housing Corporation. Unless I am wrong, Mr. Speaker, I do not really think that the motion is valid.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, a point of order. I recommended that this House request...

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Request who? Request the government to ask the Auditor General or request the Auditor General?

MR. SPEAKER: One moment, please. Could I have a copy of the motion, Mr. Clerk? We will just recess so people can have a cigarette if they would like, while I have a look at it.

---SHORT RECESS

Speaker's Ruling

The Chair recognizes a quorum. The question actually under discussion at the time is whether or not the motion was in order. In making a report, under our rules, the report can be moved by the chairman into committee of the whole, or be moved that the report be accepted. Now, basically, as I understand it, this motion is essentially a summary of the report being moved, and it reads, "On behalf of the standing committee on finance and public accounts, I move that this House request that the Auditor General complete a comprehensive audit on the Housing Corporation, and that the audit be referred to the 10th Assembly's committee for public review and discussion, and further, that the recommendations be debated in the Legislative Assembly."

Now, it would be normal that the committee would put the request, I think, through the government. It does not say that it is going direct. On the other hand, inasmuch as it is not spending any money, I am not sure that it can go direct if it wants to, but it does not say that that is what it is going to do anyway. It said that it is going to request that the Auditor General complete a comprehensive audit.

Now, the committee previously requested that the Auditor General go over some pertinent information with him at their meetings and he obliged. Now, I do not know how that request was handled. Well, I think probably that we are going to make a mountain out of a molehill here. I am going to accept the motion, that the intent is that the Auditor General is going to be requested to do a comprehensive audit and report to this House. If it reports to the committee of the House prior to

reporting to the House so that the report can be finalized, I believe that the matter is in order. I am sure that the Auditor General will do the proper thing with regard to what it normally does within government service. So I will accept the motion. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I second the motion for two reasons; one because I did not see anybody else from the standing committee on finance raise their hand to second the motion to assist the chairman, and secondly, because I would want to take issue with a couple of statements that were made with the motion.

Housing Corporation Is Not Out Of Control

The first statement that I would like to take issue with is that the Housing Corporation is out of control. I do not believe for one minute that it is out of control. If I thought it was out of control, I would have either abdicated the responsibility that I have now for its operation, changed the board of directors, changed the chairman of the board, and done something more drastic, if I was of the belief that it was out of control; but the board of directors is selected individually by this House, by the Members of this House. In fact, you wanted representatives from all six housing districts. You people put those people on as the board of directors. They oversee the operation of that particular corporation.

Now, it is true that the chairman reports to me and it is true that the president of the corporation is one of the personnel of the government, but I do not believe that the Housing Corporation is out of control. I indicated in a return yesterday exactly how we have been able to turn around the operation of the corporation by indicating to you, if you look at the return, the number of contracts and how we have been able to utilize the northern business people. I will be talking about that part of the operation when we get into tabling of documents as a further request of a question made by the Member for Yellowknife South.

Board Of Directors Recommended By Assembly

I want you to understand again that we are the people who put the board of directors in there. We named them on your recommendation. We have had a vice-president of finance in the corporation for about a year.

We would expect to do an audit on the operation of the corporation as well, but to suggest a comprehensive audit? I would like to get some idea of what we are talking about when we are using the concept or term, "comprehensive". I think that we, as a government, would be more than irresponsible if we were not to make sure what was going on. I know that many people have taken issue with the way in which the corporation has been operating for a number of years. I would be one of those as well. But in the last while I think that we have done something positive about the operation of that particular corporation. You people sit and look at it.

We had an opportunity in January to go through the kind of funding that was being voted for the operation of the corporation, the grant that we, as a government, give that corporation, and nobody wanted to talk about it. Automatically voted in. You did not want to say anything about it. You asked questions, you raised issues when you were here, but when you had the opportunity to sit down and go right through it, you all said no. You pulled a Pontius Pilate and walked away from it, washed your hands of it, and you left it up to the operation of the government to do it. I am saying now that that corporation is not out of control...

---Applause

...and if it is out of control, even though we are in the last days of this particular House, then it is up to you to do something about it. Remove the board of directors. You selected them; remove them. Give me the instruction to do it, and if you do not think that I am capable of doing it, remove me, too.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order.

