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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

67th. Session

8th Assembly

Official Report

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1979

pages 121 to 173

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1979

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Steen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Lyall, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Hon. Peter Ernerk, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Kilabuk, Hon. David Searle, Mr. Nickerson

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. David Searle): Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Are there any replies? Hon. Peter Ernerk.

ITEM NO. 2: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I have two replies. To Question W2-67 ...

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Ernerk, that is a return that you are referring to and I am referring to replies to the Commissioner's Address.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Pardon me, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nickerson.

Mr. Nickerson's Reply

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, the motion of appreciation for the Commissioner's Address is by custom not voted upon. On this occasion I feel that were the question to be brought to a vote it would be unanimously and wholeheartedly adopted. Commissioner Hodgson has freely and forcefully stated the views and opinions which not only myself and I am sure the other Members of this House fervently hold but which reflect the true consensus of informed opinion held by the whole population of the territories. I congratulate the Commissioner on his courage in "telling it as it is" and propounding a viewpoint and course of action which is manifestly not the policy of our colonial masters in Ottawa. I would warn the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that any attempt to call the Commissioner to account for his words last Friday will incur the displeasure not only of this House but also of all the people we represent.

Having thus added my voice of support to the Commissioner I will proceed with the prepared part of my presentation wherein some of my own views are presented. These I think you will find are not at all dissimilar to those we heard at the opening of the session.

Mr. Speaker, some four years ago I remember on a similar occasion to this, addressing this House on the financial affairs of the nation and on the sad and sorry state they were in. At this session I do not intend to repeat the long list of dismal statistics which in the last four years have grown progressively worse but I would like to re-emphasize some of the points I made at that time.

The Despotic Trudeau Regime

Under the despotic Trudeau regime, the incompetence of which becomes daily more evident, the money supply continues to grow at a rate far surpassing any real increase in the gross national product, thereby ensuring exaggerated rates of inflation well into the future. The deficit or difference by which federal government expenditures exceed revenues of this fiscal year will be of the order of \$14 billion -- over 30 per cent of revenues. The national debt stands at some \$70 billion. This must constitute mismanagement of almost criminal proportions.

Can we wonder at the present rate of inflation where the value of our currency in terms of the number of things it will buy is less than half its value when Trudeau took office? A dollar today is worth less than 50 cents in 1968. Can we wonder at the lack of confidence the world community has in us, lack of confidence displayed by the continued discounting of our currency in the world market place? Canada has placed the management of its public purse in the hands of children -- children from whom it must be extricated forthwith if we are again to become a strong and trustworthy nation.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. NICKERSON: We must cease borrowing money for current account purposes. We must stop the printing presses from spewing out more and more worthless paper which does nothing but confuse commerce, steal from the pay packets of labour and destroy the accumulated capital and wealth of the nation.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

The Need For Restraint Is Obvious

MR. NICKERSON: Wealth, for instance, which old people had set aside for their declining years but which they now find is worthless. It is a shameful and disgraceful thing to see the Trudeau government finance its incredible waste out of the pockets of the elderly and others who are unable to protect themselves.

At a time when Canada's problems clearly stem from government overspending with which they have financed, not investments for the future such as roads, hospitals or schools, but have financed an incursion and an encroachment into business and into the private lives of Canadians never before witnessed; the need for restraint is obvious. Yet what does the Trudeau government do? They go out and buy for nearly \$1.3 billion the Pacific Petroleum Company, for no other reason than the gratification of their own lust for power. This purchase will not create one additional job. It will not produce one extra barrel of oil. It is a senseless waste of public funds in an area where the government has no right to be in the first place and which was being operated perfectly well by private enterprise. With the same money we could have built not one but 50 bridges over the Mackenzie River or perhaps even one lengthwise all the way from Inuvik to Fort Providence. Somehow the present Government of Canada is lacking in both a sense of proportion and a sense of priorities. So much for the fiscal iniquities of Mr. Trudeau and an issue which although it concerns us the same as all other Canadians is primarily of national scope.

Now I would like to return to issues of more specific interest to us in the Northwest Territories. Let us look back for a while over the past four years during which time we have constituted the Legislature of the territories and its prime instrument of political leadership at the territorial level and during which time some of our Members have participated in the Executive government, unfortunately not as true members of the government, equivalent to provincial cabinet ministers, as we would have wished, but rather in an advisory capacity, but nevertheless in a capacity of some influence.

It is somewhat sad to relate that our accomplishments, especially in the field of constitutional development have not been as great as what we would have hoped. During our tenure we have had to face many problems. We have faced a federal government that was adamant that political rights were not to be extended to people living north of the sixtieth parallel. They jealously guarded, although they refused to develop our potential natural resources which they look upon as being their own property despite an established constitutional system which clearly vests the ownership of unalienated crown lands in the provinces.

The North Has Been Used And Misused

We have faced a federal government which, as far as the North is concerned, has espoused, and continues to espouse, the "no growth" theories which were so prevalent in the sixties although everywhere else in the world, government have recovered from this excursion into the dream world. The North has been used and misused as a social laboratory and we have been experimented upon by people with all kinds of outlandish social theories. We have been contending with a federal government that has not yet learned that "colonialism breeds contempt". However, despite all the hurdles set before us, despite the federal policy of promoting disharmony amongst our people, we have succeeded in working together and demonstrating that democratic institutions can work in the Northwest Territories and that all the people of the territories can fully participate therein and that the effect is good.

In the constitutional field what we have done has been limited but nevertheless important. We have caused the elected membership of the Executive Committee to be increased from two Members to three. We have set the wheels in motion for the expansion of the membership of this Legislature to give the people of the territories better representation and to provide a greater number of people from which can be drawn a true cabinet in times to come. Without this expansion it will be very difficult, to say the least, for the incoming Legislature to make any substantial gains. It is imperative that Bill C-28 is dealt with by parliament and passed into law with all due dispatch.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NICKERSON: I would hope that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will, as he has promised to do, use his good offices to facilitate this very necessary development. And furthermore I would hope that the New Democratic party of Canada will see the light, or at least the writing on the wall. I make no secret of the disagreement I have with people of the socialist persuasion on matters of political economy. I am a believer in free enterprise, the liberty of the individual and minimal government; whereas they take the opposing view in that they advocate the state ownership of the means of production and a high degree of control over the citizenry by a powerful and enlarged government structure. Even though this disagreement exists, I had always thought previously that men like Broadbent and Knowles had shared my belief in democratic government. Now I find that this is not the case and I am very, very disappointed.

Answerable To The Taxpayers

When the history books are written, I think that one of the things that will stand out as a landmark on our road to responsible government, although many people might not have suspected so at the time, was the passage of our Income Tax Ordinance. Members of this Legislature are aware that, if you are to govern, then you have to be responsible to the public for the taxes you raise from them as well as for the services that government provides. This is difficult and many politicians try to avoid or neglect this important part of their duties. But we have taken upon ourselves this responsibility. We are now answerable to the taxpayers; and this is absolutely necessary if the Northwest Territories is ever to assume any measure of autonomy or self-government. In this respect we have surpassed the Yukon and in my reckoning the Income Tax Ordinance was one of the most important bills dealt with by this Legislature.

So much for the past. Let us now look to the future. We are all aware of the predictable changes which will affect us in the near term. Changes in the Executive branch of the territorial government, changes in this Legislature and changes in the government and parliament of Canada. But in my prognostication these will be overshadowed by a development, which, unless we examine our conditions closely, is not quite so readily apparent.

I foresee, Mr. Speaker, within a few short years such an explosion of human energy in the Northwest Territories as will astonish the imagination. As the young people which form the majority of our population come of age; as our efforts in the educational field begin to bear fruit in quantity, the tenor of the times will change rapidly as thousands of new citizens, well educated, thoughtful, knowing what they want and prepared to work hard and diligently in its pursuit, and cognizant of what this country affords and can provide, come forth to make their way and add their talents to the northern community. I would hope that our economy will be able to accommodate these people. There, of course, is no reason why it should not in a land so well endowed with the bounties of nature -- it is just that there has to be a will on our part and on the part of the federal government to develop our resources. There is no reason why in the Northwest Territories today we should have to take a back seat to anyone.

Major Industrial Undertakings

Major industrial undertakings, which have not been written off, will eventually take place. We hear renewed talk of major pipeline projects for the Mackenzie Valley and other areas and you can be sure that at least one such project will materialize. We could have a bountiful oil and gas industry stretching the length of the Mackenzie district. This would breed many related activities, for instance, the service industries would greatly expand. Prosperous northern towns and villages would create their own demands much of which could be supplied locally. Despite the present short-term prospects, our economic future sparkles brightly, if only we can secure a government in Ottawa which will use just the least little bit of common sense.

If this is to take place, if there is to be this bursting forth of human endeavour, socially, economically and politically, then it is essential that we have a political system in place which will accommodate these things. We must have a system which will allow this energy to be channelled constructively and if this is to be the case, then it must be that the possessors themselves will have to determine how it is to be done. There is no way that we can retain the present system where all the major decisions are made for us in Ottawa. It is the people who live here who will have to take control of their own lives and their own destinies. You have only to pick up a newspaper or read the history of our own country to understand that once a people have learned and know that they are capable of running their own affairs and have acquired the desire to do so, then to deny them that opportunity is to court disaster.

The incoming Legislature will certainly have their work cut out for them. They must pursue the goals of responsible government and although they might be able to expect a much more sympathetic and reasoned reception from Ottawa than we ourselves have experienced, as the sole political representatives of the population of the territories in its entirety they will have to bear the standard high for it is this institution, the Legislature, which provides the laws under which our people live and from which eventually, as the course of history dictates, the government of our people will be drawn. Mr. Speaker, I wish them well.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, are there any further replies to the Commissioner's Address this afternoon? You, of course, are aware that this item will stay on the order paper for two further days only.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS.

Item 3, questions and returns.

Hon. Peter Ernerk, you have some returns.

Return To Question W2-67: Musk-ox Survey; Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay, Pelly Bay

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I have two returns. To Question W2-67 asked by Mr. Lyall on January 22nd, 1979, with respect to musk-ox survey at Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Pelly Bay.

The field officers of the wildlife service will be carrying out an inventory survey of musk-oxen in the areas hunted by Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Pelly Bay residents. An officer will soon be contacting the hunters' and trappers' associations in the communities involved to determine where they hunt and where they feel the animals are concentrated. The survey will take place in late February and in March. Quota increases will be dependent on the results of the survey.

Return To Question W3-67: Musk-ox Survey; Bathurst Inlet, Baychimo

This return is to Question W3-67 asked by Mr. Lyall on January 22nd, 1979, with respect to musk-ox survey in Bathurst Inlet and Baychimo.

The field officers of the wildlife service will be carrying out an inventory survey in the areas hunted by the people of the Bathurst Inlet and Baychimo areas. This survey is planned to take place in March of this year. The results of the survey will dictate whether or not we can raise the quota for these people.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further returns? Written questions. Mr. Steen.

