



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

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Official Report

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1977



Speaker The Honourable David H. Searle, Q.C.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1977

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Steen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lyall, Mr. Butters, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Hon. Peter Ernerk, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. David Searle, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

ITEM NO. 2: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

SPEAKER (Hon. David Searle): Item 2, questions and returns. Are there any returns? Questions, are there any written questions? Mr. Butters.

Question W22-61: Construction Of Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, my written question: What studies, reviews and assessments are currently being carried out by (a) the Government of the Northwest Territories and (b) the Government of Canada, if such information is available, relative to the proposal to build the Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline, particularly and specifically with regard to the proposal being advanced by Canadian Arctic Gas Pipelines Limited.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take the question as notice?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes.

COMMISSIONER (Mr. Hodgson): Yes

MR. SPEAKER: Any further written questions? Item 3, oral questions. Any questions of an emergency nature?

Question W23-61: Canada Works, Make Work Program

MR. PEARSON: I have a question of the Minister of Social Development. The federal government Department of Manpower and Immigration is now introducing "Canada Works", a new make work program and, considering the new program STEP, Subsidized Term Employment Program, recently introduced across the Northwest Territories, can the Minister assure us that there will be some discussion on the matter with the federal government to determine that there will be no conflict and, if possible, try to assure that there will be some effort made to bring the maximum benefit to the residents of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pearson, possibly you could inform the Chair as to what element of emergency exists with respect to that question and why it could not be in written form.

MR. PEARSON: It was only brought to my attention in the last few minutes, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is of an emergency nature, and of course we were not sure that Hon. Dave Nickerson would be here.

MR. SPEAKER: If you would like to write out the question I will very happily seek unanimous consent to return to Item 2.

MR. PEARSON: With all due respect, how many times should I write out the question?

---Laughter

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Two hundred.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any oral questions? Mr. Lyall.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 024-61: Uniforms For Interpreter Corps

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that people were asking about our Translator Corps, two wear uniforms, I wonder if this administration could give them another set as soon as possible because they only have one set that they wear and I think this is of an emergency nature because I do not think you would like to use the same suit for five weeks. I understand that they also get their expenses cut down to ten dollars a day after they have been here for a certain number of days and it is understandable that they did not have them on because of the fact there is no money to dry clean them.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall, that is clearly not a question of an emergency nature and one that should properly be reduced to writing. Are there any oral questions?

Item 4, petitions.

Item 5, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 6, notices of motions. Hon. Dave Nickerson.

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed.

Travesty Of Justice

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: I note, Mr. Speaker, that in the News of the North the edition of February 2nd, it states as follows: "Last week in territorial Council's 61st session Social Development Minister Dave Nickerson made the proclamation ..." and it herein refers to section 236(2) of the Criminal Code. Of course, Mr. Speaker, I have absolutely no authority to make any orders or proclamations of that nature. Such orders are made by the Governor in Council, and I will quote from the transcript of what I actually said at that time: "I am pleased to be able to announce that the Department of Justice has given the undertaking that section 236(2) of the Criminal Code will be proclaimed in force in the Northwest Territories on the 15th of February, 1977". I hope that the responsible reporter will bow his or her head in shame and not indulge in such a travesty of justice in the future.

I would also at this time, Mr. Speaker, like to point out that the Department of Justice is working on this and I said that the proclamation would be made on the 15th of February and it is my understanding that it probably will be made by the 15th of February but, of course, the actual papers are going through the bureaucratic process. I will not guarantee that it will be the 15th of February, it might be the 1st of March or something like that. But, they are working very seriously on it and hope to have it done by the 15th of February.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you a question of privilege, Mr. Butters? I can not permit you to debate Hon. Dave Nickerson's comment.

MR. BUTTERS: I just wanted to see if I could speak to Hon. Dave Nickerson's question of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a question of privileges between you and he. I think the point he was making simply that it is not for him to proclaim that particular section but for the Department of Justice and he was correcting the record to that extent. It is not really a matter of debate as between Members. Let us hear what you have to say and then I can tell you whether you can or not.

MR. BUTTERS: It is not a matter of debate. I think that the action of the Minister is most important and I feel that there is a possibility that much of the material disseminated by the press, and this was the crux of Hon. Dave Nickerson's rising, may not be in keeping with the facts. I do not hear the broadcasts and I do not see all the clippings. Is there any way that we could be made familiar with these so we could correct the record as soon as possible after the misinformation occurs or is disseminated?

MR. SPEAKER: That I do not think is a question that is answerable. The caucus may wish to take that under advisement. Are there any further questions of privilege while we are on them?

Item 6, notices of motions.

Item 7, motions for the production of papers.

Item 8, motions. I believe we have two motions this morning, Motions 3-61 and 4-61, is that correct, Mr. Clerk?

ITEM NO. 8: MOTIONS

Motion 3-61. Mr. Pudluk.

Motion 3-61: Construction Of Fencing, Resolute Bay School

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS polar bears in Resolute area are losing their fear of humans and by moving closer to the community are creating a danger to people;

AND WHEREAS during the period of darkness during the winter, bears are often found on the school playground;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the administration give consideration to the construction of suitable fencing on the school playground so that the students will be protected from polar bears.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by Mr. Pudluk and is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. Any discussion? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I will not say very much. I will not make a long speech about this motion, but I would like to explain a few things. Since we moved to the new townsite, every year we have found that polar bears are near the school and this winter we have seen polar bears only a few yards from some of the houses, and the kids are playing sometimes until midnight when no one is around and the polar bears are around. If one of those kids are caught by a polar bear it will be hard to see what would happen if they got a hold of that kid. So, I am asking the administration for more protection against polar bears. All this winter the polar bears were hanging around the settlement and also in the town dump area. As well the polar bears are getting in closer and closer, more and more to the settlement. That is all I have to say right now.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Quotas On Polar Bears

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, I fully support this motion because of the fact that since we have been in the Assembly we have been telling the game department that Eskimos feel that there are getting to be more polar bears all over and each and every community has been asking the game department to raise the quota on polar bears and we have not really had the kind of response I think we have been seeking. It is happening in every settlement where polar bears are getting closer to the settlements in search of food and I think this motion really speaks for itself and I fully support it.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say in response to this, and to speak to the motion, that the Department of Education will certainly take into consideration the construction of such a fence around the school, the present one. As the Member knows the department and the government are contemplating a new school in Resolute Bay as well, but we will certainly give every consideration to providing and having a proper and suitable fence around that particular playground.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: I fully support the motion because I believe, if people really care for the students I would like the House to support this motion. It seems to me that people do not seem to care, or care less for the children than the polar bears. Maybe in Resolute, if they grow beyond their numbers, and if the police can not support it, it seems to me that polar bears are better looked after than the Eskimo children who are going to school. I was, one time, told in Cape Dorset that there had been some polar bears hanging around the garbage dump and they were saying that if they could not raise the quota they would like to see the Commissioner go to Cape Dorset and see the actual events happening in Cape Dorset. For that reason I fully support the motion for the sake of the Resolute Bay people.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

Motion Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. All in favour? Contrary? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motion 4-61. Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Motion 4-61: Appointment Of Mr. Peter Fraser, Standing Committee On Legislation

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the existing membership of the standing committee on legislation is hard pressed to properly carry out the responsibilities assigned to it;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the membership of this committee be increased and that Mr. Peter Fraser be appointed to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Stewart. Any discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

Motion Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. All in favour? Contrary? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 9, tabling of documents. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

ITEM NO. 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: At the opening day of this particular session, the 61st, I indicated that I wished to table three particular documents. At that time the third document was not available and I would now like to correct that. It is Sessional Paper 1-61, Devolution, A Discussion Paper on the devolution of authority as proposed by the administration.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further documents to be tabled?

Item 10, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters.

ITEM NO. 10: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

This House will resolve into committee of the whole for continued consideration of Bill 3-61, the Appropriation Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into Committee of the Whole for consideration of Bill 3-61, Appropriation Ordinance, 1977-78, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 3-61, APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1977-78.

Planning And Program Evaluation, Main Estimates

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I call the committee to order. I direct your attention to page 3.01, main estimates, program, Planning and Program Evaluation, total estimates for this next fiscal year, capital expenditures \$1,232,000, operating expenditures, \$1,760,000 for a total of \$2,992,000. Hon. Peter Ernerk, who will be handling this on behalf of the Executive?