Explanation By Chairman Of Committee

MRS. SORENSEN: I would like to correct Mr. McCallum. I did not say that the Housing Corporation was out of control. What I said was that, and I will quote because I have a written report here, "Your PAC committee rejected that option simply because we believe that the Legislature needs to get this corporation under its control. If MLAs do not do it, we are convinced change will not happen." I never did say that the corporation was out of control.

In addition to that, in the beginning I said what it did conclude is that there are major problems within the corporation and it was time for a review, a reassessment and some strong direction in housing.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen, you are not really at a point of order, you are on a point of explanation by way of debate. Now, would you continue please, Mr. McCallum? You have the floor.

MRS. SORENSEN: As long as he does not say that I said that it was out of control.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum, you have the floor.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to have to take issue with the Member because it is my recollection that she used the words, the phrase "out of control". If, at looking at the records again, that it is wrong, then I will apologize to her, but it is my recollection as it is of a number of people that the phrase "out of control" was used. That is what I am referring to. The Auditor General's report, Mr. Speaker, on the Housing Corporation was clean and clear. We have a person in there now trying to do something about it. That is what I take issue with, that phrase, that I recollect was being said. I do not know if we can turn that crank around and go back for awhile, but if it is not there, then I will remove the statement that I am making to it. But if it is, we are not going to eat crow, I will eat Kentucky fried chicken, I will. That is fine, he can, you know, go along with you. I heard the phrase, "out of control", and if it is not, then again I simply believe that we are doing something, we are doing something about the particular corporation, Mr. Speaker.

I would have thought again, as I said with the first point that I made in rising, seconding it, that if that was a recommendation from the standing committee, then there would have been somebody else from the standing committee get up and second the motion, but nobody did. I did.

MR. WRAY: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order. Mr. Wray.

MR. WRAY: I did raise my hand to second the motion, but you did not see me.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We saw.

MRS. SORENSEN: I did too.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I did not.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Wray.

Serious Financial Management Problems At Community And Regional Levels

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to be supporting the motion. We have discussed the Housing Corporation at quite a bit of length within the public accounts committee. We know from certain things, and I know from my own experience, that at the community and regional level, there are serious financial management problems with the Housing Corporation. We know that the Housing Corporation has failed to deliver certain things which we think it should. As Mrs. Sorensen quite clearly said, perhaps it is time that we should look at the Housing Corporation being brought under our control, direct control. That is the intent of this motion. To investigate that feasibility,

to investigate the feasibility of the corporation as it now stands, or is there a new type of organization we can bring in, which will better serve the public and better serve the people in the communities? Are there financial management problems, particularly at the community and regional levels which have to be cleaned up? The Housing Corporation's record in that regard is not a good one.

I reject Mr. McCallum's arguments about taking offence because of his board of directors and himself. There was never any intent to impugn the credibility of Mr. McCallum or the board of directors. We are just recognizing a fact that there are problems with the Housing Corporation, and we feel that something should be done about it, given, and Mr. McCallum alluded to it, the strong feelings within this Legislature about the Housing Corporation. That is why the motion was passed in the budget session about the Housing Corporation. So it is not an attempt to impugn anybody, it is an attempt to find a better way to deal with the organization as we know it and to see if, in fact, there is a better way to handle housing in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Criticisms Of Corporation