Question W11-67: Harbour Control Policy

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the administration whether or not the Government of the Northwest Territories has a policy on harbour control authority and if not, is the administration contemplating developing such a policy on harbours and waterfronts in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Partial Return To Question W11-67: Harbour Control Policy

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, the matter of harbour controls lies with two federal departments at the present time, perhaps even three, the federal Departments of Transport, Public Works and Indian Affairs. I will examine the responsibilities of these departments in this area and particularly in light of our own ability to act and provide the Member with a proper and more detailed answer on this subject before the end of this session.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further written questions? Mr. Steen.

Question W12-67: CBC Inuvik

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, since the CBC in Inuvik is not carrying the program called Council Report which is currently carried here in Yellowknife at 7:00 p.m. and since it has been the desire of this Assembly to keep all residents of the North informed as much as possible of the Assembly's proceedings, would the administration endeavour on our behalf to find out why CBC Inuvik has not carried the English portion of Council Report at 7:00 p.m. as is done here in Yellowknife and report back to the Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nickerson.

Question W13-67: Firearms Acquisition Certificates

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker. Is it true that applicants for firearms acquisition certificates are being asked to provide their social insurance numbers? If this is the case will the government make sure that each applicant is advised that this is not required by law and that they need not give their number if they do not wish to?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I will seek an answer to the question and provide a reply at a later date.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pearson.

Question W14-67: Sealift, Eastern Arctic

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, what efforts are the Government of the Northwest Territories making to ensure that the sealift fiasco witnessed this year in the Eastern Arctic will not occur again?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Partial Return To Question W14-67: Sealift, Eastern Arctic

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I realize that it will come up in debate but I would have hoped that in asking the question the Member might have commented on the recovery action that took place. However, I will provide a written reply as to the actions that we propose to take next year to try and ensure a safe and complete sealift.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further written questions, gentlemen?

Item 4, oral questions.

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM NO. 6: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, yesterday at the beginning of our discussion on the estimates, reference was made in the form of questions to the performance or lack of performance of the standing committee on finance. As chairman of the finance committee I feel that certain points have to be clarified and I would ask you to grant me that opportunity now.

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South spoke of ruffling feathers and I hope that this is not what you think I am doing now. First of all, in reply to the Honourable Member's questions of yesterday: One, the finance committee met for one day only, January 17, 1979 to consider the 1979-80 estimates. When I referred to four days yesterday I meant through the year, not for consideration of the main estimates for 1979-80. Two, with regard to the question about the list of recommendations arrived at by the finance committee I invite you to

listen again to the report which I read into the record yesterday. Mr. Speaker, this Assembly is being presented with an austerity budget and I think that in reviewing the estimates Members will realize that the time has come where we have no option but to realistically accept the fact that we would have to cut our coat according to the cloth. We did not go through the estimates item by item because it was clear to us that more fat would have to be trimmed from this budget than from any other budget reviewed by the finance committee during my term as Member and chairman. The fact that we have a no-growth budget in the face of increased demands for services and greater responsibility for more people speaks loudly for itself. We are encouraged by the positive steps being taken by the administration to hold the line on expenses. This budget is being submitted to the House, Mr. Speaker, for what I know will be a very thorough review. If our Members feel that this constitutes a lack of diligence on the part of the finance committee, then I submit to you that this is a question of opinion.

Improper Direction From The Assembly

I agree that the standing committee on finance is not operating effectively but there are reasons for that. I submit, however, that the committee is not being taken seriously and not being given proper attention, direction or backing by the House. The Honourable Member from Hay River last year, in my attempt to introduce motions that I felt were very important, and these motions had been unanimously agreed to and passed by the standing committee on finance, they had found difficulty with their introduction, and of course the Honourable Member from Hay River and the co-chairman of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Stewart, had to come to my rescue and I quote, Mr. Speaker, the words of Mr. Stewart: "Mr. Speaker, because of the wide variance of subjects, although they basically come under the financial section and could be dealt with through the budget I feel that this paper is bringing out quite a few things that it may be difficult to really find the right slot for within the budget to work on and I would like to move that this report be put into committee of the whole as it stands for discussion. I would so move."

That motion by the deputy chairman was adopted, but the report because of the low priority attached to it by this House, and let me say something here, not the administration, only came up for discussion in committee of the whole on February 13, 1978, the very last sitting day. I then proceeded to address the House as follows ...

A Point Of Procedure

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, excuse me. I have not wanted to interrupt you because the response you are making comes as the result of the remarks made by the Honourable Member from Yellowknife South in committee of the whole. Now, I do not see what you are doing here as giving a report of the standing committee and that is what this item is. What you are doing is responding under this item to a debate which took place yesterday in committee of the whole. I will not cut you off because I would not want it suggested that since I was involved in the debate that I am using the chair, but quite frankly I think if you want to make this kind of a response it should really be done in committee of the whole where the debate took place. In other words I do not think this is a report of the committee per se but it is a response to the debate of yesterday. As I say I will not cut you off but do not go on too long.

MR. LAFFERTY: I will withdraw my comments and will continue with it in committee of the whole because, Hon. David Searle, you are quite correct, it was my feelings of urgency which prompted me to stand up at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: A point of privilege. I think if I understand correctly what the Honourable Member from Yellowknife South said yesterday they wanted Mr. Lafferty to report to this House on the activities of the finance committee. If I am not right I apologize but I understood that that is what was said yesterday and I think in view of what Mr. Lafferty is doing, I think he is responding to that request.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall, I do not think there is any point in you entering into the debate quite frankly. I indicated to Mr. Lafferty that he could continue but I also indicated to him my view procedurally of what was occurring and also I indicated that since I was involved in the debate in committee of the whole I was not prepared to intervene. If he wishes he may therefore continue.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I will continue, as this was my mistake, Mr. Speaker. I will continue this, my response to those questions in committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further reports of special or standing committees?

Item 7, notices of motion. Mr. Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 5-67: Return Of Unlawfully Collected Moneys, NCPC

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday the 25th day of January I will introduce a motion dealing with the return of moneys unlawfully collected by the Northern Canada Power Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further notices of motion?

Item 8, motions for the production of papers.

Item 9, motions. Motion 4-67. Mr. Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

Motion 4-67: Draft Amendments To Indian Act

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has caused to be published and circulated draft amendments to the Indian Act with the view to encouraging public discussion on the subject;

AND WHEREAS this House wishes to co-operate with the Minister in order that any changes to the said act might be the most beneficial for the people of the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that, at a suitable time to be set by the Speaker, this House resolve itself into a committee of the whole to discuss the proposed changes to the Indian Act and that an invitation be extended to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to send one or more of his senior officers to be present for this discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by Mr. Nickerson and is there a seconder? Hon. Tom Butters. Discussion. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I will be very brief, Mr. Speaker, because this just asks that the matter be dealt with in committee but draft copies or draft amendments to the Indian Act have been placed in this in-house publication of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Indian News, and this has been circulated to hundreds of thousands of people I would imagine, in Canada, and the idea has been to encourage public discussion on this important subject.

I think that the changes or proposed changes would affect us in the Northwest Territories greatly because most of the people whom we represent or a good many of the people whom we represent would be directly affected by any changes to the Indian Act. It being held, for instance, that Eskimos for certain purposes have been considered Indians by the courts, so a lot of our people in the Northwest Territories would be directly affected. The rest of us would be indirectly affected.

The types of amendments proposed, and I just list them here, are amendments dealing with tribal government; in fact that is probably the most important issue addressed in the material that has been circulated by the Minister; questions of special Indian education. The question of land surrenders, the question of hunting, fishing and trapping rights, membership of Indian bands and certain other anachronisms in the present act. So there are undoubtedly a lot of things which will concern us and I think that we should be aware of what the proposals are. It might be possible for us to give good advice to the Minister of Indian Affairs on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 4-67, Carried

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

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, will you communicate the necessary invitation to the Minister implied by the motion and see that it goes on the order paper at a date suitable?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Recognition Of Grade Five Class From Mildred Hall School

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, before we go on I recognize in the Speaker's gallery a very distinguished group of northerners, the grade five class from Mildred Hall school with their teacher Mrs. Rechner.

---Applause

Item 10, tabling of documents.

Item 11, notices of motion for the introduction of bills.

Item 12, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters.

ITEM NO. 12: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

What is the wish of the Executive, Hon. Arnold McCallum?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, that we would move into the Caribou Management Briefing.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart, will you take the chair on that or do you have a particular interest? This Assembly will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of the item Caribou Management Briefing and Motion 12-66, Kaminuriak and Other Caribou Herds, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Caribou Management Briefing and Motion 12-66, Kaminuriak and Other Caribou Herds, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BRIEFING AND MOTION 12-66, KAMINURIK AND OTHER CARIBOU HERDS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The committee will come to order. Hon. Arnold McCallum, do you have someone to give the presentation? Could he be called, please?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I think that this particular topic more appropriately concerns the Minister for Natural and Cultural Affairs, the Hon. Peter Ernerk. He may have some witnesses he wishes to ask to come in.

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

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, a little bit later on I would like to introduce or ask some members of the department to go over one or two things that were done in the past while, with respect to Caribou Management Briefing. However, before we go on there are two items that I am looking at in front of me. I take it we are about to discuss the community caribou hunts policy.

What I would like to say briefly, Mr. Chairman, then is that during our last session in October, I believe it was Mr. Lyall and Mr. Whitford indicated their desire to speak about organized caribou hunts in the Northwest Territories. As a result of that my officers have been working on one or two things. One with respect to the Kaminuriak herd as well as other herds in the Northwest Territories and of course trying to set up an acceptable policy with respect to community caribou hunts in the Northwest Territories. I would also just like to remind the committee at this point that I tabled two documents, one with respect to organized hunts, community caribou hunt policy and the other with respect to the Kaminuriak herd and other caribou herds in the Northwest Territories.

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

Input From The Rae-Edzo Band.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I talked about this problem earlier with Hon. Peter Ernerk and I was waiting. I thought it would come up or the Speaker would indicate this before we moved into this bill. But my concern is that at the present time the chief and the people who were going to be here unfortunately had to go to court in regard to a problem at the Rae-Edzo school and its teachers and had asked to hold it off to another day. But they were trying to be here if they could. I waited up to now and they still are not here. I think that they would have had something to say had they been here today. What I guess I am asking is if this could be delayed or the one part of it could be delayed, then I would appreciate that very much.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Whitford, in my understanding the Speaker has just placed before us now Caribou Management Briefing. It has nothing to do with Motion 12-66 or 11-66. It is just the briefing that we are in committee on now at this moment. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That is exactly what I was going to say. We could go ahead with the Caribou Management Briefing. We could even look at I think most of that briefing which is going to be about the Kaminuriak herd. I think we can go ahead with that. We may not get finished. We may not get to Motion 11-66 until later on, so I think mostly what Mr. Whitford is concerned about is Motion 11-66. So I personally would say go ahead with this briefing from game management.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Yes. Mr. Whitford, I think possibly I might be able to assist you here. Inasmuch as this motion was put forth from the last session on a date certain and by motion put off till today, the Speaker will probably put it into committee that can be recessed until a later date so the thing does not die on the order paper. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, then can I make the motion that that be put to another day now?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): No. This would not be the proper place to make that motion. It would be when we get into committee of the whole on Motion 11-66 which deals with the subject you wish your people here on. Hon. Peter Ernerk, are you prepared to go ahead then with your briefing?