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, Deputy Commissioner Parker will handle this.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Do you have any comments of a general nature, Mr. Deputy Commissioner?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, just a few comments if I may. First of all, effective approximately November the 1st or early in November, Mr. Larry Elkin took the position of director of Local Government and Mr. Alex Gordon was appointed to the directorship of this department. The department concentrated its activities during the year in a number of areas. One of them was the completion of the first draft of the Mackenzie Delta contingency plan, that is, long-range regional planning. In addition to that the department carried out functions for the Executive and other territorial departments in the preparation of the policy papers and operating papers in a number of areas.

The department worked on terms and conditions in connection with the Mackenzie Valley pipeline and in particular with the gas plants which are proposed to be built there. Part way through the year we gave a very major project to that department and that is the development of a five year capital plan, that is, a five year capital spending plan for expenditures and installations of a capital nature. I made reference to this earlier in the budget debate. We are taking a new and much more organized approach to our capital spending.

The science and statistics division worked very closely with Dr. Omond Solandt to establish a Science Advisory Board and that board held its first meeting late in the year. The special projects division was the division which carried the territorial responsibility for our portion of Strathcona Sound operations and of course we were happy to learn that the operation went into production on schedule in October. We have a continuing amount of work to do on that project as well as the responsibility for the transfer and build-up at Resolute Bay. We are keeping a very close watch on the possibilities of development at the Arvik site on Little Cornwallis Island with nothing firm yet to report from that area. This is also the department to which the government internal auditors report and they carried out their usual heavy load of audits during the year. I have no other general comments to make, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Comments of a general nature? Mr. Pearson.

Auditing Of Books

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, in the area of audit bureau I gather that is as it says it is, an audit system which checks out the books of the territorial government. Yet I wonder how that organization fits into the over-all scene, particularly with the Auditor General of Canada who comes and audits the territorial books and finds some discrepancies, I gather, according to the report

that we have. Were these same discrepancies found by the audits department prior to his arrival?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: The functions of the two auditors, Mr. Chairman, while bearing a close relationship one to the other are still quite distinct. The internal auditors act as a service to the territorial government and conduct audits of a much more detailed nature than do the auditors of the Auditor General. In fact the officers of the Auditor General's office utilize the work that our internal auditors have done as the base work in many instances and then they build on that work to do a final over-all audit and to make their observations. I suppose it would be fair to say that had our internal auditors not been attentive to their jobs the number of observations that the Auditor General's officers might make would probably be larger because we get advice from our internal auditors to correct practices and to change procedures which we implement right away. In addition the internal auditors audit a number of agencies connected with the government which the government funds or controls. For instance, many of the housing associations, the hospital accounts, and those sorts of things.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you.

MR. PEARSON: The other aspect of the department that bothers me is to monitor and co-ordinate programs for all departments. I am sure if we go through the budget of the departments we will find departments within those departments that do that very same function supposedly, at least that is what we are told. There are various checks to watch and see that these other departments function and they watch the other ones. It seems as though there are all kinds of people watching each other do something and they seem to be watching each other watching each other. I can not quite follow the expense of this operation, the expense of this government, which has gone in the six years I have been on this Assembly from \$90 million I think it was, to a proposed \$250 million this year. I know there is inflation and all the rest of it but the increase is just astounding and I wonder how really necessary these departments -- this is almost three million dollars, \$2,992,000, but another three million dollars for another department watching other departments doing their job. I wonder, there comes a point when it would be cheaper not for them to do their job properly than to have somebody watching them for three million dollars telling them they are not doing their job properly.

Centralized Planning For Efficiency

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the department does not duplicate the efforts of other units within the territorial government. It is true that there are some planning officers and there is policy development in each department and that is exactly as we have felt it should be, but we watch those planning units very carefully to ensure that there is not a build-up, an unnecessary build-up. In fact that is one of the reasons that this department exists, because we feel with a certain amount of centralized planning we can achieve a much greater level of efficiency than if we have fully developed planning units in each department. This department does not serve only as watchdog, this department draws together a number of functions. Before this department embarks on any planning exercises it receives instruction from the Executive or requests from a department and that departmental request is then reviewed by the Executive or by an appropriate Executive Member so that at a senior level any planning studies are properly co-ordinated and approved.

With regard to the program evaluation side, this department acts strictly as a service to other departments. We have a number of instances where departmental directors will come along and will want to have some measure as to the success or failure rate of one of his programs and he can not measure that only with his own forces. He has to have a certain level of external assistance. When

the assessment is made it is made jointly by the people in the evaluation section here and the departmental people themselves. That is another important function. Then I do not think there is any question but that any organization requires internal auditors. To round it out we have the two other divisions, the one is the science division which is a very small division, not increasing in size, but handling a surprising number of applications every year for scientific permits and fulfilling the requirements under the ordinance which this Assembly passed. Then there is a special projects division which carries forward the territorial government's role in resource development communities until such time as they become fully operating and then can be handled in the normal fashion.

Growth Within Government

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I note on page 3.09 the total man year requirement for 1975-76 to 1977-78 increased by an average of 50 per cent. You know, if that formula was applied to all the other departments there would be no end to this. I recall making a motion that was soundly, perhaps not soundly, but it was defeated anyway in the last session that there be a freeze on all government positions for one year. The motion was defeated, unfortunately, and I see here there is an increase from 1975-76 and looking at it from the long range this year to year examination of the budget, in my opinion, is never one that has been really efficient because you can not see the long range.

However, looking at the figures we have before us, 1975-76 and '77-78, you can see the increases there. When you compare them with last year it is not so bad but over two or three years you see an increase that is a little more realistic and I am sure that if you looked at over five years, you would get a shock to see the increase in the size and growth within this government. No more comments. Do you agree with me?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Comments of a general nature?

MR. BUTTERS: I agree with that.

MR. PEARSON: You agree with that.

Capital - Activity 1220, Directorate, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): If there are no more comments of a general nature, I direct your attention to page 3.02, Planning and Program Evaluation, activity 1220, directorate, detail of capital and that is zero, so there should not be too much trouble with that. Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Capital - Activity 1226, Special Projects And Development

Page 3.03, Planning and Program Evaluation, special projects and development, activity 1226 in the amount of \$1,232,000. Mr. Deputy Commissioner.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: There is a misprint there in the last figure, the last figure in that column should be a seven instead of a two and the total would be \$1,237,000 rather than \$1,232,000.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): How do you get a seven adding three deuces together?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I beg your pardon.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): How do you get a seven adding three deuces together?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: If you put a seven in the first one then you get a seven at the bottom.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I see. So the total should read \$1,237,000.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: I might have missed something along the line having been away for a couple of days, but an expenditure here of \$13 million for the townsite. What is the contribution made by the territorial government to the development of Strathcona Sound? Is it \$13 million?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: That is correct.

MR. PEARSON: Is that estimated or actual, already expended?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: That is an estimated figure, but as it is shown here, the majority of it has been spent.

MR. PEARSON: My understanding has been that this is a federally funded operation, a federally funded attempt by the feds to develop the mineral development in the far North.

Funding For Project, Strathcona Sound

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: No, Mr. Chairman, that is not the case. The project is a joint federal-territorial project together with the mining company. The original negotiations were between the federal government and the mining company and then we were drawn into it and a decision was made that things that are properly territorial should in fact be voted and spent as territorial money and that is exactly what happened. The territorial government took the responsibility for the townsite development, the Ministry of Transport took responsibility for the airport, Indian Affairs took responsibility for roads and the Ministry of Transport also took the responsibility for the dock. There is a recovery portion of course with regard to the use of the dock, the airport and the road as the operation continues.

MR. PEARSON: I understand that the operation is for no more than 12 years.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, if I could just add, we estimate that 85 per cent of our expenditures will be recoverable through user charges as well.

Mr. Pearson has commented on the life of the project being an estimated 12 years, yes, close to that, it is estimated at 13 years, but the likelihood of finding additional ore reserves is very high and in fact some recent drilling indicated ore at depth. So, that is very likely to be expanded, that is the life of the

property. However, these cost estimates were still drawn up in a fashion that the project would be amortized over a 13 year life.

MR. PEARSON: It seems to me that if development was taking place within a community, Pond Inlet or somewhere like this, that there would be justification for that kind of an expense, that kind of investment, but in what could be a short term sort of thing, and I gather in light of the fact that it is not a mineral that is in great demand, and in fact, it is being shipped to Europe to be processed ...

High Level Of Employment Of Inuit People

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I do not see that the sales features are a factor. There is a price on it and it is being sold and it is a viable operation. Unfortunately, it did not happen to occur right cheek by jowl with a community but we are fortunate that it occurred as close as it did to Arctic Bay. There is now a road connecting the property with the townsite and there is indeed a high level of employment of Inuit people at the Strathcona operation.

MR. PEARSON: Two further questions, and one is, does this amount of money \$13 million, include in it the capital for example for a school?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes.