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to support the motion. When the finance committee has been trying to deal with the Housing Corporation in the past, we had difficulty getting them to co-operate and give us their budget in a manner in which we could understand it, and to give us the details we needed to perform our role as a finance committee. There have been a few other criticisms. When they go to a design, they do it in such a manner that they may limit who can supply and who can do some of the new construction, by some of the materials they have recommended. There has been criticism of always trying out something new every year, instead of doing some repairs in the communities. The main reason that I am interested in this is that I think it should be brought back directly under the control of the Ministers of the department and that is the part that I would like the Auditor General to emphasize during his audit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Just very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I certainly think there is some merit in considering these points that Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Wray have raised, but I totally fail to understand how a comprehensive audit is going to recommend on how the corporation should be better restructured to encourage better accountability. I think that they are talking about apples and oranges. I cannot see how a comprehensive audit is going to bring us any closer to enlightenment on the goals that Mr. McLaughlin mentioned. Thank you.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, do I understand the motion is to accept the report? That that is the motion that the chairman of the public accounts committee is making, that this House accept the report, because obviously it is not the practice to adopt the report? The report can only be adopted after it is considered in committee of the whole.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: No, there is a motion coming from the committee. Now, our rules are not clear on this matter, but certainly as a matter of precedent, it has been done in the past on many occasions, that a motion has been made when a committee is reporting out. So I do not feel that your argument will hold, by way of precedent. It has happened often. I have thought over that point, Mr. Butters, and I have come to the conclusion, by way of precedents, that it is allowable. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree, Mr. Patterson, but I also think that a comprehensive audit will not make any such recommendation as was suggested perhaps by Mr. McLaughlin. I disagree with Mr. Patterson that it is completely apples and oranges. In other words, if there are a significant number of Members who think maybe there should be some different

pattern of authority on organization, that would be best determined after there was a comprehensive audit that indicated precisely how things are happening now in the Housing Corporation, where the problems lie and so on. So that would be very useful to a decision of the other type at some future time. I will support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. You may conclude the debate, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just on the topic of what is "a comprehensive audit", it entirely depends upon the terms of reference that both parties agree on. If I remember rightly back to the comprehensive audit that this House asked for on the Financial Information System, the government, the Auditor General sat down and drew up the terms of reference and the standing committee on finance was shown the terms of reference. We commented on them and agreed to them as well. We had the option of adding our comments and that was very important to us at the time. So the terms of the comprehensive audit will be very clear to both the government and to the auditor when he begins.

Objectives Examined In Comprehensive Audit

The comprehensive audit is not just money; objectives are looked at. The objectives of the Housing Corporation would be considered in a comprehensive audit. Following that the specially-trained auditors who know how to do comprehensive audits would look at the corporation with a view to are these objectives being met, and are they being met in an effective and efficient manner? I do not think that we have anything to be afraid of, both as a government and as MLAs on a comprehensive audit of our Housing Corporation. I think that it is a healthy thing, just as the government, through Mr. Butters, has indicated that the FIS comprehensive audit was a healthy thing because it got all the facts on the table and we all know where we stand on that issue now. So I would say that the frenzy that we see over there on the end of the table there, is...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I beg your pardon. My name is Arnold, not Francis.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...is a little bit misdirected, and I would say that Mr. McCallum, if he has been doing the good job, that will be revealed in the comprehensive audit...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Why waste the money?

AN HON. MEMBER: Trust me, eh? Trust me. We have heard that before.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order!

MRS. SORENSEN: So I really do not think Mr. McCallum has anything to worry about in this respect, and just to get the last word in I did not say the corporation was out of control. I hope that Mr. McCallum will be prepared to eat crow tomorrow, and I will catch one out there tonight.

---Laughter

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I have never found it difficult to say I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: I am beginning to wonder if it is a good thing that the lights came back on again or not. Are you ready for the question? Question being called. A recorded vote being requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Appaqaq, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Wray, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed, please stand.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Abstentions.

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

Motion To Request Comprehensive Audit Of Housing Corporation By Auditor General For Discussion And Review By Committee And 10th Assembly, Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The vote: yes, eight; no, seven and one abstention. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: We are finally going to get to the bottom of that. I have not finished my report yet.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have finished your report, Mrs. Sorensen.

---Laughter

You concluded, you made a motion, and as far as I am concerned your report is concluded. It has moved into committee of the whole with that motion having been approved in formal session. The record does not indicate that she made the request? Well, I guess either end of this room is having difficulty with exactly what you said, Mrs. Sorensen. You say you did not ask for it to be moved into committee of the whole.

MRS. SORENSEN: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed then, and complete your report.

MRS. SORENSEN: May I complete it? In addition, Mr. Speaker, we would like to officially recognize that in the four years the standing committee on finance has been involved with the territorial accounts and the auditor's audit on any other matter, this is the first time that we have seen it completed in August. Both the Minister of Finance and his administration and the Auditor General's staff must be congratulated for getting it to us on schedule.