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, it does not really matter to me all that much whether or not we go ahead with it today, but one thing we must understand is that it was the direction of this committee to go ahead with it on the third day of this session, so my wildlife officers are here. I am prepared to ask the committee to invite them and ask them to appear before us for any questions the committee might have, so it seems to me that it is rather an appropriate time to go ahead. I am quite open to any suggestions at this point, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Fine. Let us proceed. We are in committee just on the management briefing section, if you would proceed, please. Call your witnesses.

News Of The North Coverage

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege I would just like to speak on the News of the North for one minute. I noticed in today's paper that they have a picture of Speaker David Searle, and it says "Finance Committee Not Doing Its Job". I think that is not what Hon. David Searle said yesterday. He did not say in my mind that the finance committee was not doing its job. Now I see another part of this newspaper where it says, "Council to Study Discontinuing Funds for Outpost Hunting Camps". I did not make that kind of motion either. I think this paper should be made to write facts instead of false statements in the newspaper. My motion was to discontinue funding of organized caribou hunts. It had nothing to do with outpost camps. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I did not say anything. Mr. Chairman, my ears perked up after Mr. Lyall finished speaking because you said "Thank you, Mr. Searle".

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): There are days when some speakers sound the same. I apologize.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the committee to invite Dr. Norm Simmons and Dr. George Calef?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Do we have the permission of this committee for the people you are inviting, Dr. Simmons and Dr. Calef?

---Agreed

Introduction Of Dr. Simmons And Dr. Calef

HON. PETER ERNERK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am sure Dr. Simmons needs no introduction. He is the superintendent of the wildlife services for the Northwest Territories government and Dr. George Calef is the biologist and scientist with the Government of the Northwest Territories. Both have studied the problems and put together some proposed policies for the Northwest Territories government for them to follow as guidelines with respect to the first motion, Motion 11-66, which concerns itself with discontinuance of the funding for organized caribou hunts in the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Your microphone, Hon. Peter Ernerk, I wonder if you might try changing it around or something? We are getting a very bad echo up here. You are very difficult to understand.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman ...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): That is much better. We heard what you said but it would be better if you move your mike.

DR. CALEF: Mr. Chairman, I have been asked to speak to the territorial Assembly today about the status of caribou in the Northwest Territories and about the various programs for caribou management which the wildlife service is now using.

Use Of Electronic Means Of Communication In The House

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, it is not my understanding that it is usual to present slide shows in committee of the whole. This is an entirely new development and I think it is not covered in the Rules of the House, it is certainly not usual. I know on previous occasions when people have wanted to use electronic means of communication that has not been allowed. I think that before this is permitted that the opinion of the committee should be determined as to whether or not this type of thing should be allowed, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. PETER ERNERK: I would just like to indicate to this House that my offices in fact checked with the office of the Clerk of the House and I understand that the arrangements were made quite some time ago.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I think this can only be resolved by way of a vote, that is on Caribou Management Briefing and presenting slides. I would like a motion to the effect that they be permitted to or not be permitted to and we can take a vote and get the feeling of the committee.

Motion To Accept Slide Presentation, Carried

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that this House accept the slide presentation by the staff of the Northwest Territories game office.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): To the motion? Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Proceed with the slide presentation.

DR. CALEF: Thank you. In order to speak to you about the status of caribou and caribou management I would first like to present a little bit of necessary background on the natural history of caribou.

Natural History Of Caribou

We have at least three kinds of caribou in the Northwest Territories and possibly four kinds as are shown on this distribution map. The first type of caribou which occupies the Arctic Islands is called Peary's caribou. These animals are relatively small caribou and they are relatively scarce and occur in small herds as compared to some of the other forms of caribou. Particularly now they are scarce and studies by the Canadian Wildlife Service over the last few years indicate that the populations on the Arctic Islands have experienced a 70 to 90 per cent decline in the last few years, but what is even more important about these animals on the Arctic Islands is that their populations are apparently controlled by weather; that is, severe winters will either kill large numbers of animals or else the reproduction of the entire population will not occur for a year or two in years of bad weather.

They also make migrations between the islands, across the sea ice in winter and spring which makes the populations difficult to census. All of these things add up to two important points, and that is that this caribou of the Arctic Islands are relatively unimportant economically and because of the weather control of these populations they are essentially unmanageable. That is to say, even if they have a large population at a given time that does not mean they will have a similarly large population a year later or a few years later.

The second type of caribou, and these are the ones which occupy the forests and mountains of the Mackenzie Valley are the Woodland or Mountain caribou. These are a larger form of caribou and adults would weigh perhaps 400 to 500 pounds. They do not form large herds and at least in the forests are somewhat secretive, difficult to hunt and they do not make migrations that are either very extensive or highly predictable. For these reasons they also are relatively unimportant as a source of food for people in the Northwest Territories.

Now, the third type of caribou, and by far the most abundant, is the Barren-ground caribou. This is the caribou with which most of us are familiar. It occupies most of the remainder of the Northwest Territories and it is the one that forms the huge spectacular migratory herds. It is this characteristic of the Barren-ground caribou of making predictable migration from the tundra environment to the forests and back again every year that makes these animals so valuable because what it means is that these animals travel relatively constant routes, they make predictable water crossings, they use certain mountain passes, go around certain lakes and so on. What this means is that hunters can go to a known water crossing and expect to find and hunt caribou, they can go to a certain mountain pass or certain area in the mountains and be quite confident that caribou are going to pass that way.

Dr. John Kelsall, who many of you may know, who was a caribou biologist for the Canadian Wildlife Service up here for some years put it quite well when he said that unlike other game, caribou quite literally come to the hunters, and a kill which is sufficient for an entire community's meat supply can be made in just a few days at the proper time and place.

I think because of the large numbers of the caribou and their predictability, Barren-ground caribou can be said to be the single most important wildlife resource in the Northwest Territories. I think it can also be said that there is no other species of wildlife in the territories that is so symbolic of the ecological or environmental health of the North, at least in the minds of southern people. Therefore, when we talk about caribou management, or when I talk about caribou management for the rest of the afternoon, I am talking primarily about the great migratory herds of Barren-ground caribou.

Eight Major Herds Of Barren-ground Caribou

Now, after quite a few years of studies which began in the late forties or early fifties we now recognize eight major herds of Barren-ground caribou and I would just like to go through these. Some of you may be familiar with the ones from your own areas and maybe some of you know all of them but I would just like to get these names established for any discussions we might have here this afternoon. Also I will give you the approximate size of each of these herds according to our most recent estimates.

I would like to move from west to east on this map of the territories. The first herd is called the Porcupine herd. There are approximately 100,000 animals in this herd right now. We share this herd or perhaps I should say the herd shares itself among the Northwest Territories, Alaska and the Yukon.

The Northwest Territories range of this herd is relatively minor, it comes only along the western edge of the Mackenzie Delta, although it is very important to Delta hunters and interestingly enough the major part of the hunting on this herd is from Northwest Territories hunters rather than Alaska or Yukon people.

The second herd is the Bluenose herd which ranges north of Great Bear Lake and east of the Mackenzie River Delta. We do not have a good population estimate of this herd. In the two most recent surveys, one showed about 35,000 caribou and the other showed about 90,000. So, it is very inconsistent and we really do not know what to make of this at the moment. There were problems with both of those surveys. A good survey should give us a better estimate.

The third herd is the Bathurst herd, the largest in the territories at approximately 150,000 animals and it ranges all the way from the Arctic Ocean in the vicinity of Bathurst Inlet to the shores of Great Slave Lake and it is hunted by communities as far apart as Cambridge Bay and Yellowknife.

The next largest herd, the next one east is the Beverly herd which we share with Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It is approximately 125,000 animals.

The herd that is so much in controversy these days is the Kaminuriak herd and it used to migrate into northern Manitoba as well as being in the territories as far north as Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet. In the last five winters it has not gone into Manitoba, or at least not far enough that the northernmost communities are able to hunt these caribou.

The next herd or herds, and the picture here is a bit confused are the ones in the northeastern Keewatin and Melville Peninsula. There are three calving grounds in this area and I should have mentioned that the yellow areas on the map here are the areas where the various herds calve. There are approximately 45,000 animals on Melville Peninsula and perhaps 25,000 or so around Wager Bay. So we do not know whether to consider this whole region one herd or to consider that there are two or three separate herds.

Then, the final region is Baffin and it is the area of which we know the least about the caribou. Our estimates there can only be considered educated guesses and we do not know enough to say whether the caribou on North and South Baffin are discrete herds or whether the entire Baffin caribou population can be considered in one herd.

Population Trend Of Caribou

The next information I would like to present is the population trend that we either know or suspect to be occurring in each of these herds, that is whether the herd is stable, increasing or decreasing in numbers and to try and relate this to the percentage or the amount of kill that the herd is experiencing from hunting. Can you all read those or would you like me to read off the numbers?

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, one of the objections to having slide presentations is that there is nothing in the record, nobody can take a record of these debates and ascertain what we were talking about. Therefore I imagine it would be much more preferable if important figures like this were able to be read into the record.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The point is well taken. Would you read the figures, please?

DR. CALEF: All right. The first herd is the Baffin herd. We suspect that this herd is decreasing and the kill, according to our estimates which admittedly are very poor on both the kill and the herd size, we estimate that about nine per cent of the population is taken annually.

The Kaminuriak herd is also known to be decreasing and the reported kill there is 7.3 per cent of the herd size at present.

The Bathurst herd is indicated to be stable but there is a possibility that it might be decreasing in size slowly. The kill there is reported to be 4.6 per cent of the population.

The Beverly and Porcupine herds are known to be stable at present and the kill there is 1.2 per cent annually on the Beverly herd and 1.5 per cent for the Porcupine herd.

The Melville Peninsula herd, the Bluenose herd and the Wager Bay herd are all at least stable and most likely increasing. The kills there are 1.5 per cent for the Melville Peninsula, 0.7 per cent for the Bluenose and essentially no harvest at all for the Wager Bay herd.

Decreasing Herds

The point I want to make is that there is a very definite trend here in that the herds that are known to be most heavily hunted are the ones which are decreasing and the herds which are the most likely to be increasing and certainly are in no danger of decreasing are the ones which are the most lightly hunted. The major point that I want to make about this is not so much that declines are occurring in some caribou herds, although that in my opinion has been demonstrated, but that they can occur. I think we have reached the point now where we can not consider any of our major Barren-ground caribou herds to be invulnerable to overhunting and no matter how remote they are and no matter how large they are in size they can no longer be considered invulnerable.