MR. PEARSON: A nursing station?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes.

MR. PEARSON: It is all included, is it?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes.

MR. PEARSON: Okay. My second question, what is the total number of Inuit working at the mine and what is the total number of non-natives and where did they come from?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: At the present time there are 63 Inuit people working at the property and a total work force of approximately 180 to 185. The non-Inuit employees are recruited wherever the mining company can recruit them. Some of them are technically trained people, in fact most of them are technically trained people who have skills that were not available in north Baffin. However, there is a vigorous training program on and an increasing number of Inuit people are expected to be able to take the more senior and more technical jobs.

MR. PEARSON: How many of the non-native people, the southern imports, have their families there at Strathcona Sound, and kids, and what is the total population?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: There are 25 white families there resident at the present time and six Inuit families and there are 45 children either school age or below school age.

MR. PEARSON: There are 45. I guess it is a mining company. What is the name of the company?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Nanisivik.

MR. PEARSON: Nanisivik expects a turnover in staff and personnel does it?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Pardon me?

MR. PEARSON: What is the anticipated turnover in staff, of personnel of southern Canadians over the next per annum?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I do not think I could give their forecast. I do not know what their forecast is.

MR. PEARSON: What is the actual, so far, to date?

Staff Turnover

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I am advised that the turnover anticipated among white workers is about 25 per cent per year. However, that is an amazingly low figure if they can achieve it, but their work force is pretty stable. The turnover among the Inuit people is very low, they have proven to be very stable workers.

MR. PEARSON: One final question on the question of mining safety and health of miners, and the provision of adequate medical facilities at the site. I have reason to believe that there are problems with dust and, at the moment, I understand there are no adequate medical facilities available should there be an accident.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, there was a dust problem in the mine during the developmental stage and when they were just first starting production but they have overcome that and satisfied the mining inspector. With regard to the availability of health services and facilities, they meet the requirements laid down under any of our ordinances. The nursing station will be opened on April 1st, they have just recently had an inspection of the temporary facilities, the service being offered, and it has been found to be adequate, completely adequate.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, I heard recently that the actual working people who come out from Arctic Bay, the figures are very low. I wonder why that is. Another thing I heard was that there is quite a bit of frustration in the camp and about the white people who stayed for three months or something like that, and just about going off their rocker when they leave. I heard also of the frustration, because I guess it is because of taking a lot of crud off the street and a lot of problems with dope and things like that and I wonder how true this is.

Residence In Strathcona Sound

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: There was one person apprehended for pushing drugs and I guess, charged, but in any event dismissed. There are 18 people from Arctic Bay on permanent force there and that seems to be as many as wish to apply. However, for a relatively small place that is a fairly high number of permanent employees. There has been a very strong expression of interest among the Inuit people, the Inuit workers to live there, to establish themselves at Strathcona Sound. We have been playing this by ear, we have been going very carefully on this because we did not want to attract people away from their own settlements unless this was their own decision.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, is it also true that they go into this place, like Frobisher Bay, and the shopping centres and everything will be under the same roof?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Not everything -- there are government offices, a school, some recreation facilities and a store, and they are in one building.

MR. LYALL: Are they having lots of money difficulties, the Strathcona Sound development?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I think the company is probably experiencing the same sort of financial pressure that any company would, having spent all their money getting going and now, of course, they have to wait until shipments are made next summer before they have any income. However, I do not know of any difficulties that they had not anticipated and are not able to handle. I think that their financing is all in order.

MR. LYALL: I sort of heard that they had difficulties sending ore, last year, they did not send any ore last year, and they had to go back to wherever the company is from and get more money and this is the reason I asked.

Shipping Of Ore

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: They did not expect to get any ore out last year. There was a hope that they might get a little production out on the last ship, but as it turned out they were not able to do that. That was never part of their long-range plan, that was just a hope that they might gain an extra month.

MR. LYALL: Before we get out of this, is it in order if I asked something about Pine Point?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Basically, this particular vote is on Strathcona Sound, but go ahead.

MR. LYALL: I wonder if the administration could tell us how many housing units they have put up in Pine Point which was supposed to be for people from the Northwest Territories only, compared to Cominco's people themselves coming out of Alberta or somewhere else.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I think it was back in about 1969 the territorial government, together with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, I believe, put up a number of units there. I believe it was 20, to house trainees. This system has worked fairly well at Pine Point. However, it is under review at the present time because there was a case that has just come to my attention of an individual from Spence Bay ...

MR. LYALL: Gjoa Haven.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: ... Mr. Eddie Kikoak who was working there and could not get a place to live. So we are reviewing the use of these training homes that we put in there and I think we will be able to find a proper solution.

MR. LYALL: The thing was, it was for people from the Northwest Territories and I understand there are I think five staff houses which were made to be used by people from Cominco. Is this true?

Occupation Of Housing, Pine Point

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: It is partly true. There was a time when we could not fill the houses with trainees and we loaned some of the units or permitted some of them to be occupied by other workers, let us put it that way, who did not entirely fit the criteria that we had set up when we built the houses but that is what we are reviewing now and we will be going back to the original concept.

MR. LYALL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few things concerning problems of my own. I have been to council meetings and they are still building the best for the Baffin people and they have meetings and community visits trying to solve problems. The village advisory council said that different councils did not want the Inuit to move into Nanisivik mines. That is the reason there are no more families living in Nanisivik and the Inuit families wanted to move there and that is why they are in this community. They are hiring more natives and coming into Nanisivik, they have no more people working in Nanisivik because it is too hard to travel from the other settlements, the other surrounding settlements but up to now there has not seemed to be too much employment of the natives. I just wanted to say a few things concerning this.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Activity 1226, in the amount of \$1,237,000. Mr. Pearson.

Levels Of Pollutants

MR. PEARSON: I have a question to ask the Minister of Social Development. An examination was taken at Nanisivik or at Arctic Bay by the health team from Frobisher into mercury and other contaminants that may be in the region prior to the production of the mine. Has there ever been any communication received by the department in Yellowknife from National Health and Welfare on mercury, arsenic or any other pollutants that may result from the mine or are already inherent in that area? In other words, is there going to be a yardstick determined before the thing gets going?

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any direct communication from the Department of National Health and Welfare on any studies that have been done in the Arctic Bay area. It is quite possible that there have been and perhaps one of the other Members of the Executive who has been on the job longer than I have will know about this.

It is my personal understanding that there are high levels of certain trace metals in that area. I think for instance cadmium might be one of them and I think that it is something we should know about before the mine goes into production. I am talking now mainly as a mining engineer and somebody who is trying to encourage mining in the Northwest Territories, probably, rather than as the Minister of Social Development. I have reason to suspect that there are inherently or naturally high levels of certain elements in that particular area. I would not like something to happen like this, that after the mine gets into production and has been in production for a couple of years, people then go around and take measurements and find, for instance, there might be high levels of cadmium there and want to close the mine down because I rather suspect there are high levels of these pollutants naturally occurring in that area.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Deputy Commissioner.

Request For Testing Has Been Made

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, thank you. It is just as Hon. Dave Nickerson has said. It is very important that some base line studies be done. I have just made a request bordering on an instruction to the management of Nanisivik to make very careful tests of the final location of some of the heavy metals that occur in their ore. In other words, we are asking them to determine what happens to the traces of mercury and cadmium that occur in their ore. Are those metals retained in the concentrate or do they go out into the tailings? They will be carrying out these tests.

The Department of National Health and Welfare tested a number of people at Arctic Bay and this, of course, was before there was any production and they found a relatively high level of cadmium in their bodies, at least higher than normal. They made this material public. Clearly this came from simply living in the area and the cadmium will have come from natural causes, that is, surface leaching into the waters surrounding the area, picked up and concentrated -- probably in seal meat and picked up by people that way. It is terribly important that this fact be understood, that the people have been living with this situation for generations, since time immemorial and it bears no relationship whatsoever to the activities of man or to any resource development. This is just simply a fact of the environment in that area. In fact one of the things that seems to be coming to light is the possibility that people living under these kinds of circumstances all their lives and their forebears before them, must develop some kind of ability to cope with a higher level of heavy metals than if they had not been used to it over the generations.

High Levels Of Mercury From Normal Leaching

This same thing has been determined with the testing for mercury in a number of other areas. For instance, at Holman Island and Baker Lake, there have been some surprisingly high levels of mercury found in those areas. I must say I was shocked to read that the commentators are saying that this came from man-made pollution. It is just absolute nonsense, complete garbage that people can draw that kind of a conclusion. This is simply a normal leaching from the rocks in the area and it can not be construed to be as a result of man's efforts. Therefore, we have to be very careful, as the Minister has said, at the start of any operation to know what the base line statistics are, so that later on there is not a finger pointed and someone accused of having caused pollution when in fact they had nothing whatsoever to do with it.