The problem of course is that our mandate has come to an end, the mandate of the standing committee on finance and the public accounts committee has come to an end just as things were falling nicely into place. We were getting much more knowledgeable, not so easily "snowed", and had the background of having reviewed three budgets and many supplementary estimates. So it is all the more reason, of course, for our constituents to re-elect all of us who are running -- we have finally learned the ropes with respect to these two books that have been tabled.

Motion To Refer TD 10-83(2), Annual Report Of Territorial Accounts, And TD 13-83(2), Auditor General Of Canada Report To 10th Assembly Finance Committee, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I would then move on behalf of the standing committee on finance and public accounts that this House refer the following two documents: Annual Report of Territorial Accounts, Fiscal Year 1982-83; and Auditor General of Canada Report concerning fiscal transactions for the year ended March 31, 1983, to the 10th Assembly's standing committee on finance and public accounts. That is a motion, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: We are debating the point whether or not we can refer to another Assembly. I do not see any harm in doing it; I do not think there is anything definitely negative in our rules.

Is there a seconder to that motion? Mr. Wray. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Seven. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM NO. 9: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, yesterday when I made a return to a question asked by the Member for Yellowknife South concerning contracts awarded by various departments, I said I would table a report today dealing with it. I want to table Tabled Document 19-83(2), the report from Public Works, Annual Contracts Report, 1982-83 Fiscal Year. I just want to make two comments on it.

There will be some concern about the small number of DPW contracts awarded in the Keewatin. They were small last year. The only other point I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, is that the report lists seven contracts only where a northern business was the successful bidder because of a northern preference; seven. I do not think anybody should get alarmed about that number; obviously businesses in the North are competing now with business from the South and that bodes well for what we are doing. So I will table it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 20-83(2), a document entitled: Statement of Position Regarding the Paper: Better Pensions for Canadians, submitted by the Government of the Northwest Territories to the parliamentary task force on pension reform.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 21-83(2), Parliamentary Task Force on Pension Reform; a submission on the effects of pensions and pension reform on women presented by me to the parliamentary task force on pension reform. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, Motions. Motion 8-83(2). Mr. Patterson.

ITEM NO. 12: MOTIONS

Motion 8-83(2): Criminal Code Of Canada Amendment

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sense this is not the time for a long speech so I will try to be very brief. My main object is to get this resolution passed which I know you support. The motion is:

WHEREAS the Hon. Mark MacGuigan, Minister of Justice is proposing to introduce a bill to amend and strengthen section 159(8) of the Criminal Code of Canada to redefine obscenity to include degradation of the human person;

AND WHEREAS the Minister has formed a committee to look into pornography and prostitution and make recommendations;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly support Justice Minister MacGuigan's initiative to strengthen the obscenity provisions of the Criminal Code;

AND FURTHER, that this Assembly urge that the committee formed by Mr. MacGuigan to examine pornography and prostitution consult with the Northwest Territories so as to include the special concerns of the NWT in their final report.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in support of this motion. I wholeheartedly agree with it. The issue in this motion is consultation...

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mrs. Sorensen, I am getting sleepy. Your motion is in order. Do you wish to speak to it, Mr. Patterson?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: If I may, Mr. Speaker, very briefly. The Criminal Code definition of obscenity is out of touch with the present reality. It was designed in the 1950s and it does not take into account that current materials are often violent without sexual overtones. I believe in freedom of speech and expression but there must be limits in civilized society even on these fundamental rights. I believe that the people of the Northwest Territories are concerned about strengthening the definition of obscenity so as to protect other rights and freedoms, such as a woman's right to freedom of existence.

We have a tremendous wealth, in the Northwest Territories, of human resources based on family, children and community and the views of people from the Northwest Territories deserve to be heard by the Minister and the committee he has set up. If this motion is supported it will be a good mandate for your government and the people of the Northwest Territories to get involved in these important questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Braden, as seconder, do you wish the floor? Sorry, Mrs. Sorensen, for having to interrupt you. You have the floor.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I am very happy to support the motion as put forward by Mr. Patterson. The issue in this motion is consultation on amendments to strengthen section 159(8) of the Criminal Code, particularly in the area, as Mr. Patterson has pointed out, of the redefinitions of obscenity to include degradation of human persons. On the issue of consultation, I can only say that I certainly believe, like Mr. Patterson, that the people in the NWT will have and do have something to say about pornography and obscenity, and that if those terms are to be redefined then surely our input is necessary. We all agree, I think, the Ninth Assembly agrees very strongly that public consultation is very important on such a sensitive issue.