Just as an example I would like to draw your attention to the Arctic herd in Alaska which was the largest herd in North America several years ago. It was a quarter of a million animals at least in number in 1970. Within five years it had decreased to 100,000 animals and the population declined even more to only 50,000 animals. All of our caribou herds are accessible by aircraft. The presence of skidoos in large numbers in most of the communities has increased the ability of people to reach caribou, to chase and catch caribou and the populations in many areas are increasing. All of these things mean that there is now the potential for overkilling of all of our caribou herds. The point of all this is that I think we have reached a new era in caribou management in which we now must monitor the size and the health of our caribou populations more closely than in the past. We can not count on remoteness or size or small populations of hunters to ensure that those herds are going to remain. So what I would like to move to now is an outline of the plan that we are now trying to implement for the population monitoring of all of the Northwest Territories caribou herds.

Plan For Population Monitoring Of Caribou

As I mentioned before, there are eight major herds and these conveniently may be divided between the four administrative regions in the Northwest Territories. They divide like this:

The Porcupine herd and Bluenose herd are hunted mainly by communities that are within the Inuvik region and the range of these herds is mostly within the Inuvik region.

The Bathurst and Beverly herds fall most logically in the jurisdiction of the Fort Smith region.

The Kaminuriak herd and the Wager Bay herds fall into the Keewatin region.

The Melville Peninsula herd and the Baffin herd or herds fall to the Baffin region.

What we have tried to do is design a program by which each of these major herds can be monitored in terms of its number and productivity and the level it is being harvested at in all of these regions on a continual basis, on a routine basis. We have tried to regionalize this program so that fish and wildlife officers from each region have been trained in the various techniques that are required to monitor the herds. We have also tried to standardize to the extent possible the types of population estimates and types of productivity censuses that we use on each of these herds so that we can compare within the region, compare from year to year because in the past these things have suffered from a variety of methods being used, a lack of continuity when biologists or wildlife officers leave a region and so on, so I would just like to describe the types of data that we are now attempting to collect with this program.

Types Of Data Being Collected

The most important thing is to get an estimate of the total numbers of caribou in a herd. Now, if conditions could be this ideal all the time we would have no trouble. This shows essentially the entire Porcupine caribou herd standing in one group and we could take an aerial photo with aircraft and fly over this herd and just photograph them like a clump of trees or bunch of rocks or whatever and count them very easily. Unfortunately most of the herds in the territories do not get into one large group like this in the summer. There may be 20 or 30 of these things that are scattered over 20,000 or 30,000 square miles and they are very difficult to find. Therefore, the technique that we use now is to go to the calving grounds which is the one area where all of the reproductive females from the population go each year to have their calves.

This is the goal of the spring migration. We wait until those animals are on this particular area, we wait until they have given birth to their calves and then we do an aerial survey over this area that contains the calves and we cover ten to 30 or 40 per cent of the area and get an estimate of the numbers. Now this only tells us the number of females in the herd. To get a total number in the herd we have to add the bulls, yearlings and the calves. We can get the calves on the calving ground. We have to add the bulls and the yearlings which are not on the calving grounds when the females arrive. So, to do that we go out in the fall after the bulls which this picture shows; the bulls during the summer and early fall are separate from the cows and the calves. During the rut or breeding all the age groups and sex classes come together. You can see here, for example, there are four mature bulls, there are four cows and a calf and that antlerless animal in the middle is probably also a cow. The point being that now we can compare the number of cows with the number of other animals and we can come up with a total count for the herd.

How Herd Increases Are Calculated

This activity takes place right at freeze-up in most of the territories, so we have to go to helicopters for doing this type of work and that makes the fall classification quite an expensive operation, but in addition to getting the total population at that point, we also get an estimate of what percentage of the calves that were born in the spring have survived through to the fall so we get an estimate of the mortality to calves that has occurred over the summer.

Then in the spring just before the beginning of the spring migration back to the calving grounds we do another classification count. The weather is good at this time and the lakes are frozen, we can land on the lakes with fixed wing aircraft and put into camp and wait at known migration points for the caribou to come by. We can count the calves again and this gives us an estimate of the number of calves that have survived essentially the whole of the first year. So this tells us by what amount has the herd increased over a one year period.

Monitoring The Number Of Caribou Killed

The other factor that is very important to consider on caribou herds is the kill and in every community we are making an attempt to monitor the number of animals that are killed. In all cases this is done by asking hunters who apply for a general hunting licence to report their kill the previous year. This is what we rely on mostly. In some communities there are door-to-door surveys done by fish and wildlife officers or by people who have been hired by the wildlife service to collect these statistics. Sometimes we have nothing more than just the observation of the wildlife officer kind of watching what comes into the community.

The last part of this program which we consider very important but which is not in place at present because of the objections of some of the residents in the Northwest Territories is a tagging program by which we would put neck collars on animals from each of the herds to enable us to follow movements and to detect movements between herds, exchanges between herds. To do this we use the same procedure that the hunters do. They go to water crossings. We wait for the animals to swim the river. We approach them in a boat. They are brought alongside with a shepherd's crook and they are fitted with one of these coloured plastic collars. Then this allows us to detect the movements of the animals and to tell if caribou have gone from one herd to another. As I say, we consider this important but this aspect of the program is not in place right now.

The Decrease Of The Kaminuriak Herd

Now I would like to move for a moment to one of the herds that is decreasing. This is the Kaminuriak herd whose range -- I guess I should say previous range -- is shown here. This is the range that the herd occupied, let us say, in the late 1960s when it still went into Manitoba and was important to some of the northern communities there. This herd is known to have declined from about 63,000 animals in 1968 to just over 40,000 animals in 1977. It is possible that it has been declining for a much longer time because in the 1950s it was estimated at well over 100,000 animals.

Now, you might ask why did it take so long for this information to come out and for us to be sure -- I am sorry, if I could make one more point here. This is additional evidence for the fact that the herd has declined. You can see that in the 1950s the caribou from the Kaminuriak herd went very far south into Manitoba, in fact even as far as the Ontario border. By the early to mid-1960s there were very few animals going south of the Churchill River and in the 1970s there were few animals going into Manitoba and in the last few years there have been almost none. So, not only have the numbers been shrinking but the range occupied by the caribou have been decreasing also. However, the animals have continued to use the same calving grounds every year and this for example is the area we would go to to do our surveys to estimate the size of the Kaminuriak herd.

Now, to come back to the question of why it took us so long to come to the conclusion that this herd is declining, the sloping line there shows the decline of the herd as we think it occurred. The vertical bars show the possible population size at any given time, and you can see there is a very large range of possibility for the population at any given time. In other words our surveys, despite the improvements that have been made, and despite the increased effort and money that has been spent on the surveys, are by no means perfect. At the moment we are getting plus or minus 20 per cent accuracy on a sort of average survey. So, really it was not until we did three or four of these surveys that showed the continuous decline and where we got a population that was considerably smaller could we really be confident.

Why The Kaminuriak Herd Is Declining

Now we come to the central question which is why is the Kaminuriak herd declining? As long as you are considering financial statements I will put up here a balance sheet for the Kaminuriak herd. This is input and output to the Kaminuriak herd as we can best estimate it. We will consider one year which we believe would be representative of the year that has just passed. In the spring of 1977 the herd was estimated at 44,000 animals. Now, from that we estimate that there would be 13,000 calves produced. This is the maximum number that that herd could possibly increase in a year, 13,000 animals, that is the number of live-born calves.

However, our study showed that three-quarters of those calves will die in the first year from a variety of causes; accidents, wolves, bad weather, diseases, any number of things but the point is that of the 13,000 born, 10,000 or so will die by spring. We believe that the wolves kill in addition to many of the calves, at least 2000 adults and we believe that approximately 1500 caribou each year would die from causes other than wolves and other than hunting; that would be accidents, disease, old age, bad weather and so on and we have had a kill of approximately 3000 animals a year reported from the communities in Keewatin, and it used to be the communities in Manitoba also contributed to this kill. If you add the figures up it is 13,000 new calves come into the herd, there are 16,500 animals dying each year which means there is a net loss of over 3000 animals a year, and that is an approximate loss of eight per cent of the herd and we suspect that the herd is decreasing by this amount and so right now if I had to guess how many caribou there were in the Kaminuriak herd I would say around 40,000 animals. Now, this type of trend has been going on for at least ten years in that herd.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef, we are a little past coffee time and we do not want to rush your presentation but if you have quite a bit to go we will break or recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

DR. CALEF: I think I can finish it up in about five minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): What is the direction of the committee? Shall we proceed?

---Agreed

DR. CALEF: This is another way of representing what happens each year. If each of these animals represents 1000 caribou the green indicates the net increase to the herd and the red shows the net losses and you can see that the losses are greater than the gains and therefore the herd is going to decline.

I would just like to put in one other figure which shows that that caribou herd would be and is very sensitive to the rate at which calves die, or the rate at which calves survive and the bottom line shows the declining population and that is what is happening now with three-quarters of the calves dying. If only 60 per cent of the calves died each year we should have a fairly stable population and if only half the calves died every year the population would increase slowly, if all other conditions stayed the same.

What Can Be Done About The Declining Herd

Now, the next question is the herd is declining and what can be done about it? There are only two things in my opinion that can be done now to cause the Kaminuriak herd to increase or at least to stop decreasing and one is to reduce the hunting which is a loss to the herd and the other possibility is to reduce the number of predators which are taking animals and killing calves.

This brings us around to the final aspect of my presentation this afternoon and that is that even though we think our ability to monitor caribou populations has increased, it is by no means perfect as I have showed you this afternoon and as I am sure you are aware already. We need to do additional research on caribou to improve both our abilities to detect population changes, but also to understand what would be the consequences of the various things that we might do to manage caribou if declines are detected. Just to run through this briefly, we need to develop new methods of estimating the total population and this includes the use of aerial photography and other remote sensing techniques to try and get better counts of the caribou. It means improving our training programs for the wildlife officers and so on and the other thing I believe is very important is the need to have a much better understanding of the relationship between the wolves and the migratory caribou population.

These types of studies are going to require the marking of wolves and the following of the whole life cycle of both wolves and caribou to try and understand how one affects the increase or decrease of the other and so on because the only tools that we have to manage caribou population at the moment are the control of hunters and the control of predators. Thank you.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Coffee.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Dr. Calef, for a presentation very well done. Does this conclude your Caribou Management Briefing, Hon. Peter Ernerk?

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I would have thought that the Members would have been prepared to put their questions together as a result of the presentation this afternoon by Dr. Calef.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you very much. We will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls this committee back to order. The Hon. Peter Ernerk, does this conclude your management briefing and are we open now for questioning, is that the pattern you would intend us to follow?

HON. PETER ERNERK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to correct myself as there are one or two statements I made with respect to the motions. I understand we are not talking about the motions themselves but we are talking about the briefing on the herds in the Northwest Territories and I just wanted to establish that part. So, we are ready for your questions.

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

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to thank Dr. Calef for an excellent presentation, most informative and I am sure we all know a great deal more now about caribou management and the problems of caribou management than we did before. This is not a question, Mr. Chairman, this is a brilliant proposal to save the Kaminuriak herd. We are being told that the problems are on the one hand overhunting and on the other hand to predators.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Could you slow down? The interpreters are having trouble.