MR. PEARSON: Does the Deputy Commissioner or anybody know what effect cadmium has on the body other than when people die they make great batteries?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I do not know. I guess you have to determine what your polarity is though.

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: I do not pretend to be an expert on this subject, Mr. Chairman, but I know from the technical literature a lot of special attention is being given to cadmium at the present time. I understand it is being found in increasing concentrations in some of the major metropolitan centres in Canada at this time and people know that it is a toxic substance. I would be very pleased on behalf of this committee to inquire of Health and Welfare what is the present state of knowledge with respect to cadmium, especially in the Northwest Territories.

Capital - Activity 1226, Special Projects And Development, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Activity 1226, agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M - Activity 1220, Directorate, Agreed

Page 3.04, Planning and Program Evaluation, operations and maintenance, activity 1220, directorate in the amount of \$127,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

O And M - Activity 1221, Planning

Activity 1221, planning. Mr. Pearson, if you are carrying on a private conversation the Chair is not going to recognize you and go back. I have been very, very patient but if you are going to do other things I am going to move ahead. Do you want activity 1220? Go ahead.

MR. PEARSON: No.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Activity 1221, planning in the amount of \$513,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Deputy Commissioner in introducing this department mentioned that the planning section had made a regional plan for the Western Arctic area and I wonder if that might be tabled for examination by this committee?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I referred to a first draft having been completed. The plan will be completed by the 31st of March and I see no reason why it can not be made available to the Legislature right after that time. I think it would be premature to give it out in draft form now because we are not the only agency working on it. There is some assistance received from federal agencies as well and I think it would be wise since the timing is so close to wait until the plan is completed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I misunderstood the Deputy Commissioner when he introduced the subject earlier. March will be satisfactory. To pursue this a little further I was an ex officio member of the regional planning group in the Delta area which consisted of representation from the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik, Mr. Steen and myself, and also the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories, and the Metis Association. That planning group which worked in conjunction with Mr. Elkin and other people in his department for some reason disappeared in approximately January or February of last year. I am wondering if the Deputy Commissioner could provide a satisfactory answer, and I underline the word satisfactory, as to why it ceased to function in the manner in which it was originally set up.

COPE Opposed To Planning Group

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the planning group, or the advisory group in the Delta came apart and that is why the work did not continue. We expect to reconstitute it when the plan is in a form where it can be discussed again. I do not think that I have what Mr. Butters regards as a satisfactory explanation, other than the fact that at that time COPE seemed to be speaking with a louder voice than it does now and a decision was made that since they had withdrawn from it, or perhaps never joined it in the manner in which they were supposed to, and were so adamantly opposed to it that it seemed to throw into question the process that was going on and we did not continue with it at that time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: The answer is unsatisfactory in terms of the objectives of the group but I think that is very close to the truth.

---Laughter

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thanks.

MR. BUTTERS: My interpretation of what occurred is that COPE did refuse for political reasons to join, and I feel not only meddled and interfered but set out to destroy the planning function in the territory, in the Western Arctic to the detriment of all settlements, and did so by communicating directly with the federal government and senior executives in that government, with the result that the territorial people and the planners were caught between, as the Honourable Member from Yellowknife South always says, a stone and a hard place.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: I would just like, after listening to all this planning, to ask about activity 1221. The last paragraph says: "co-ordinates and monitors federal planning ..." and on that federal planning, is the federal government in there as well, as well as COPE?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Deputy Commissioner.

Co-operation With Federal Planning

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: That statement is a bit misleading. I think it would be fair if we just left off the "co-ordinates and" and said "monitors federal planning". We co-operate with federal agencies in any planning that they are undertaking in the North, at least the planning that we hear of in advance, but mostly we monitor and keep track of what they are doing.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): So the federals are watching us and we are watching the feds.

MR. BUTTERS: What else is new?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Activity 1221, Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: We are anxious today, are we not?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): We are used to making progress, Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: I wonder what I missed.

MR. BUTTERS: The budget.

MR. PEARSON: Going over this program planning, activity 1221, planning, "co-ordinates the development and revision of all long and short term planning within the territorial government." That phrase is great, I mean it is a catchall, and I see for this there is a requirement for an additional \$200,000 but if we go to other departments we will find the same thing, "co-ordinates and plans the development of", and "co-ordinates and plans development". Something else, is this the group that is going to do the devolution, or is there another group to set up to co-ordinate and plan that one or is it just the sole responsibility of this to watch them and make sure they do it? When I see the amount of money that goes into this, three million dollars for a department that four or five years ago did not even exist, and one goes into the various government buildings to see all these people plan each other's future, it is just incredible and there is no end to it. There is another \$100,000 whipped in here and there. I would like to see that over a five year prognosis, that particular group, and see just exactly what they anticipate in dollars and cents five years from now.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: That is easy.

MR. PEARSON: We can set up another planning group for that one. Please do not!

---Laughter

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, there is a good deal of truth in what Mr. Pearson says.

---Laughter

MR. PEARSON: What an admission.

Centralization Of Major Planning Function

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I know it is strange but true. This is something that we have to watch very, very carefully. It is something that is inherent in every government, in big business, but the other side of the coin is that we would be foolish indeed if we did not engage in the right level of long-range planning. So, it is simply a choice of how to do it and we think that by trying to centralize the major planning function it will be more easily controlled by the Executive, it will be more representative of the total picture, and it will keep us from running off in all directions. So, it is essential, it has to be watched, it has to be monitored very, very carefully and that is one of the functions of the Executive.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

0 And M - Activity 1221, Planning, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Activity 1221, planning, is it agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M - Activity 1222, Program Evaluation

Activity 1222, program evaluation, in the amount of \$191,000.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: There again, this one, this outfit and they are only a minor outfit because they only get \$191,000, but their job is to carry out studies which assess the effectiveness of the previous one which co-ordinates the development and revision of long term and short term planning, which the government just

enunciated, and this assesses other departments by an evaluation of their programs, as if they are not capable of doing it themselves. This is great phraseology, bureaucratise, whatever you want to call it, but it seems to be a complete utter loss, waste of money, time and manpower, it just fills up another floor in the Laing building. There must be some empty corners you can shove people into. It is just awful.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. Dave Nickerson.

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: The function of the Department of Program Evaluation is, as the name suggests, to evaluate programs.

MR. PEARSON: Very good!

---Laughter

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Were this done as Mr. Pearson suggests, each department evaluating itself, you can well surmise what the results might be. Everybody is going to evaluate themselves as doing a first class job. This is the idea of setting up a separate branch of the government to do this, we can build up expertise in one particular branch, which you would not be able to do if each department were to evaluate itself. You also stand a much better chance of having an objective evaluation done. This is the reason why we have centralized this particular function.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: It would not do for the department to evaluate itself because it may end up with a problem of self-abuse.

---Laughter

No more comments.

0 And M - Activity 1222, Program Evaluation, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Activity 1222, is it agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M - Activity 1223, Science And Statistics

Activity 1223, science and statistics, in the amount of \$193,000. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: No comment just now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity to examine, only briefly, or should we have coffee first? Have I got a few minutes before coffee?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): You have six minutes.

MR. PEARSON: Would you like it evaluated first?

MR. BUTTERS: If you will let me. I think since the last estimates were before this House there has been named a chairman of the Northwest Territories Science Advisory Board, and members to assist this chairman in carrying out investigations in areas which are referred to the board by this House and possibly by other groups as well. I am wondering whether the Deputy Commissioner feels there are sufficient funds within this vote, as I can not find the reference, to permit them to carry out a responsible function in accordance with their terms of reference and the ordinance under which they have been established.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we believe that there is adequate funding here to handle this Science Advisory Board. The chairman and members at their first meeting set out what they proposed to do and their explanation to us was that they intend to move carefully and gradually into their field. They see it very much in a developing nature, and I think that thus far, and on a continuing basis, we will be able to meet their requirements.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Butters.