Defining Of Acceptability Is Not Censorship

The issue, however, will probably deteriorate to one of censorship. I believe that the issue of censorship, in this discussion of the redefinition of obscenity and the degradation of the human body, is a red herring, particularly a red herring in any debate on the viewing on TV and in the movies of the degradation of the human body, whether it be male or female. I personally firmly believe, Mr. Speaker, that society can and must draw the line on what is acceptable and what is not acceptable, and I certainly support the public being consulted on any defining and redefining of those terms. I also do not believe that an attempt at defining and redefining obscenity or pornography or what is human degradation can be viewed as censorship.

I did a little bit of research today and discovered that society already has decided that there are various levels for charges, for instance, to be laid in a murder. For instance, we have first degree murder, we have criminal negligence causing bodily harm, we have manslaughter, we have common assault, and all of those charges can be laid against a person after a murder. So society has decided that not all murderers should be charged with the most serious charge. Well, in the same way not all movies or TV programs involving men and women in varying degrees of undress are obscene, and so too, not all attempts at society defining where to draw the line on what is acceptable or unacceptable is censorship.

We do not live in a free and open society where whatever we want to do, no matter how awful it is, is allowed, so I think we should make that clear to our film makers and television film makers as well. And the usual hysteria will be raised on the issue of censorship, but as a woman and as a mother and as a human being who believes that society must have rules, I cannot condone the degradation of the human body. I do not believe that society should tolerate movies being made where women and indeed men are tied up and sexually tortured. I believe that that is obscene. Or where a woman is brutally raped and then in the movie begins to enjoy it as if to say that if a man rapes a woman in the "right" way that she will fall under his spell. Or where the human body is degraded in an inhuman fashion through senseless and horribly descriptive blood-letting.

But, Mr. Speaker, on the other hand, I believe that the female and the male body is a beautiful object, a beautiful thing, and that nudity is not wrong, that love making and caressing can be portrayed in movies and on television in a loving and a sensitive fashion, and therefore I would

not like to see that kind of humanness removed from our movie and television screens. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to making presentations to the Hon. Mark MacGuigan's committee, and I certainly support the motion calling for the consultation on this issue. Thank you.

Motion 8-83(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Question being called. Mr. Patterson, you have the right to close debate. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

---Applause

Motion 9-83(2), Mr. Patterson.

Motion 9-83(2): Introduction Of Pay TV In NWT

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Yellowknife will be the first community in the Northwest Territories to receive Pay TV, including the Playboy channel, by the public air waves this fall;

AND WHEREAS this could set a precedent for other Northwest Territories communities;

AND WHEREAS at present, there are no legal measures available to residents to regulate the content of such Pay TV services;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Communications, Francis Fox, indicated his intention to propose changes to the Broadcasting Act which would protect women and children in media portrayal and to empower cabinet to give broad policy direction to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission on "ethical matters";

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Communications has asked the CRTC to draft guidelines for self-regulation on sex role stereotyping and violence without public involvement;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that this Legislative Assembly endorse these two initiatives of the Minister of Communications to safeguard the content of television in Canada;

AND FURTHER, that we recommend that there be public involvement in the establishment of CRTC guidelines for sex role stereotyping and violence against women and children on television.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Proceed, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Again I will be brief, Mr. Speaker, not because there is not a lot that should be said on this subject, but because I think that if this motion is approved there will be opportunities, perhaps at better times than here and now, to properly bring these issues forward to the federal government.

I also do not think I need to say much to Members of this House because through the good offices of the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories, interested Members have had an opportunity to see the worst of pornography on pay television in the United States. I may be asked what is pornography and I do not have a handy definition, but I can tell you what I saw and did not like and that I am convinced most residents of the Northwest Territories, indeed of Canada, do not want to see either, and that is women portrayed as enjoying being whipped and degraded and suffering no pain, women being gang raped, and sexual defilement of children, such as Mrs. Sorensen has mentioned in speaking to the previous motion. I would like to make it clear, Mr. Speaker, that this is not a motion against Mackenzie Media or the Playboy channel or an effort on my part to really interfere with what is happening in Yellowknife, which is more properly a concern of the citizens of Yellowknife.