MR. NICKERSON: It seems both these problems could be killed with one stone if you adopted a system of handing out two caribou tags for every dead wolf that was brought in, the problem would solve itself.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Questions? Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Greatest Possible Recruitment To The Herd

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am at Mr. Pudluk's seat although it is in English not Inuktitut. Mr. Chairman, I would like to direct two questions to Dr. Calef if I may. Dr. Calef, in the figures I think on the Kaminuriak herd you indicated that the greatest possible recruitment to the herd based on the 1977 population, estimated population which I think was 44,000 would be 13,000, which is roughly about a 30 per cent recruitment to the herd. Can you make a generalization that that was applicable to all herds, in other words that the 30 per cent recruitment is a figure, or is that a fair statement or question for me to ask?

DR. CALEF: Is my light on?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: Thank you. Yes, it is a very good generalization. About the only really consistent thing that you can say about all caribou herds is that almost all the females have calves every year and the females are about 60 per cent of the population and therefore when you express calves as a total percentage of animals every year it comes out to about 30 per cent.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, just one further question then. In the same set of figures I think you indicated that the wolf kill was somewhere in the vicinity of 2000. Now, is that wolf kill in addition -- is that a total wolf kill or is that just a figure for wolf kill in relation to other members of the herd? Obviously it would seem to me that within the three-quarter death mortality rate among calves that some of that would be wolf kill as well. The 2000 that you indicated is not a true wolf kill, it would be more than that or are you saying that of 44,000 caribou, wolves kill 2000 of them?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: That was supposed to represent the number of adult caribou killed by wolves. We expect that a large percentage of the calves that die are also taken by wolves.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the wolf kill then on the adults or yearlings and adult caribou, together with the hunter kill represents a total then of approximately 11 to 12 per cent, 3000 indicated was the hunter kill, 2000 being wolf kill of adult caribou. Again can you make a generalization and say that that would be roughly a figure to deal with regardless of the size of the herd?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

Variable Hunting Pressure On Herds

DR. CALEF: Well, I put up that slide that showed the variable hunting pressure on the different herds. You know, you can not say there is a constant percentage of hunter kill for each herd. I would not say we know enough about the wolves to be able to generalize, but assuming that there has not been a real high level of hunting or trapping of wolves on most caribou ranges and we have not had a control program on wolves for over ten years now, probably a kill of up to five per cent of the adult caribou in the herd each year by wolves is a reasonable figure.

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

MR. NICKERSON: I had one question, Mr. Chairman, which can be answered very simply and quickly. On the map displayed on the slides, there it looked like the animals that were to be found in the vicinity of Baker Lake were not members of the Kaminuriak herd as I had believed in the past but were rather members of the Beverly herd. Is that a correct assumption, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: Both are correct. Both of those herds have the northern boundary of their ranges around Baker Lake. The Beverly herd ranges mostly west of the settlement of Baker Lake but it also goes northwest of Baker Lake in the summer. Certainly a lot of the caribou that are killed by Baker Lake residents are Beverly animals and in fact one of the hardest problems that we have had in trying to reconstruct population dynamics of the Kaminuriak herd is to decide what percentage of the reported kill from Baker Lake should be assigned to the Kaminuriak herd and what percentage to the Beverly herd. But certainly the Kaminuriak animals also come near the settlement and near Chesterfield Inlet.

Stability Of Beverly Herd.

MR. NICKERSON: If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, we have been told that the Beverly herd is stable with a percentage kill of only four per cent. Matters in the vicinity of Baker Lake might not be anywhere near as critical as what we have been led to believe by articles appearing in the newspapers and on radio and television. Is that a correct assumption also, that the main problem is at Eskimo Point/Whale Cove area where they would get their caribou almost exclusively from the Kaminuriak herd?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: Yes, that is correct. Baker Lake does hunt from two herds, whereas the other ones hunt from only one.

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I just have a question. I am confused here like Hon. Arnold McCallum on the calves dying. The figures come to 10,000 calves dying, a wolf kill of 2000, other deaths 1500 and hunters 3000. How do they determine the amount of calves dying, killed by wolves? If so, are they killing the calves or killing the herd? I am just confused on those figures, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: Okay. I will try to explain it again. The way we determine the number of calves that survive one year is just by comparing the number that are born with the number that are alive one year later. So we know that approximately 13,000 are born. In the spring three-quarters of those have died. We can tell that by the percentage of calves to other animals. I did not include the number of calves killed by wolves with my figure for the wolf kill. My figure of 2000 for wolf kill was adult only, but some of the calves that died were obviously killed by wolves. We just do not know what percentage that is. It might be most of them or it might be fewer. Certainly some. We know wolves kill a lot of calves.

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, another question I would like to ask the witnesses. While they are doing this caribou survey would it not be possible to do a wolf survey at the same time and kill two birds with one stone or two caribou?

Problems With Wolf Surveys

DR. CALEF: Well, we do make notes of most of the other wildlife that we see when we are doing caribou surveys. Unfortunately, our caribou surveys for the most part are only on limited areas like the calving grounds, you know, small areas that are occupied during the rut. We are only seeing a small percentage of the total caribou range.

The other problem is that wolves are much harder to see and in some areas they actually will make an attempt to hide when an aircraft comes over. So we assume that we are only seeing a small percentage of the wolves. But if you are looking for information on how many wolves are around, we can get some sort of evidence, for example, from the number of wolves that are killed or trapped from various communities. I can tell you that over the last three or four years something like 100 to 250 wolves per year have been taken from the settlement of Eskimo Point alone. This year in Coppermine there is a part of the Bathurst herd entering Coppermine and we have reports of between 300 and 500 wolves killed just by people of the settlement of Coppermine.

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I have one final question for the witnesses. Would you say then that declining caribou herds were caused by the use of skidoos and fast vehicles whereas years ago they had to go with dogs and could not cover the distance that they cover now?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: I certainly am not going to attribute caribou declines just to skidoos or specifically to skidoos, but certainly the skidoo makes a hunter or a community of hunters much more efficient, wide ranging hunters. I think that there is a danger that skidoos can be misused to chase caribou so that not only are some killed when the hunter shoots them but the ones that are not killed have been chased and exhausted or tired out or whatever and these may not survive as well as if they had not been chased. I personally do consider hunting from skidoos in which animals are chased for a long distance to be a dangerous practice.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Association Of Wolves With Caribou

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I just wanted, Mr. Chairman, to follow up on this business of wolves, being a continuous reader of Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book. Seriously, do wolves follow the herds in packs for long distances or do they just sort of pick off animals as the herd passes through the particular area in which the wolves exist?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: I think the biggest gap in our knowledge of caribou in the Northwest Territories is the details of how wolves are associated with the caribou. We have two different kinds of wolves for a start.

We have timber wolves and barren ground wolves and we know that at least on the winter ranges where the caribou are not moving great distances rapidly the wolves are in close association with those caribou. When they move in the spring the wolves move with them for a while, but there is one theory that suggests that most of the wolves will drop off from the migration at about the tree line and will den up there in the big eskers and so on near the tree line. The caribou go to the calving grounds where there is a relatively small population of wolves or perhaps only young wolves or unproductive wolves will follow the caribou to the calving grounds, that on some herds, for example, the Beverly Lake herd, we see lots of wolves on the calving ground. However, we have no way of knowing whether they have overwintered there or whether they have followed the caribou or what. It is a real big unknown. Even within that we do not know, for example, whether the wolves that are associated with the caribou in winter are in packs or whether they are just large bunches, aggregations of wolves. We do not know whether they defend territories on the winter range or on the summer range. These are all relative unknowns and I think these are some of the things that we are going to have to know before we can predict exactly how great an effect wolves had and then conversely what would happen if we tried to control wolves.

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

Study On Wolves Needed

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I guess the thing that is running through my mind, Mr. Chairman, is that if you have as many wolves as we have heard here, 500 or 600 taken in various settlements, if those are in the area of the herd, then you start thinking about what it must take to feed a single wolf. I do not know how many caribou. Would it be one or ten? It may well be that what we should start to study is the wolf. I do not know how easy that is. I think he is a pretty shy and sneaky animal and pretty difficult to observe, or indeed to count even.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Any comment, Dr. Calef?

DR. CALEF: I agree with everything he said. We should be studying wolves and they are hard to study. There have been wolf studies done in other regions. There have been quite good wolf studies done in Alaska. Unfortunately the reason that those studies do not apply completely to the Canadian, or at least to the Northwest Territories, situation is that in Alaska you have sheep and moose as alternate prey for the wolves and there you have the situation that seems typical of most wolf populations that have been studied and that is that they have territories that are based on the prey that does not migrate like the moose and the sheep. The caribou are taken as they go through the area but in the territories or the central part of the territories there is no other prey except the caribou. So, somehow the wolves have got to move with the caribou, at least during most seasons. In summer they have other prey available but in the winter it is caribou only.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask possibly one other question of Dr. Calef. In the information gathering system that you have you indicated that in some cases you went door-to-door to inquire of the hunter how large a kill, and you tried to get information in terms of that, or in that way. In terms of the Beverly/Kaminuriak herds, how do you obtain information from kills that would be done in Saskatchewan and/or Manitoba? Is it done through correspondence with the people there or do in fact our people go into that area personally, and what kind -- I guess I mean sequential to that, what kind of communication, is the dialogue good between the provinces and the territories in that respect?

Caribou Technical Committee And Caribou Management Group

DR. CALEF: Well, we have what is called a caribou technical committee and there is also a caribou management group with the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. I am the Northwest Territories representative to the technical committee which is a group of biologists who meet to discuss the current information about the herds, including the kill. We meet once or twice a year or as necessary to discuss these things, to discuss how we can improve techniques and so on and then this information is made available to the caribou management group which are the directors of the various wildlife services or departments like Dr. Simmons is our representative to the management group and these are the people who are making the management recommendations based on our findings. So, we have good information. I mean, we have as good information as Saskatchewan has, we get it, but they have the same problems we do.

Concerning your question about Northwest Territories hunters going into the provinces it does not work that way but we have the opposite problem that native groups from the provinces are coming into, and increasingly asking to come into, the territories to hunt caribou.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCallum: I guess that is what I was going to go into next. I know that we have had representations, or at least indications that people from the provinces are moving in for hunting and trapping and from some of the northern areas, especially in Saskatchewan I think, into that area inhabited by the Beverly herd, not just for caribou but for other purposes. Mr. Chairman, I would think and I do not want to get too involved with the figures, but with a 30 per cent recruitment to a herd, and a 75 per cent mortality rate and of the recruitment to a particular herd, 60 per cent of them being the female caribou, it would seem to me that with the number of female caribou being killed off by various means is a really difficult

process. It would seem to me based on those kind of figures to say that without some kind of control, either through wolf control and/or some kind, and I hate to say reduction in hunter kill, but some kind of control I do not see how any of the herds are going to maintain the particular populations so they would continue to survive.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Any comment, Dr. Calef?

New Era In Caribou Management

DR. CALEF: That is the point I tried to make very strongly that I think we are entering right now into a new era in terms of caribou management where we can not assume that any of our herds have a lot of scope for increased hunting. I think we are right at the limit on most of them at the moment including the Beverly herd, and it is stable, the kill is four per cent and it could easily go to six per cent depending on where the herd winters. Incidentally in the last two years our information is that that herd has gone a little bit further south into Saskatchewan and so on. For example I understand the people from Fort Chipewyan are hunting that herd this winter and that is in Alberta, which has not occurred for the last 20 years. So, we can not be complacent about any of the herds. That is my major message to you this afternoon, there is no room for complacency in caribou management now.