Science Council Of Canada

MR. BUTTERS: Well, that certainly was not very specific but knowing the Deputy Commissioner and knowing that he is a man of his word I accept the statement from him as satisfactory, but I do wish to comment a bit on the need to see this board become active and productive and serve the scientific requirements of this House and of the people of the North. I say this because I am rather alarmed about the direction that is being taken by the Science Council of Canada. Now when I say the Science Council of Canada I am looking particularly at a subcommittee of that body, and that is the subcommittee on northern development. In saying so I in no way reflect upon the chairman, Dr. Gauvin, or any of its members, but I was very alarmed in participating last summer in Inuvik at a northern seminar of this committee, I was alarmed to see the way the members of the committee reacted to the horror stories that were communicated to them. Mr. Don Taylor, a member of the board, was present when one delegate, and something I will detail here, somebody pointed out a terrible thing had happened at Old Crow about the scientific community, about their relationship with native people. The story as was told to us, was that residents had noticed this native person from Old Crow sitting on the bank, apparently abandoned by some of the anthropologists who had been working, had been doing archeological work at the sites near the Old Crow village, and this person, the native fellow had been witnessed, apparently abandoned on the bank alone across from the settlement or across from the camp. I found this most difficult to comprehend and phoned the RCMP at Old Crow to determine what the real story was because the scientists in the northern development committee had all fluffed up their feathers and were quite alarmed by what was being told them.

Naturally so, but they did not question the story with the scientific objectivity which one would expect of scientists. I checked the story out and it was true, the fellow was sitting on the bank alone but what was not told was that he was a sort of support man for an archeologist who was up the cliff. What had happened was that the fellow's relatives were camped about a half a mile down the creek or up the creek and this fellow got tired sitting there acting as a support man for the archeologist poking around on the cliff and had walked over to his relatives' camp and said, "Are you fellows going to town?" "Yes, come over and come along." So he had abandoned the archeologist and that was the true story, instead of the other way around. When the archeologist found him about three days later and he asked for his old job back, the archeologist said "It appears you do not have sufficient interest in archeology to be a member of our crew." I am just pointing that out because I was concerned that these scientists from the Science Council took the story at face value and did not question it.

One other very interesting thing was mentioned there too. There was some suggestion that the graves of Inuit people have been abused, desecrated by oil companies by being covered over with gravel in the staging area. It was rather interesting when a reply was made by Dr. Schwartz. I think everybody knows Dr. Schwartz who has written a number of books. He mentioned he had been offered \$20,000 by Gulf Oil to talk to the people and indicate where the burials were in the area in which Gulf had its interests and leases. Dr. Schwartz told the meeting that he had been asked by a senior executive in the Committee

for Original People Entitlement not to take the contract, not to do the work because to do so would be to sell out the interests of native people. What I am saying here is that it is most important that we get on the ground this Northwest Territories Science Advisory Board, a board which is directly responsible to us and will not be hoodwinked.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I have received from Dr. Solandt a report of the first meeting of the Science Council which I sent to Mr. Remnant for the purpose of having it tabled before this House. He has gone to get it for that purpose. I do not know whether Members therefore want to continue discussing this particular item until maybe we have it tabled. Questions might arise, I suppose, from the report that might be relevant. I thought I should mention that before we vote on the allotment because certainly the document could be duplicated and circulated to Members for examination.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. In view of the hour, shall we recess for 15 minutes for coffee?

---Agreed

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls this committee back to order. The paper mentioned by Hon. David Searle is now being distributed. We are on activity 1223, operations and maintenance, science and statistics in the amount of \$193,000. Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I will just draw to the committee's attention that circulated just now is the report by Dr. Omond Solandt which was made to me. The report is a little more than a page long and I would want to direct Members' attention to it as there may be some questions arising out of it before the question is called.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Science Advisory Board

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, it appears to me in reading quickly through this that the board certainly has the right idea which is to approach the problem in the manner in which we would like them to. I do not know if there is any one here who is completely familiar with the operation of the Northwest Territories Science Advisory Board. It might be that Mr. Butters knows more about it than anyone else but I am wondering have they yet started on any studies? Are they actually doing something of a scientific nature? I can think of a number of things that are matters scientific or technological which this body could probably look into. For instance, how the agricultural potential of the Northwest Territories could be developed. I know that the Hon. Jean Chrétien when he was the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development promised that his department in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture would address itself to this problem before it came up with an agricultural policy. Apparently the present Minister or the department has forgotten all about his promise and this might be just as an example one of the areas that we could direct the Northwest Territories Science Advisory Board into. I wonder in fact if they have actually started on any tasks.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Deputy Commissioner.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that they have commenced any tasks of that nature as yet.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. Dave Nickerson.

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: I would imagine unless they have something specific to do and something that is of obvious importance to the Northwest Territories, the Science Advisory Board is likely to end up just as an honorary organization. I think that if we are to encourage this, as was originally the intent of the Legislature, we should be thinking about something that we could give them to do to keep them occupied and make it known that we want them to do a good job and be in existence and not just exist as an honorary organization.

MR. BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I am confident that Dr. Solandt sees his role and the role of the Science Advisory Board in exactly the terms that Hon. Dave Nickerson sees it. I do not think he sees it as being honorary at all and that in fact he and the council have great expectations to become a very important force in science activities in the North. Incidentally, their next meeting is on March the 4th and at that meeting they will be reviewing a list of projects from which they may well choose one or a number of them in which to interest themselves.

0 And M - Activity 1223, Science And Statistics, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Activity 1223, agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M - Activity 1224, Audit Bureau, Agreed

Page 3.05, Planning and Program Evaluation, operations and maintenance, activity 1224, audit bureau in the amount of \$528,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

0 And M - Activity 1226, Special Projects And Development, Agreed

Activity 1226, special projects and development, operations and maintenance in the amount of \$208,000, agreed?

---Agreed

Revenue, Recoveries And Transfer Payments, Agreed

I direct your attention to page 3.08 on Planning and Program Evaluation, revenue, recoveries and transfer payments in the amount of \$18,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

This then concludes the main estimates for Planning and Program Evaluation.

Department Of Personnel, Program Memorandum

I direct your attention to page 4.01, Personnel and at the bottom of page 4.02, main estimates, capital expenditures \$2,640,000, operating expenditures \$9,212,000, for a total budget of \$11,852,000. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we could have Assistant Commissioner Gary Mullins at the witness table because he is the one who is responsible for this department.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Is it agreed to call Assistant Commissioner Mullins?

---Agreed

Assistant Commissioner Mullins, would you care to at this time make any comments of a general nature with regard to this particular vote?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: Mr. Chairman, thank you. The only introductory comment I would like to make at this time is that the Department of Personnel budget is again held down to a fairly bare-bones level and there is one change in the plans of the Government of the Northwest Territories that is not yet reflected in the budget in any significant way. I am talking about the creation and approval of the office of native employment and the fact that we have not as yet set up a separate activity for that particular unit. It is our intention, Mr. Chairman, that to the greatest extent possible the costs of the office of native employment within the Department of Personnel will be funded by a slight internal reallocation of the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Comments of a general nature on Personnel. Mr. Whitford.

Native People In Senior Government Positions

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have expressed my concern before that it seems to me the native employment that we have got in the government at the moment is not of senior calibre, if I may use that word. I am very interested in knowing what senior positions some of the native people are in.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: Mr. Chairman, if I can summarize from my direct recollection, it is my understanding that we have at the moment one native person at the director level and one native person at the superintendent level in the regions. I am not sure that I can recall other senior level positions at either the director or the chief superintendent level of northern native ancestry.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Personnel on page 4.02, comments of a general nature. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: A question to Assistant Commissioner Mullins. Who is the director, the native person who is the director?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: That is the director of Planning and Program Evaluation.

MR. PEARSON: Who is that?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, am I led to believe it is Mr. Alex Gordon?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I was concerned, you know, in finding out how many of the native people from the North presently from smaller communities or Yellowknife, if they have to go that far, have achieved this kind of a level as well.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Assistant Commissioner Mullins.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: On that basis I think we are talking, and I am hoping Commissioner Hodgson could help me on this, but if we are talking of the regional director chief or superintendent level, I believe we are talking one native northerner at that level at the moment.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Any further comments of a general nature? Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: After Mr. Pearson, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Whilst we are on the subject, I think the record of some departments within the territorial government is excellent in terms of native employment and I think this is partly due to the individual efforts of some directors who have a feeling and a sense of commitment to the native people. I think that Mr. Ken Torrance is one man within the organization who has gone out of his way to encourage native people to take a meaningful role and career in the government. The Baffin region I think is an area that has an excellent record in Social Development generally, and a fair number of native people involved within the government. Within the administration aspect of it, there are a few, but certainly in the area of the trades and the lower end of the echelon, if you like. That is one region, and I think that is the only region.

Encouragement Of Natives

I have seen very little evidence in the territorial government to satisfy me that there is a strong effort being made by the department of employment, whatever it is called, Personnel, to encourage native people to come into this. There are no native people at the upper levels, there are to my knowledge no native senior executive assistants or trainees or whatever you want to call them at the upper management levels, even as far up as the Commissioner's level.