Mr. MacAleer, who has an interest in Mackenzie Media, however, did to his credit attend a meeting I attended earlier this year which reviewed some of this same material which has got onto United States Pay TV stations after a couple of years of operation, and told a public meeting that he was offended by certain things that he had seen. He said that although operators are in a difficult position when subscribers want a service -- I understand there are over 500 subscribers in Yellowknife who want this service -- especially when an operator has to offer film in the form that it comes to him -- but Mr. MacAleer also clearly indicated that his firm would be open to legal guidelines.

Now, I think Mr. Fox has taken the right first step in asking the industry, with the CRTC, to draft guidelines on self-regulation, but I do also agree with the Native Women's Association that this is a bit like asking the fox, and this is not a pun, Mr. Speaker, to guard the chicken coop. So in this motion I am advocating that we support, again, public involvement in the establishment of these guidelines to be developed by the operators with the CRTC. I think the public has an interest in making sure that a proper job is done. And also that we indicate our support to a responsible legislative approach through changes to the Broadcasting Act which would protect women and children in media portrayal and empowering the cabinet to give the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission needed policy direction on matters such as these where there really is a vacuum in Canada.

I will not say more in view of the lateness of the hour, Mr. Speaker, but I am confident that Members will support this motion, and perhaps in my capacity as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I can say that if that support is given here, I look forward to pursuing vigorously on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, particularly the women's groups, church groups and particularly the Native Women's Association which I would like to thank for their support and encouragement in this matter, to see that these necessary changes take place before we get too far down the road in Pay TV in Canada, and therefore we avoid the situation that exists in the United States, which anyone who has seen cannot be impressed with. I would urge Members to support this motion and offer my support to follow it up if it is approved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie, as seconder?

Limitations In Society

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want to speak on this motion for five or six minutes. I think that it does need to be spoken to because there are a lot of people who do not like to see this kind of motion. They brand it as censorship and say that censorship is totally repugnant, that people should be able to do in a democracy precisely what they want to do and it is nobody else's business. And in respect of television they say, "If you do not like it, turn it off."

Now, I do not dismiss those comments out of hand. I recognize why in a democracy it is important to treat limitations on action or censorship with a great deal of concern. It is a serious matter if any democracy is to be healthy, but at the same time I would say that such limitations are a part of the history of democracy. They are not totally outside the experience at all, and they were never intended to be by the people who most promoted the idea of democracy long ago. There are very, very few limitations on thought, and that is just as it should be. In our society it is largely just the common values that children are raised with. They are sort of molded in thought patterns that their parents and the majority of society already accept, but that is not a conscious and deliberate limitation on thought. We do not want to see, at least for my part, certainly I do not want to see any conscious limitations on thought.

There are a few more limitations on what people can say. We do have laws on libel and slander and sedition and that sort of thing because it is recognized that sometimes that type of limitation is necessary. We have a lot more limitations on doing, on action, and most people in a democratic society find that reasonable. If you can allow people to think what they want, and say pretty well what they want, you cannot allow everybody just to do whatever they want, because what they do too often has implications for other people, whether it is disobeying traffic regulations and running down the left side of a road, or pushing your way to the head of a queue when 20 people have waited for two hours to get some service or other, or having fellows, just because they are seven feet tall and 300 pounds, taking what belongs to somebody else. We say we do not accept that. We are going to limit your action, and I think that that is legitimate.

The question is now, when you come to something like this, what area are you dealing with? And I suggest that first of all we should distinguish between the private actions of individuals in the democracy. I would agree with those who say as long as there are consenting adults not disturbing anybody else because their actions are private, let them do what they want. I generally agree that is so. But when you begin to do things that have some impact on other people, even if it is a subtle impact and indirect, that that then becomes the concern of other people. And I say that when you start to use public media, then you are beginning to do something that has a social impact and society has the right to be concerned when that happens.