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

MR. LYALL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the question I was going to ask Dr. Calef was close to one that Hon. David Searle asked. The first batch of caribou that went into Coppermine this year were followed by something like 250 wolves that could be seen at one time. This year they have somewhere in the vicinity of 400 pelts so far in Coppermine and that is just out of Coppermine itself, but all along in Bathurst Inlet and Baychimo and over to the Perry Island camp and also in Cambridge Bay you are getting a large number of wolves taken by those communities. My question was I wonder when game management is doing a survey on caribou are they also counting the number of wolves following the herd?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

Timing Of Caribou Surveys

DR. CALEF: Yes, we do count wolves whenever we see them, we take note of them, but most of our surveys are not done during this period where the wolves are most closely associated with the caribou and most visible, that is the winter period. You remember I said we have three surveys a year, we do one in the spring, in June on the calving grounds and usually there are not as many wolves around. In fact that is one theory for why caribou migrate and why they do go to the specific areas for calving, maybe there are fewer wolves there and the wolves do not follow them. The next survey we do is the fall, during the rut where often there is not complete snow cover yet and the animals are in the trees and so on and so we do not get good counts there. The third survey is in the late winter, March and April and that is where we do see wolves. Just to give an example I did a survey on the Beverly herd last spring as it was migrating towards the calving grounds and we counted 100 wolves in two and a half days but again the purpose was not to survey wolves and wolves are much harder to see than caribou. So, that only gives you a very poor indication of how many were there.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if knowing that the caribou are still running around the airport in Coppermine and quite close to the settlement, I wonder if it is possible for game management to go up there right now to check out and see how many wolves are still around that herd? I do not think the caribou are far away right now. At Coppermine they might be 40 miles out, but they are really just concentrated in the settlement. As a matter of fact when the caribou come into Coppermine you can play pool in your room and look outside and see them feeding about 20 feet away from you. I think it would be a good idea if the game department, while the herd was close by, could go and see if there are any packs of wolves around there.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

Study Of Wolves In Coppermine Would Have Been Valuable

DR. CALEF: Yes, we could do that and it would be an interesting thing to find out but the point is we already know that there are wolves, lots of wolves or some wolves associated with these caribou herds and we know that they are killing caribou, some caribou or lots of caribou, it is all indefinite. What is required is very detailed studies that follow up on this over a period of time. For example we want to know what percentage of those wolves are young wolves and when the caribou go to the calving grounds in the spring how many of those wolves are going to go to the calving grounds. How many caribou will those wolves kill? What do they do? Are those wolves going to stay around Coppermine next year if fewer caribou come? These are the sort of questions that will let us understand the effect of the wolves on the caribou. I would say the one thing we sort of missed the boat on this year in Coppermine is that it would have been good for us to collect the carcasses from those wolves so we had the age and the weight and the sex ratio and so on. That would have been worth doing, but just going to count the wolves really will not tell us much we do not know already.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me though that all across the coast as far east as Perry Island there are quite a few wolves being taken this year, even right within the community of Coppermine and I wonder if we could get the heads from all the wolves that are taken, they must still be around the settlement somewhere, just to find out what age they are. Have there been any reports of any tags taken from any of those wolves?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: I have spoken to the wildlife officer in Coppermine when he was here last week and I told him to keep very good records on the number of wolves taken and so on. I told him I would like to get some carcasses or heads

although I think probably we are more likely to gear up for this next year, particularly if we do get a wolf study started on the Bathurst caribou herd. He is aware that we think this is really quite extraordinary that that many wolves have been taken and we would like to know as much about them as we can.

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

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid to say I have forgotten the very important questions I had in mind.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I would give you time to think of some of them.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I was so engrossed in the discussion going back and forth here.

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

Studies On Breeding Grounds And Overpopulation

MR. LAFFERTY: Dr. Calef, in your recent studies of the caribou herds are you undertaking any studies of the breeding grounds and the overpopulation of wolves or the increase in wolf population that may have some effect on the caribou migration and be forcing caribou to seek new grounds? In your studies is there any research being carried out on the grounds of the caribou herds?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: There is not much going on at the moment by our department. There is some work going on on the Beverly caribou herd winter range by a university group but we feel that the research that has been done in the past on the range, and there is quite a bit of it, has indicated that range is very unlikely to be limiting to caribou. We think there is enough food for many times the number of caribou we have now even including areas burned off by forest fires which is a natural occurrence and as far as the wolves causing caribou to change their migration we have not seen any unusual patterns of movement or distribution in the caribou. Most of the herds seem to be in areas where they have been reported before.

But I would like to say again it is difficult to tell whether unusual things are occurring unless we have animals marked in the population. If we have this, then if a group of animals turn up somewhere where they have not been recorded before or it does not seem like they should be, then we can see where they came from. Similarly sometimes you hear the argument "Well, maybe these herds that are declining are declining because the animals are moving somewhere else." We just can not comment on that unless we have some way of marking the animals to follow their movements.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Lafferty, will you speak up? We are having a little difficulty hearing you.

Studies On The Effects Of Tagging And Collaring Of Animals

MR. LAFFERTY: Dr. Calef, you have mentioned marking the caribou. Is there any study or research carried out on the effects of tagging animals, putting collars and so forth on them? I ask this question as it has been brought to my attention that some animals that have had collars on them, that are tagged, somehow when they are killed they are thin. They are not very healthy. This could be an isolated incident but nevertheless it is a cause to ask the very question I did. Do you carry out a study on the effects of tagging and collaring of animals?

DR. CALEF: We, the wildlife service here, have not conducted studies on the effect of tagging. However, we have had the return of hundreds and hundreds of tagged animals, both ear-tagged and collars, which show that they survive over many years. For example, just this morning the wildlife officer in Fort Smith called me. He had a report from Saskatchewan of a caribou that was shot there and he gave me the tag number. We looked it up and that animal had been tagged in 1973 near Baker Lake and it was an adult at the time, so it was at least ten years old now, this year when it was killed. Again I have no information on the condition of that animal but we have, as I say, hundreds of tag returns from ear-tagged animals and from collared animals that show that they are at least alive and that they are surviving.

It would be really difficult to do experiments, you know, to directly show there was no effect because, for example, if we tagged animals and put them in pens or something like this so that we could watch them then they would not experience the same condition that the wild animals experience. I think the only fair way to do it would be to shoot some tagged animals and some untagged animals and take the meat from both of them, keep track of it and give it to people and say "Which one is tagged and which one is not?" If they could not tell the difference, we would assume it is all right. You see, so many times people say "I shot this animal and it was tagged and the meat did not taste good." They knew he was tagged already and if they have prejudices about it, then, you know, there is nothing we can do to convince them.

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

MR. LAFFERTY: Dr. Calef, I have another question ...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Speak up, please.

Studies On The Effects Of Weather On Caribou

MR. LAFFERTY: I do. I have got this thing right in my mouth. Dr. Calef, I have another question that stems from the old trappers and so on who have said to me that sometimes weather conditions do have an effect on animals which are calving or rutting. Are these kinds of studies on weather conditions undertaken outside of the periods of migration of these animals?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: Yes. These studies are not done directly on the effect of weather, but we are aware that sometimes a storm on the calving ground will kill a lot of calves, or very hard winter conditions will result in weak calves being born the next spring and a lot of those will die and this sort of thing. I can show you examples in which we know that whole year classes of calves have died, where there has been essentially no survival of a group of calves. This is why we conduct our surveys three times a year, June, October and March to April, because if we do not see a healthy calf crop produced in spring, then we immediately know something is wrong and maybe we can go back and ask was it an exceptionally hard winter? Was there deep snow or freezing rain or something the winter before? If we get a normal calf crop and then very few calves turn up in the fall, then we say, were there bad storms during the summer or very cold weather or something like this? In other words, why did the calves we know were born in June not survive through until October? If we still have lots of calves in October, then we look again in March and we say did they survive the winter? So basically we are looking at the number produced, the number that survived the summer and then the number that survived the winter. If we do not see survival, then we might be able to relate this to weather.

MR. LAFFERTY: My final question is directed to Dr. Simmons. I would like to ask Dr. Simmons if all hunter kills of caribou are recorded. Has he any knowledge or accurate information as to the numbers of animals killed on an annual basis?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. SIMMONS: Excuse me.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Simmons, excuse me.

Returns Entered On General Hunting Licences

DR. SIMMONS: We must rely for the most part on the returns entered on the general hunting licences for our annual estimate of kill. As Dr. Calef mentioned earlier, we have been trying to supplement this information with door-to-door surveys on occasion, particularly in the Keewatin and some other communities.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Is this your final, final question, Mr. Lafferty?

MR. LAFFERTY: Yes. Supplementary to that question, I just understood that the department relies upon the records on the back of the general hunting licence. This is my final question for sure. Dr. Simmons, can you tell me or this Assembly if all the general hunting licences that are turned in at the end of the year have the numbers of animals killed on them?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Simmons.

DR. SIMMONS: I do not think I can give an accurate answer to that but I can say, however, that since I have been here our officers have made a special effort to talk about the hunter kill return with each general hunting licence holder when he comes into the office to renew his licence. But beyond that I am afraid I can not comment.

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

MR. PEARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are so kind. I have waited patiently. One of the questions that concerns me is the accuracy of the forecasts. The gentlemen have quoted authorities in 1950, for example. How accurate were they in 1950? It seems they are hardly what one can consider accurate in 1979. How accurate were those figures and do they show a true figure? That is do they show a true figure of the decline?

Accuracy Of Earlier Surveys

DR. CALEF: There is no question that the surveys that were done in the 1950s were not accurate and they were not even as accurate as our surveys now which, as I have said, have typical confidence intervals of around plus or minus 20 per cent. This is for probably three reasons. One, the knowledge of the distribution of caribou was very rudimentary at that time. The first man who came here to study caribou, Banfield, recognized something like 13 separate herds because he was looking at winter distribution and the Kaminuriak herd for example might break up into four or five different groups during the winter but they all go to the same calving ground so they did not know which groups to attribute to a single herd and they did their surveys in the winter in the forest when it is much more difficult to see animals than it is on the calving ground. The second reason is that they just did not do as great a coverage of the area as we do now because they were surveying in the winter much larger areas than the calving grounds. The third thing is they really did not put statistical confidence limits on their estimates. So all of these things mean they were not very good. But there is supplementary evidence to suggest that, for example, in terms of the Kaminuriak herd which I suspect you are coming to, the range was much, much larger at that time and normally one associates increased use of range with increased numbers of caribou, so there were more.

The question was how much more, how many more? That is why I said we know the herd has declined since 1968 and we suspect that it has declined before then.