I think Hon. Peter Ernerk at one time held a position like that as an executive assistant to Mr. Ewan Cotterill I think, but he was the only one. Perhaps Mr. Tom Eagle was one but they are so few and far between, and yet the native people are here to stay, it is their land, they have a vested interest in the place, they will be here for the next 5000 years as well as the past 5000 years. I do not think they are being fully integrated and every opportunity is being made for them to participate.

We see a phenomenal increase in the number of southern Canadians coming into this government. I am not satisfied with the efforts made by the various directors of the departments. I am not satisfied with the directors of Personnel. I am not satisfied with the efforts by the directors in the other regions outside the Baffin region. There is still room for improvement, there are literally thousands of native people in schools presently and what do they have to look forward to when they come out? Where are the opportunities for them? They do not see them because they see none set by example. We all know the story about Education, we all know that story, it is coming out our ears, the number of native people employed in the Education system. I think it is absolutely vital and essential that the native people be involved in that process.

Native Employment In Frobisher Bay

Look for example at the Frobisher Bay high school which employs some 25 or 30 southern Canadians. I think there are three or four native people who are janitors in the school, but there are none as classroom assistants or trainees of any sort. When one listens to the complaints of the native organizations and the native people across this country, they are not getting the opportunities, there is very little evidence to disprove their views.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: When I first put my hand up to speak, Mr. Pearson stated, for the first time I have heard him say that there are native people working with Social Development and before there was nothing, it seems there were no native people working at all in the Baffin, or that is what I gathered before, but Baffin is not the only place where there are a lot of native people involved, and I am speaking for the Central Arctic. I think, going into the settlements to teach, whatever they are doing, the native people are fully involved and also Mr. Pearson says there are no assistant teachers in the Frobisher Bay school. I wonder where the assistant teachers are going over at Frobisher Bay, where do they take their training if there is no such staffing at Frobisher Bay high school. There have been about three or four from the Central Arctic who went to take their training and I wonder where they have been going seeing that there are no native workers in this school except for janitors.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Would you please keep out of the school? I think everyone is getting practised up for tomorrow or Monday, Education, but it is not actually under this activity and so could we please deal with the activity which is Personnel because we can get wound up into the schools when we get into Education.

MR. FRASER: I am not talking about the schools.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Fraser.

Northern Careers

MR. FRASER: The federal government has a program set up, or I think it was recently set up, last summer and I think the title of it is Northern Careers. I am wondering if Assistant Commissioner Mullins could tell me if this kind of a program has been thought of by the territorial government to train northerners. I forget what kind of a staff they have right now but there are quite a few presently now in training. They are all native people and if something like this could be set up with the territorial government, or is there something already set up similar to this one that Northern Careers have?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Assistant Commissioner Mullins.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: Mr. Chairman, the Northern Careers program is similar in philosophy and objectives to the employment program called "training on-the-job" in the Department of Economic Development. In the estimates for that department, this year, there was provision for doubling the number of on-the-job training positions in the Government of the Northwest Territories from 45 to 90. These are extra positions which are attached to regular positions in the Government of the Northwest Territories, a specific training schedule is drawn up so that the individuals filling the training positions can train over a period of time, sometimes as short as six months and often two years or occasionally longer, to take over the positions at the completion of training.

Objectives Identical

So, the territorial government's mechanisms are slightly different than Northern Careers but the objectives are identical, and that is to bring native people into the Government of the Northwest Territories public service who may not have any employment record, may not have specific training and train them for a job. Or alternatively, to bring people who may be at the clerical level at the moment and train them for administrative or more senior kind of jobs. The training program involves, in addition to direct on-the-job training, the provision for participation at seminars or other forms of formal education as well.

MR. FRASER: I think the administration, Personnel, whoever is responsible for the hiring of these people, deserves a pat on the back, especially in my constituency. Fort Franklin has hamlet status and there are no white people working there at all, the settlement secretary is native, his secretaries are all native, there are no white people in there at all. Fort Norman has completely natives working in the settlement office, it is still a settlement, and there the settlement manager or the area administrator worked himself out of a job which was originally planned. Fort Good Hope, they were having a little trouble and they have one settlement secretary there who is presently trying to help them. I think you will find that maybe in a year or so he will work himself out of a job, they will pull him out. So, I think there is some credit that should be given out here for the progress they have made and this has only happened in the last two or three years, for those three settlements. I think they should be given a little bit of credit for hiring northerners, northern people. Thank you.

Concerning Racial Distinctions

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I wonder, Assistant Commissioner Mullins, as we have the opportunity in committee, but relative to the court assistant's program it was called, the native something or other and Ms. Cyr as a witness, said they were going to change the name because they found it was restrictive in a way and thought it would be better under another name but yet function and do the same thing. I wonder again whether the name of this particular section may cause the same type of roadblock which may, down the road, be not what you want. I think that all children born in the Northwest Territories, regardless of racial background should be able to take part in assistance of this nature. I know sometimes specifically we set these up by racial distinction and it may not be that easy to do.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: Mr. Chairman, we are very cognizant of the sentiments you have expressed. We wish to say that we clearly have, as a target group, the Inuit, Indian and Metis sectors of the northern population and there is no question that that is our primary target group in terms of assistance through special training efforts and through positive action programs. In the development of the training on-the-job programs, we have made these available as well to people living in the North who have spent more than half their lifetime in the North and therefore any child of white parents born in the North is now eligible for the programs as well as people who are in their twenties who have been here a dozen or so years.

I believe that it is fair to say for example that in our training programs we have, just as an example, two audit bureau trainees and both of these are from white families who have been long established northern families.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Comments of a general nature. Mr. Whitford.

An Investigation Program

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that we always keep harping at the same issue that we are going to employ or provide jobs for native people, but it does not seem to be coming. Positions are still being filled by people from the South on a competition basis. The other thing I was going to point out is, I was wondering if in fact Assistant Commissioner Mullins is going to design, within that program, something that would be able to be used to investigate some of the native people who are working, who quit, or a committee sort of thing that would be able to meet with this fellow, or person and discuss with him why he has quit his job or what has frustrated him into quitting, such as the case of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, for people. Like I said before, we started off in 1967 with a tremendous amount of native people and by the year 1977 we are down to one. To me, even though the Minister has talked to these people individually, I think if there was a committee or something we could have got in to really find what the problem was.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Assistant Commissioner Mullins.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: Mr. Chairman, there is no question that one of the roles of the office of native employment will be that of an ombudsman, to sit down with native employees who have feelings of difficulty in their present employment. It is also evident to us that there will be a counselling function to assist native people who wish to have counselling, either to assist them in coping with the pressures of their present jobs or helping to lay out for them some kind of career development program. There are a number of functions that we see that the office of native employment will be carrying out.

Another function, for example, is research into the reasons why people leave with the specific objective of trying to overcome the same kind of problems that may

be facing other people. If we take a look at the relationship between the office of native employment to the employment provision of Economic Development we find a fairly natural transition. The employment programs in the Department of Economic Development deal with training positions and they are involved as well as the Department of Personnel in the recruitment of people for training positions. When people leave training positions into the full time public service of the Northwest Territories government or when people go directly from outside the government into a full time position that is where the responsibility of the office of native employment will take over.

Therefore, we are interested in that context with respect to employee retention, trying to reduce the rate of attrition of native employees, as well as positive measures to open up and provide growth opportunities or promotion opportunities for those native people who are on staff and wish to get ahead. We are now in the process of finalizing the selection of the chief of native employment and we are hoping the successful candidate will have time available in the next five or six months to take a look at some of these issues in depth and in a fairly relaxed manner, rather than being hassled by people like myself to sit on this committee or that competition or to hear this appeal. We want somebody to sit down, take a look at how we are hiring as a government, how we are promoting as a government, how we are training as a government, seeing what real or imagined impediments there might be to native people and helping to correct the situation.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. I wonder if I may be allowed one small comment relative to employment.

---Agreed

Just as a matter of history, to remind you that at one time the Great Slave Lake railway was run completely by Eskimos who were brought in and trained. These were not labouring jobs, they were engineers and brakemen and they actually physically ran the whole operation and for several years there has not been an Eskimo left. What is the reason? The opportunity was there, they were able to function and did the job and yet something happened. A body such as ours should know what happened or the information should be available because opportunities so often have been given and often are not recognized as having been given and yet it has failed. What we should really know is why it has failed. Mr. Steen.