I think that people generally have a right to try to shape their society, politically, economically and socially. Of course, in doing that, not everyone will agree with what the vast majority of people are trying to do. Well, I think a society generally has the right to try and shape itself morally, as well. And in a democracy if we do not, and there are some who do, but if most say, "I do not want any positive shaping of this society by trying to inculcate in the minds of children certain values," personally I would admit that I am even in favour of that, but I agree that most people are very suspicious of that and do not want to see it. But I say if a society will not do that, it still should not be reluctant to limit the propagation of what are obviously negative values, that is, negative in the sense that if they were to prevail, society would begin to slide back to a time of barbarism, to brutality and bondage and things like that. I see nothing wrong with a society saying, "We are going to put some limitations in this area."

Guidelines Must Be Set

So I am one who believes that when public media are used, that there is some line that must be drawn, and to those who doubt it, I simply say that I am sure every Member here and the vast majority of people in our society -- and I believe it would be 95 per cent or so -- could imagine some type of media production to which they would object, that they would simply find so heinous, so brutal or whatever, that they would say, "No, I cannot accept that." Some act of gross indecency or savagery that is presented in a kind of celebration of the incident solely to stimulate somebody and without any redeeming social value at all. I do not want to go into lurid details. I am sure each of you can imagine whether it were with a child or a murder and hacking and so on, but somebody would say, "No, I agree you cannot have that kind of thing." So to me that proves then that there is a line somewhere between what is innocent entertainment and something that is absolutely totally unacceptable to the vast majority of people in a society.

Now, I say that line is difficult to draw, but just because it is difficult to draw, it does not mean that we should draw back from an attempt to draw it. We must try to draw it or things will keep sliding, sliding, getting worse all the time. Where is the line? Well, I can say that for me it is not too stringent a one. We were invited to view some material from the Playboy channel and generally straight depictions of sexuality are quite fine as far as I am concerned. Mrs. Sorensen described, in a very fine way, the kind of thing that I can accept as well. She put it in the best possible way, and that kind of thing does not bother me at all. But when I saw some of the material from the Playboy channel, I was disturbed by some of it. There was much that was, if not really inspiring or elevating or enlightening, was at least tolerable. But at some points I was disturbed and it was at the points where sexuality was associated with brutality and bondage. The implication seems to be in those that one person should have the right to exploit another for his own satisfactions. When that begins to happen I object to it. I think that if society did not generally object to that kind of behaviour, that we would begin to develop and perpetuate an attitude that is at the root of so many of man's problems, and that is, disregard for other human beings and their value as human beings, but simply seeing them as objects for exploitation and for one's own pleasure.

I note that this motion is merely asking for the government to give broad policy direction on ethical matters to the CRIC. That is absolutely not thought control. It is absolutely not a dangerous kind of censorship that will in some way make this a worse society. The motion is also asking or endorsing the government's attempt to have the CRIC set up some guidelines for its own self-regulation. I say to Members, that is not an autocratic move, it is a thoroughly responsible and sensible move, and I will support the motion and ask other Members to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen.

Amendment To Motion 9-83(2), Ruled Out Of Order

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to support the motion. I do have an amendment which I would like to make. I have circulated it to Members. The amendment is as follows: And further, that we establish and revise our own censorship rules, guidelines and regulations so that they apply to video tapes as well as motion pictures; and further, that there be public input into the creation and revision of the appropriate ordinances and the establishment of new regulations; and further, that the censorship board be reactivated.

MR. SPEAKER: I have looked at your amendment, Mrs. Sorensen, and I find it out of order. The basic motion, introduction of Pay TV in the Northwest Territories and relative to that, the resolved section endorses the two initiatives being taken and recommended that there be public involvement in the CRTC guidelines. Your amendment with regard to establishment of censorship rules, well, number one, I do not believe technically that we can do that in the Northwest Territories. I know that in films it is done by the provincial governments and it is not done in the Territories at all. However, I do not believe that the subject matter is relevant directly to this motion. It is in the same vein, but I do not think it is close enough to be acceptable. I think it only confuses the whole issue and it is a motion all of itself that you can bring in. So I rule the amendment out of order. To the motion. Would you like to speak to the motion, Mrs. Sorensen?