Studies Of Caribou Herds In The Baffin

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a list of questions. It was I think eight years ago in this Assembly that I asked that there be a more detailed study of the caribou herd in the Baffin region and at that time it was indicated to us that there just were not the funds. The funds were not available to carry out these extensive surveys, as they should be, to determine the number of animals on Baffin particularly. I gather this situation is still as grim as it was then.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: I hope it is not quite as grim. We made an attempt to do a reasonable survey on South Baffin this year. It was a failure because of weather. Baffin Island, of those eight herds that I mentioned, there is no question that Baffin Island is the most difficult one to do for the reason that the caribou do not have quite as distinctive calving grounds, or at least we do not know them as well as we do for the other herds. The weather and terrain are very serious problems. I am suggesting right now that we attempt to do a different type of survey than a calving ground survey on Baffin. I see no reason why it should be impossible to find out how many caribou there are on Baffin.

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

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that because of the importance of this resource to the North and because contrary to some people's opinions a great number of native people depend upon their land for their food, even in large cosmopolitan towns like Frobisher Bay, they depend tremendously on it. They depend tremendously on the land and particularly upon caribou. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that this House should support a vigorous increase in the approach these people take.

Native People Employed In Wildlife

Now, in getting to that the question, or the other question that has always bothered me with respect to this particular department is the few native people they employ, or the too few native people that this department employs and historically it has always been the same, it is something that has surprised me and dismayed me. It would seem to me that with the economic situation as it is in the Northwest Territories today, and the willingness on the part of Manpower, or apparent willingness of the federal government to make funds available for special winter works projects and things of this sort, perhaps this might be an area that this department could take a look at and encourage and provide jobs for native people to go out and look. Nobody knows the land better than they do; nobody, all the doctors and scientists and nobody else, no one knows the land like the native people, and I am sure that great use could be made of that kind of project across the Northwest Territories to carry out these kind of surveys in the winter when things are rough. I get a nod so I gather that that is an agreement.

The other question or one other question, there are really several other questions, and that is what about the use of satellite photography? The use of satellite photography, by that it is known that satellites are capable of taking photographs hundreds of miles up in the sky which can be analysed, photographs can be analysed by experts or by computer and they can work out the number plate on a motor vehicle. The technology is capable of that and perhaps the people who have satellites whipping around up there, and apparently there are hundreds of them, but perhaps they could be called upon to take photographs of the North and provide the detailed information to the department that they could use.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I might answer part of that question and the technical part I will hand over to either Dr. Simmons or Dr. Calef. I think Mr. Pearson made some very good suggestions with respect to one or two things in this discussion this afternoon. I think what the wildlife department is basically saying to this House is that they will try to do a much better job of collecting information with respect to the wildlife in the territories and obviously he includes caribou and other various types of animals in the Northwest Territories. It is really too bad that Mr. Pearson did not come to Yellowknife early last week and observe the all-staff conference that was held where a number of native people attended.

Native Employment In The Public Service

The reason why I would like to make the following comments is because I have always had a particular interest when it comes to the hiring of native people within the government's civil service. I believe that hiring more native people in the communities to work will be important and has been important in the past, but it will be much more important in the future because the people in the Northwest Territories who were so nomadic in the past years are now getting into fairly sophisticated technology, into modern society. Mind you there are older people who really do not understand as yet what the modern technology is all about. As a result of that we, within the department of wildlife, as part of our directions for 1980 will take on the responsibility of looking at the native people in the Northwest Territories and place them into positions as assistant wildlife officers and we will make every attempt to invite them, to place them into managerial positions, simply because they understand, as Mr. Pearson said, the culture and the land they have lived in for many years. Why I chose to make these comments at this point is because last week a fair number of our wildlife officers who attended that meeting were native people. We will do more to fulfil the requirements of the people where there is a large native majority in the Northwest Territories and let me make it clear at this point that this is exactly what our directions will be based on or will be within the next five years until we are able to meet our mandate. I will leave the other comments with respect to satellites to Dr. Calef and Dr. Simmons.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef; satellites.

DR. CALEF: The trouble with satellites is that they are so damn dangerous and cost so much to clean up that we hate to use them.

---Laughter

Seriously the technology that is available to us in satellites is not adequate to photograph individual caribou.

MR. PEARSON: I do not believe it!

Use Of Satellite Technology For Caribou Management

DR. CALEF: The ones that can read licence plates, are being used to read licence plates in Russia and China and places like that. The only application that has been used as far as I know for wildlife with the satellite technology that is available is to do range studies by satellite to look at different types of plant communities and so on. There are transmitters now that have been used to track polar bear and I think some other species of wildlife to determine the movement, the particular position

of a particular animal and this might be useful for some purposes for caribou and Baffin might be a perfect example, but that is very expensive. It costs about \$6000 to put a satellite transmitter that will last maybe one year onto a caribou that may or may not survive that year and you also have the problem that the data does not come back immediately. In other words you can not say on a given day, "Where is my caribou?" and find out. You will find out where he is today two weeks from now which may or may not be useful. Perhaps some day satellites can be used to photograph individuals and herds but as far as we know that capability is not available to us right now. We are working on some of the other techniques like aerial photography.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Pearson, inasmuch as you have indicated you have several more questions and the indication that I have is that I have five more speakers who have indicated they wish to speak and the hour is 4:00 o'clock, shall we recess for 15 minutes for coffee?

MR. PEARSON: I have about two more questions.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Is it agreed?

---Agreed

We will recognize you immediately after coffee, Mr. Pearson.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls this committee meeting back to order. We recognize Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to continue, one of the things that we are informed of these days is the effect of pollution and these sort of things, DDT for example on birds and the effect it is having on the eggs for example of predators of that sort. I wonder if the decline in caribou may be attributed in some way to a similar effect? We are led to believe that strontium 90, atomic fall-out and what have you happens and occurs across the North on a vast plane and I wonder if this may be having some effect?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

Effect Of Pollutants Such As DDT And Strontium 90

DR. CALEF: I saw a thesis at one time from Harvard university that was written about the Inuit and their relationship to the caribou and so on which put forward this hypothesis but I do not think there is much merit in it. To go back to your example of birds, in the species that have been affected by pesticides for example, we see a total lack of reproductive success, you know, eggs are not laid or they are laid and never hatched, abnormal behaviour is observed and this sort of thing. There is nothing like this which has been observed in caribou. We still see as I said 80 or 85 per cent of the caribou giving birth to apparently healthy calves and in some populations of caribou they are surviving at a much higher rate than say they are in the Kaminuriak herd. There have been a lot of studies done on fall-out and its accumulation potential and it does occur, it is a potential problem, but if anything I would say it was a much greater problem 20 years ago when there was atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons than it is now when there is a ban on these things.

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

MR. PEARSON: The Greenlandic people have developed some very worth-while approaches to the protection of their game and they prohibit entirely hunting caribou by snowmobile, or the hunting of anything by snowmobile. It is my understanding, as we discussed earlier today, the abuses by the snowmobile driver are excessive, running the animals down, causing abortions and all kinds of things. Have there been any prosecutions or are there any prosecutions because it is hard to monitor this kind of thing when you have so few staff, so few people out in the field, but is any effort made to monitor this problem, that is this abuse?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef. Dr. Simmons.

Difficulty Of Monitoring Harassment

DR. SIMMONS: As you pointed out, this is a difficult thing to monitor and even more difficult to prove in court. If we had had prosecutions in this area during the last couple of years, or the last few years, I am not aware of them. Our current ordinance I believe leaves a fair number of loopholes in this area, or that is my understanding. Hopefully the new ordinance will make it easier to address this question of harassment, particularly in the area of the larger communities where it seems to be far more prevalent.

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

MR. PEARSON: Yes. I am glad that we may be on the right highway. I recall going into Coppermine some years ago, in 1968 I think it was, or thereabouts and there must have been literally thousands of caribou carcasses piled on the roofs of houses, piled in front of windows. The whole community was covered with carcasses of caribou in various stages of decay minus back legs only, minus tongues only, skins rotting. It was just an unbelievable sight. I hope that kind of thing has come to an end. I get a nod. I guess it has.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I think somebody put up their hand to answer that question. Dr. Simmons.

DR. SIMMONS: I am sorry. I did not realize you wanted a response on that. I feel the situation has greatly improved in recent years mainly because of an education program going on with the hunters' and trappers' association, the hunters' and trappers' associations themselves educating their younger hunters about proper care of caribou and other meat sources. We have a ways to go but it is largely an educational problem right now; less of an enforcement problem.

MR. PEARSON: Surely, Mr. Chairman, if abuses like that are taking place in these communities the offenders should be prosecuted. It is criminal, a criminal offence surely to shoot dozens and dozens of animals and leave them scattered around the community. Are there going to be some test cases? If people insist on abusing these kinds of resources which are fading away very quickly ...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Simmons.

DR. SIMMONS: I will defer to Hon. Peter Ernerk if I may, please.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Situation In Coppermine

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, the situation was in Coppermine. I remember that well the pictures appeared in the newspapers. But the situation is under control by the people of Coppermine. Mr. Pearson makes great comments about to do this and do that, "I am sure the wildlife officers can do better than this" and so on. It was suggested by the superintendent of wildlife that the hunters and trappers looked after the incident. People themselves looked after the incident. Let us not go so far as to try and embarrass the people in Coppermine or any one group in the Northwest Territories, by a non-hunter in this Assembly. I wonder if Mr. Pearson himself has ever hunted, he keeps asking those kinds of senseless questions?

One of the things I would like to comment on is the fact that the native people in the Northwest Territories when they hunt do not chase the caribou with their high powered snowmobiles. I know this because I am a hunter. I go out hunting every week end and I will keep hunting until I catch a caribou or two. The native people when they hunt go very slowly. They approach the caribou very slowly until they are close enough to shoot one or two caribou. Really caribou do not run like hell when you start approaching them. They are very curious animals, so they walk around you and make a little circle and look at you to see what the heck you are. One other thing. If you ever hunted with a dog team Mr. Pearson here is what you would find. You hunt with a dog team and the caribou runs away from dogs. That is a fact. Again I speak from experience. Caribou run away from dogs because the caribou thinks husky dogs or whatever they may be are a little bit like wolves. The dogs howl and they bark. I hope I put that message across to Mr. Pearson because I can not put it any better than I have said it.

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

MR. PEARSON: It is unfortunate he can not put it any better.

HON. PETER ERNERK: I did not hear that.

MR. PEARSON: It is unfortunate Hon. Peter Ernerk can not put it in a better way.

HON. PETER ERNERK: I stand by what I said anyway.

Direction From The Department Needed

MR. PEARSON: What is the department asking us? Are they asking us to develop quotas to protect the species? Is that what they want, controls on the hunting of caribou, quotas the same as we have for bears? Is that the way to manage some of these herds which are obviously being decimated by one reason or another?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Pearson, I understand this group is here at our request and it is for information only. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. It was I who originally made the motion to have the Kaminuriak herd and other herds in the Northwest Territories discussed. It was I who made that motion in October, so that the Members here would have an opportunity to discuss I believe the current eminence -- is that the proper wording you use -- to discuss that herd and other herds in the Northwest Territories at the January session of the territorial Legislature. Mr. Pearson was not present at the time when I made that motion back in October.