The Problem Is The Culture

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Pearson has caused me to reply to part of his speech on native employment in the public service. I think he was a little bit off the track when he said there were a lot of people capable of taking over government positions. I do not quite agree with him. I think there are people, all the good native people in the North are working. Some businesses grab hold of them before they can even get into government positions or there are native people who do not want to work for this cotton-picking government. So, you know, what I am trying to say here is I think the real problem that we have here in the North is the cultures of the native people. As you know, Eskimos and even Indians do not use too much discipline on their children. They like their children so much that they hate to lay a hand on the children to teach them discipline. I am just curious or I would like to know is there self-discipline taught for people after they get older? I think that is where the problem is, people when they are in their teens, as they grow up they have no chance to use self-discipline. If there were a kind of education of self-discipline maybe we would get more people to fill the positions that are available.

The native people who are going to go somewhere already have positions and the rest, it is very difficult to find full participation of native people in business and also in government or any other organizations. I am not saying they are not capable but I am saying when you want something done our hands are tied if you have something to do and you want it done so you get the best person who will do it and sometimes you have to go outside to get those kinds of people. I think self-discipline, there should be a program for that kind of thing.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Assistant Commissioner Mullins, do you want to make any comment on that?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: The only comment I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, is that we attempt wherever possible either through the Department of Personnel or through the employment division of Economic Development to work with adult educators to help them bring people who now do not have labour force skills into a position where they would develop those skills and working habits.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, I have the very same feelings as Mr. Steen has. I do not know if he explained it well or not, but the thing is our culture, we do not like to be tied down. It is hard when you have got the type of blood we have to plan to get up, plan to go to sleep, plan to eat and stuff like this. It is hard to go and sit in an office. It is very hard for me to get up at 7:30 o'clock a.m. and go to meetings at 9:00 o'clock a.m. every morning. I know this is true with a lot of other guys too. It is self-discipline and I do it. I think most of the native people, as Mr. Steen says, the ones who do want to do something are already in positions, at least the type of work they like to do.

The Next Generation

The coming generation is the one you are going to see, the ones who are out in colleges and universities and the ones who are graduating out of school at this time. They are the ones who are going to be going into these higher positions but the ones like ourselves -- I do not know how Hon. Peter Ernerk finds it when he has to be in that office all the time. If I were in that position, as soon as I heard geese flying over, I would like to go and live on the land for a little while. This is the kind of thing, trying to harp on native people getting positions in the government, it is such that it is going to be a big responsibility. I think right at the present time, unless we get those children from the schools, we are hitting our heads against a brick wall.

The only kinds of jobs that I see Eskimos really sticking to for a long period of time and holding are the janitorial jobs because of the fact that there is always a holiday and the time of the year when you go out on holidays is the time of year when you go on the land anyway. I think personally to hear people harp on natives going to work, I think it is themselves, they have to put it up to themselves that they want to work. I worked for Northern Canada Power Commission for about five or six years. I could not take it any more because I saw my other friends going out in the springtime or even in the fall. I like to go out and do the same things that they do. I do not think I would fit in a position like Hon. Dave Nickerson and Hon. Peter Ernerk and Hon. Arnold McCallum are in right now. I feel personally that in the Central Arctic I think the work force is satisfactory, there native people are working for the government. There are carpenters, mechanics, settlement secretaries, secretaries, all native people working in the Central Arctic. Mr. Pearson keeps thinking if the Commissioner would give us some money to go up and travel that place and count how many native people are working for the government, I sure would like to do that.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Lyall. Mr. Fraser.

Working Conditions

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of things. First of all I would maybe like to answer that statement you made about the Eskimos all leaving the railway at Hay River. I think the person responsible for hiring those Eskimos and taking them into a place like Hay River on the railway in the first place was wrong. Sure I have personally known some of the Eskimos who were working on that railway but they were never at home, never in place. I think personally that whoever set up that type of training for the Eskimos taking them away from the Arctic was wrong.

Secondly, Mr. Steen mentioned about people working. I worked with the federal government for 30 years. I started in 1946 but I was on loan to the territorial government for a two year period and I was stationed in different locations, Fort Resolution and Spence Bay, but at that time I felt there was no incentive to stay with it. I had a choice to either go back federally or stay with the territorial government but I could make more when I came into Yellowknife and Fort Smith. I found I could make more as a janitor than an area administrator, than they were paying an area administrator at that time. So, I could not see myself staying with the territorial government when I could make more money sweeping the floor in any of these big communities and that was the reason I went back federal.

The third thing I would like to say is that when I was with the federal government, and this was two years ago, they set up a training program to train assistant resource management officers to work in the North and the program was set up by somebody in the Bellanca building, one of the federal employees. However, we had 60 applicants who came in for the positions and out of the 60 applicants they only had funds for about eight positions. So, there had to be some pretty close interviewing done on these competitions. However, the way they went about it was, they hired native people in the locality where the people had applied; for instance, if they had ten applicants from the Fort Smith-Resolution area they hired a native person who knew that applicant, knew his work habits, knew whether he would stay if he was successful in winning that competition and, then as they went further north they hired a native again. They let the native go in the South and hired another native further north who knew those types of people in that particular area and their work habits, if they would stay on the job, etc., and then they went to the Arctic and we had other people sitting.

More Research In Recruiting

So, I think if you are going to recruit native people they should not be recruited out of the Yellowknife office, and there should be a board set up with native involvement on the board, made up by people who possibly know the natives and whether they will stay or leave after two months. It is surprising, a guy coming from Tuktoyaktuk, and there was a native in Yellowknife who applied for the position, Mr. Steen might know that guy. If he does not know him somebody else would know him, some other native would probably know him and get to know the applicant and find out a bit of his background before they throw him into the position and find that he stays for two months and leaves.

I think a little bit more research should be put in when they are doing the recruiting rather than just sitting back and saying "Well, we have ten applicants, we will look them over" and they could put anything on a piece of paper and perhaps they do not even make up the application, maybe somebody else makes it out for them. A lot of times maybe the guy can not read and write but gets someone to fill out the application for him. But who is it in Yellowknife who knows this, who is sitting on the board?

I have sat myself on boards with the federal government where I knew I was qualified but just because the guys who were doing the interviewing did not know me -- I applied for a position in Whitehorse at one time as assistant Indian agent in that locality, I knew the natives there quite well, but the position was cut and dried before I even applied for it and I knew this. I went anyway and I had my copy of the application and a copy of the competition and I knew when I got there I was wasting my time. When I was in the Yukon, the first question was "Can you milk a cow?" and I pulled out my application and a copy of the competition and said "It does not mention a cow in here. I think I am wasting my time and yours too." So I walked out. That is the type of recruiting that goes on with the government and I think that there should be more native involvement when you are recruiting native people.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Are you finished, Mr. Fraser?

MR. FRASER: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Assistant Commissioner Mullins, is there any comment you would like to make?

Local Participation On Selection Committees

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: Many of the suggestions that Mr. Fraser has made are ones that we are looking into at the moment both in the context of our regular practices and in the context of our new office of native employment. We have done more work in 1976 than in previous years on involving local participation outside of government on selection committees. I should indicate that most of our recruiting for positions in the regions is handled entirely by regional staff and not by headquarters staff. I had the opportunity to be questioned by Mr. Lyall during the standing committee on finance meeting a couple of months ago on the number of people in the local communities who sat on selection panels. In the course of 1976 a total of 12 interview boards, held in Cambridge Bay, contained representatives from the community, from the education advisory committee, from the social assistance committee and from the council. These kind of representatives were on the selection boards in that community. I must say that Cambridge Bay had more competitions with local representation than other communities but it is something that we are very cognizant of and are attempting to expand. I might add for example that on the competition for chief of native employment we used as one of the members of the selection committee on that job, a native person who is not a public servant.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: In listening to my colleagues, I get the strong feeling that everything seems to be rosy and that there are no problems. Now, in listening to Mr. Lyall I get the distinct feeling that he is perfectly content with the way the territorial government is handling the matter of native employment. For a moment in listening to Mr. Fraser I got the same indication although he later clarified his position and I think indicated that he has a strong concern, and I agree with his view on the matter of the train drivers at Hay River. That was an unfortunate way of handling that thing. Mr. Steen indicates some concern but I am surprised at the views of my colleagues on this subject which I think is probably one of the most single important problems facing the territorial administration today. A lot of the unhappiness and bitterness is developed in the communities, by the native people, who have long begun to resent the encroachment of having southerners come into their territory where they have not been given the opportunities to participate fully.

Participating Members Of Society

Now, you can say what you like about the education system, it is not equipping native people to take on these responsibilities. However, there are all kinds of native people across the breadth of the Northwest Territories who have the ability, the willingness and the determination to take on these responsibilities and who want to become participating members in this new society.