MRS. SORENSEN: Just very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the motion. Again, it calls for public consultation and I think that that is important. I think society certainly has to address the whole issue of where we do draw the line, and I too have some concerns with the introduction of Pay TV, not from the perspective of what Pay TV, in terms of the Playboy channel, is going to show now, but in terms of what it could lead to, and I think that that is an important issue that society in general in the Northwest Territories should discuss and should draw limits on.

If I could just correct one thing, we already do have censorship rules in the Northwest Territories. The Commissioner has the right, with respect to motion pictures, to make regulations concerning censorship, and we already do have a person who is involved in the whole area of censorship. I believe it is Shirley Stevenson. I do think, although I agree with you that my amendment is not pertinent exactly to Motion 9-83(2), that we do need to work on that whole area of censorship with respect to video tapes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I am glad that you agree with me, Mrs. Sorensen.

---Laughter

Motion 9-83(2), Carried

To the question. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried unanimously.

--Carried

---Applause

That concludes motions for today. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I realize that concludes motions, but I wonder if I could have the consent of the House to proceed with a motion that I introduced yesterday afternoon.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the position of Speaker in a legislature is one which requires the trust, support and respect of elected Members;

AND WHEREAS the Speaker must necessarily exercise good judgment in an impartial fair way so as to promote the orderly conduct of a legislature;

AND WHEREAS the Speaker must represent the Legislature at public and private functions in the Territories, in Canada, and internationally with other Commonwealth countries;

AND WHEREAS our current Speaker, the Hon. Donald M. Stewart, has during his term provided outstanding service to this Legislature and the people of the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Fort Smith, that this House express its sincere appreciation to the Hon. Donald M. Stewart, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

—Applause

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Point of order. Could that motion be seconded unanimously by all the remaining Members?

MR. SPEAKER: I was seriously considering ruling it out of order. To the motion.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I know you have had a long day sitting in that chair listening to us talk and that you are just waiting to get into committee of the whole so that Mr. Pudluk can take over from you, but I would like to say on behalf of all the Members of the House that we have sincerely appreciated the hard work that you have put in over the last couple of years in giving us advice and keeping order in the House, and from a personal point of view, I would like to say -- I know I cannot say, like Mrs. Sorensen did yesterday, that you tickle my fancy, but I can say personally, Don, that I have really enjoyed working with you. Over the last four years you have given me a lot of personal advice that has made me think -- rethink rather -- some of the ideas I have had about life in general in the Northwest Territories, and you have helped me in the work that I have been asked to do by this House in the Northwest Territories. So, Don, thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are you ready for the question? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, very briefly, Mr. Speaker, since I was Speaker at one time, I am very well aware of the special kinds of problems that are involved in making adjudications, and I believe that you have done an excellent job and I sincerely say that I feel you are better at that than I was. Thank you for all you have done for the Assembly.

Motion 10-83(2), Carried

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

---Carried

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Unanimously.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very kindly. Now I am lost. Motions, are there any further motions?

Item 13, first reading of bills.

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

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

Bill 8-83(2), Regional and Tribal Councils Ordinance; Report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures; and Volumes I and III, Report and Proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

Now, as to House procedure, in committee of the whole this morning I indicated we would proceed until we concluded the business at hand. Now, you can recess for supper and come back, you can continue to go through this, or you can recess and come back to the rest of this order paper tomorrow morning, or Monday morning, whichever you decide to do. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that we take the latter approach that we recess the committee of the whole and we come back tomorrow morning at 9:30.

MR. SPEAKER: Is that agreed?

MR. MacQUARRIE: No.

MR. SPEAKER: One nay. Would you indicate by a show of hands, is that agreeable? How many is that agreeable to? How many in favour of concluding tonight? The majority wishes to -- Mr. Pudluk, you will have the job of ascertaining whether you have a quorum for tomorrow morning, so we will resolve into committee of the whole 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. We will have a recess only if we are going to have a quorum and we will recess until 9:30 a.m. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I will make sure that there are seven here if you get the other four; that will give us a quorum.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): That still will not be enough. Those willing to start at 9:30 o'clock tomorrow morning, please raise your hands again. We are going to have a quorum at 9:30 in the morning. Now we will have a recess until 9:30 a.m. Saturday, September 10.

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