To say that the Eskimo people have no form of discipline just is not true. The form of self-discipline that I know exists amongst the Eskimo people is a tremendous thing, it is something which they have developed to a far greater degree than any other southern Canadian I know. They are a race of people who have been able to survive in this country and that could not have been achieved without a tremendous amount of self-discipline on their part, something that is inherent in their basic make-up. Where the thing goes wrong is when the kids are taken from the parents -- I will rephrase that, when the kids are encouraged to go to school and are put into classes, the responsibility is removed from the parents, and as the white man said to the native people of this country many years ago, "Give us your kids we will train them, we will educate them, we will teach them a new way of life", and the Eskimo parents did exactly that, they gave it to them, they trusted them, the kids went off to school and, of course, the new teachers, the southern Canadians were afraid to impose any discipline. The native people assumed that discipline was being taught and being practised because there is nothing tougher than, from my understanding, the Eskimo approach to discipline.

It is perhaps based on a totally different concept than we have, a different way of operating, a totally different thought process. What we think is important in one's own behaviour to the Eskimo people is not, but to say they have no discipline is ridiculous. They are very tough, they have a self-discipline imposed from within, from without and within the community itself.

My store which is a busy operation, a very successful business I might add, is currently being run by three native people exclusively, three native people and they are willing and capable. If one is prepared to give them the initiative and to allow them to take the initiative and make decisions and do things, they have the willingness to do it, it can be done.

The Training Of Natives.

We see the bureaucrats sitting here day after day, rows and rows of them listening to these debates, sitting there as advisers to the government but how often do you see native people amongst them as observers, as young trainees, young top management trainees? How many native people are on the sixth floor, the fifth floor, the fourth floor or the third floor of any of those buildings. The matter of not wanting to work and finding it difficult every time a flock of geese go by the window, you want to go chase them with a gun. I am sure that there are not only native people here who would like to do that but many other people who want to get out. In fact it is just as difficult for anybody to have to go to work at 8:00 o'clock a.m. in the morning and be there until 5:00 o'clock p.m., but there are methods or ways of overcoming those difficulties.

In Ottawa itself they use a thing called "flexitime" where people go to work, providing they put in the hours, and I am not too sure how it works, but providing they put in the necessary hours they can go home when they like and go to work when they feel like it, be it 6:00 o'clock a.m. in the morning or 10:00 o'clock p.m. at night, if they wish. Flexitime, perhaps Assistant Commissioner Mullins, he is from Ottawa, perhaps he might know. There are many ways of skinning a cat.

Now, on Members' desks we will find a paper that has been produced for our edification by the Government of the Northwest Territories, B level programs, employment of native northerners and all these very important items come under the heading of B level budget. This is all B level stuff, the pie in the sky stuff, the fancy things, the trimmings on the cake, so let us get a few natives in there to make it look good, but it is under B level.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Shame!

There Is Not Enough Effort.

MR. PEARSON: There it is, B level. There is not enough effort, and I have said this ever since I have been on this Assembly, and you can accuse me of repeating myself if you like, but I have said it all along, there is not enough effort being made by this administration to bring the native people into the total government operation. There are some exceptions and I have mentioned the Baffin region, the Department of Social Government, Mr. Ken Torrance, one guy, he has made a tremendous effort and has been very successful. There are welfare offices with responsibilities, and in some cases guys who have never been to school, but they have responsible jobs. However, there are people available, they are willing, they love the land in which they live, they want to be there and stay there, they do not want to see a plane of white people come in every year and take away jobs that they can do. Give them a chance, the sixth floor, the fifth floor, the fourth floor, the seventh floor, who knows? Let us just get them in there, learn by doing, make mistakes. It is terrible, do it again, one day we will learn, one day something will rub off, one day we will make it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I just want to note for the record that I believe that Mr. Paul Kwaterowsky certainly did a good job in employing a lot of the native people in the game management division in the field. I am talking now of guys such as Mr. Al Bourque, Mr. Jim Bourque, Mr. Lenny Murphy, people of that nature who were trappers and hunters, prior to this and did the odd job in the summer. To me that was a real improvement within the government.

MR. BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Comments of a general nature, Mr. Chairman. When Mr. Pearson was speaking I was beginning to feel as though I was an unproductive member of society. Anyway, ...

MR. PEARSON: Well, you are.

Native Graduates Of The N.W.T. Government

HON. PETER ERNERK: As a Member of the Executive Committee and a Member of this Legislature first of all I would like to say that native employment, native recruitment was mentioned many, many times. I was one of those who fully supported the establishment of the native employment within the Department of Personnel. When I took on the responsibility when I moved into the Executive a year and a half ago, one of the things that I undertook immediately was to introduce to my Executive colleagues how important it is to look at the native employment programs in the Northwest Territories, to move them into the Government of the Northwest Territories. If they do not wish to do that, that is their right.

Going back for a couple of years we have had a number of native people within the Northwest Territories government, speaking of a few there were people like Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Josie Kusugak and Mr. John Amagoalik whom I would call the graduates from the Northwest Territories government.

MR. BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

HON. PETER ERNERK: I do not argue that point at all. As a matter of fact, they probably got into something better in many, many ways. Where did we fail? Well, this government is a relatively young government. It has come a long way in many, many ways. I think I would be correct in saying when it first came North there were very, very few people, not even 50 people at that time. Maybe I am exaggerating a bit but that would be the figure that I would say when the Government of the Northwest Territories first moved North. It has grown quite a lot. It has made efforts to recruit various Indian and Eskimo people and place them in jobs. I think I would be correct in saying something like classroom assistants, without getting into electricians or carpenters or anything like that. Then they moved into other areas. A couple of settlement managers I have known a couple of years ago, to make a story short, they have not been able to move into placing various native people in other positions. In some areas, as it was stated by the Assistant Commissioner, there is one native person who is Mr. Paulosie Kilabuk who is the first Eskimo superintendent of corrections within the Department of Social Development.

In Support Of Higher Education

Having said all that, the present generation, that is to say, the people including myself, will not move into the positions for another few years. I will give myself five years which is a higher level of education. Speaking for myself, I do not have the qualifications to fit into chief of the public affairs division, for example. However, with the assistance of this Assembly I have moved to the position where I am now.

Just looking back again, the native people have not gone far enough into university or for that matter reaching grade 12. I suppose this is why I am in support of higher education programs in the communities, so that we in the Northwest Territories government will be able to reach our own objectives, so that we will be able to reach our own goals and to start to look at the other side of the coin. I do not support ...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. Peter Ernerk, you have one minute left.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Can I cut it off now and start again tomorrow morning?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): One minute of your ten minute time allotment. We do not have a Speaker so we are going to have to sit around for a while.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Shall I continue? Very briefly then -- I lost my train of thought now. That is why I support higher education in the communities. To conclude my comments, I think what I have been trying to say is that I have always been in support of native people getting into higher levels of positions simply because they speak the languages, they understand the people and they can communicate with the people. A step I would have to support is to see more native people getting into the decision making level. I think that is seen to be a very important thing in the years to come and it is important now. Anyway, I will leave 45 seconds of my time to somebody else.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Assistant Commissioner Mullins, are there any comments you wish to make?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MULLINS: I do not believe, Mr. Chairman, there are any specific questions that Hon. Peter Ernerk asked that I would like to reply to.

HON. PETER ERNERK: I was not asking any question at all. I was speaking my mind as one of those responsible for various training programs.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: I will speak in Inuktitut. I would like to say two things to the government. Though the government has tried to help with the Local Initiative Program and now we are getting our budget from Ottawa so that the Local Initiative Program would stand up, so the Northwest Territories would be properly looked after. I have heard many times some of the programs that are instrumental in helping native people. The area clerk is sometimes sent out by the government. I find that area clerks are being sent out because they help the Inuit too much. Why is it that the government sends up to the Northwest Territories to help the Inuit people and it seems to me now that the government does not want the native people to help the native people. I have noticed this more than once. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you very much. In view of the hour, presumably this debate is a long way from being over. Shall I report progress?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart.

Report of the Committee of the Whole of Bill 3-61, Appropriation Ordinance, 1977-78

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Bill 3-61 and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Are there any announcements for tomorrow? Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 11: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, February 4, 1977, 9:00 o'clock a.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Questions and Returns
3. Oral Questions
4. Petitions

5. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
6. Notices of Motions
7. Motions for the Production of Papers
8. Motions
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters:
Bill 3-61, Matters Arising out of the Visit of the Legislative Assembly
to the State of Alaska, Information Items 1-60, 8-60, 16-60, 1-61,
Motion 24-60, Recommendation to the Legislature 2-61
11. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until 9:00 o'clock a.m.,
February 4, 1977, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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