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

MR. PEARSON: You know, that is hardly an explanation. It was a question directed to the experts to determine if that is the direction we have to be going. Are we looking at quotas for caribou in certain areas to cut out some of the abuse that is obviously taking place either by the wolves or by the people?

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

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, we were directed by this Assembly in October to present information about the herds in the Northwest Territories and that is what we have been doing this afternoon. I have not mentioned the word quotas. Mr. Pearson mentioned the word quotas.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, may I have an answer please to the question? Is the department thinking in terms of a quota system? Do they think it may be necessary in the next few years to introduce a quota system for caribou? An answer, please. They are trying to be cagey maybe. I do not know. I wonder what is going on here.

HON. PETER ERNERK: I am glad to see Mr. Pearson put his question in the proper sense. The word quota has not been mentioned within the administration of this government yet. This may be something we will have to look at two or three years down the road in order to have much more effective management of caribou herds in the Northwest Territories so that the people are happy, so that this government is happy, so that all parties involved are happy when it comes to taking different kinds of controls. The word quota has not been used very much at the Executive level of this government. However, we are open to suggestions from this Assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Have you any further questions, Mr. Pearson?

MR. PEARSON: No, I think not. I will be here all day trying to get an answer to that one.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Steen, you have not spoken yet. The Chair recognizes you.

MR. STEEN: Thank you. First of all I would like to congratulate Hon. Peter Ernerk on his pre-election speech.

HON. PETER ERNERK: I did not hear that.

MR. STEEN: I find it very amusing that he says that the caribou thinks a dog is a wolf. That is the first time I have ever found a person who could read a caribou's mind. Getting back to the first thing I wanted to speak about, Mr. Chairman, one of the two witnesses said that there were some university students studying the herd. I am curious to know who is paying for them and what kind of studies are they taking on?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

Studies By The University Of Saskatchewan

DR. CALEF: I think I made a comment in response to a question about whether there were range studies being conducted, studies or the caribou's food supply. I am not very familiar with this study. It is being directed by a professor from the University of Saskatchewan named Stan Rowe who is a plant ecologist and he has a team of students who are looking at fires, the effect of fires; how can different plant species come back, how is the productivity of these species different years after a fire and so on, trying to understand how much caribou range is lost by burns and how quickly it comes back and this sort of thing. I am not sure who is funding that. It is not the Northwest Territories. It may be one of the provinces. It may be Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

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

MR. STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is all I wanted to know. I just wanted to know if this department was funding them and the witness has answered my question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Hon. David Searle, have you remembered your questions now?

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Not only that, I wrote them down so I would not forget them again. I am catching on. Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow up on the two motions that have got us into committee, to give us the factual background to discuss them intelligently later. The first one that Hon. Peter Ernerk refers to deals specifically with the discussion concerning the Kaminuriak herd and then he adds "and other herds." That is what we have had. With respect to that motion asking that we discuss the Kaminuriak herd I interpret what I have seen here today as an indication that that particular herd is on the decline. Now it seems to me that we should not just therefore leave it like that. It seems to me that there are realistically speaking, two things that can be done. Either you get your studies about wolf control quickly and kill them all off, or you control somehow the number of animals taken by the people or both. My question is which of those alternatives, if any, do the experts support in the very near future because of the serious threat to that herd? So, that is my question, which of those alternatives will be recommended and implemented?

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

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should just explain what has taken place to date in terms of meetings that have taken place. I would like either Dr. Simmons or Dr. Calef to answer the other questions.

Meetings On Caribou Management

If I remember correctly the motion in front of us was made by myself before I became the Minister of this department and I wanted to briefly discuss the present system, or the present situation in the Kaminuriak area. Some time ago last fall a meeting of Inuit people and the Indian people from Manitoba, as well as our own wildlife officers, as well as members of the wildlife department present from Manitoba took place in Thompson, Manitoba and I believe this was during the month of October, 11 to 13. I have not really looked at the recommendations that were made but I have listened to the tape that was made. Basically the meeting was held because the users, that is to say the hunters themselves from Manitoba and the Keewatin region, as well as the game management group, and the people themselves in general were getting very, very concerned about the herd itself. There had been indications that it has been declining for the past several years and while the residents of the Keewatin region, or some of the residents of the Keewatin region blame the various mining, oil and gas exploration groups for chasing the caribou away and scientists and biologists say there is too much overkilling, there are too many wolves and comments of that nature, the people decided to get together to try and talk to each other and see what alternatives there might be with respect to that herd.

Now, I was led to understand that they did not really get very far in their talks, they did not really understand each other. However, to follow up on that this department will sponsor another meeting with respect to the Kaminuriak herd sometime in April to try and find other solutions, or to find other alternatives and hopefully they will all make some headway to see that all parties involved in this very important matter are happy. So, I can only say that much. Mr. Chairman, if I could just turn it over now to either Dr. Simmons or Dr. Calef at this point.

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

The Ultimate Decision May Be Quotas

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I do not think it is necessary to turn it over to the two witnesses. If I may just, I suppose, repeat that in my humble opinion with a serious problem you can mount educational programs, which is what I think Hon. Peter Ernerk has been saying has been happening, discussions with the people, pointing out what is happening and requests for restraint. Of course it is absolutely essential that that be done. You can not unfortunately educate the wolves; you are going to have to budget and mount studies as to their activities and you can put on bounties and you can kill them off I suppose. However, in the final analysis, if the herd continues to decline I assume, sir, that the paramount principle will have to be to see that that herd does not suffer the same fate as the plains buffalo; that in the final analysis, since there are powers in the regulations and ordinances to impose quotas if that becomes necessary as a last resort, what I want is the assurance of Hon. Peter Ernerk that if that becomes absolutely essential, if all of his education and studies and everything else which would tend to delay the ultimate decision to impose quotas, if they all fail then are we really ready to impose quotas? That is my question.

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

HON. PETER ERNERK: I am not sure whether or not, Mr. Chairman, we can say at this point that we are ready to impose quotas for the people of Baker Lake and other users, but what we are very much prepared to do is take some necessary action as a management group, as a group who are fairly concerned with caribou itself. What we have been dealing with in the past while is trying to make the people understand what is at stake. However, what must be done immediately of course is to involve the hunters' and trappers' associations of Baker Lake and other areas of that region to find out whether

or not we could set up such restrictions when it comes to hunting in that area. However, Mr. Chairman, as a Minister I can ensure the Honourable Member from Yellowknife South is that I am prepared to take action if it really means that the particular herd we are talking about is fairly seriously at stake.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Would you like another chance, Hon. David Searle?

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Well, I think maybe the last part of the answer might have been the answer I wanted in the first place but let me say as far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, that was really a yes or no question. The answer obviously has to be yes and if it becomes necessary in the interests of the herd to impose quotas they would have to impose quotas, or if it is not to impose quotas, ultimately there will not be a herd. There will not be a single animal, there will be no resource because it will just decline at so many thousand a year and at 40,000, it does not sound to me that it would be too terribly many years before there would not be one. So, surely the answer is yes, if all else fails you would have to impose quotas.

Threat Of Organized Hunts

Now, if that comes out loud and clear from this discussion, and I think we are a step or two ahead, and I think the discussion has been worth while, the second thing I would like to turn to arises from the motion, the next motion that will be discussed and it deals with discontinuing funding of organized hunts. The question I have of the experts is this. Is it, generally speaking, the opinion of the professionals that organized hunts provide a serious threat to the stability of herds and, if so, with respect to what particular herds because I suspect that it may provide for instance a threat to the Kaminuriak herd but it may not to others?

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

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): A point of order, Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: I think the Honourable Speaker is talking about another motion all together and we are discussing right now caribou management and in order that he ask questions on the funding of organized caribou hunts, I would ask him to hold off on that until it comes up.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): In my opinion, on Caribou Management Briefing, when we have the experts here, the question is in order. It is a technical question these people can answer. We are not going to debate the subject if that is what you mean. He has asked the question of the technical people to get their opinion and inasmuch as we are dealing with caribou management I feel that the question is justified but I will not, I am not prepared to allow that to be debated, it is just a question to be answered by the experts.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: The alternative of course is to let them come back but it seems to make eminent sense to me to ask all of the questions while we have them here and then we can debate the motions in due course but at least we will have heard the evidence, so to speak. That being so what is the answer or do you want me to repeat it?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Simmons.

Properly Managed Hunts Can Be Efficient And Useful

DR. SIMMONS: There is, unfortunately, no simple answer to the question. Properly managed, organized hunts can be an efficient and useful way of harvesting caribou. The organized hunt funds have been used to assist people, or at least the intent of the organized hunt funds has been to assist people to get to caribou when conditions would preclude them from getting to the caribou without help, without financial help. Properly managed, the waste can be cut down to nothing. There can be a very efficient harvest conducted. Naturally there are other possibilities but I think that that should answer your question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Any further questions?

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I wonder if our officials are satisfied that the organized hunts that have been conducted generally speaking have been properly managed and if not are there steps or guidelines being set out with respect to organized hunts?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. David Searle, with all due respect, sir, I think we are getting into a debate situation in conflict with that motion. That is not on the floor. The first question you asked was for an opinion but now when you are asking or getting further into the subject I feel that you are really opening up the subject to debate. Personally I feel that that question is out of order and if you want the witnesses back when we debate that subject then that is the time to do it because we are opening the door to a debate now.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I have many friends here who suggest I should appeal to the Speaker. I of course do not intend to do that but what I would like to ask is if the witnesses could be made available when we do discuss the other motion in committee of the whole which presumably will be when, I take it, Mr. Whitford's people are in from Rae.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I understand from nodding by the Honourable Minister that you will have these witnesses available.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Any further questions? I have two Members who have not spoken yet, Mr. Kilabuk and Mr. Evaluarjuk. Before I recognize the speakers for the second time and also Hon. Tom Butters, I am sorry. Before I recognize speakers for the second time, do any of these people wish to speak now?
Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question. Have you studied the increasing of the caribou herd in the Baffin region?

Baffin Island Studies Not Very Satisfactory

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: I am sorry. I am not familiar with the translating equipment here, so I did not hear the translation. Dr. Simmons tells me the question is has the wildlife service conducted caribou studies on Baffin Island? The answer is yes, we have. The results have not been very satisfactory. We do not have a good estimate of the number of caribou there. We do not even have a very good idea of the distribution of those animals, where they calve, whether it is all one herd and so on. But there have been studies conducted and we are trying to improve these studies.

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

MR. KILABUK: I believe you have done this. In the settlements the hunters' and trappers' associations work together with the surveyors. Could this be done without the help of the hunters' and trappers' association? There are a lot of mountains in the Baffin region. I also think people in the Baffin region, the hunters and trappers and the Baffin council, if they were given some information in regard to the study of the caribou over in Baffin this should be taken into consideration.

DR. SIMMONS: Mr. Kilabuk is correct and Hon. Peter Ernerk has instructed us to work more closely with the hunters and trappers of the Baffin region in determining caribou distribution, numbers, and hunter kill, so this is in our plan and is currently our program.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: Yes, most of the information we have on Baffin caribou has come from native people and also native people have been employed and they are very, very helpful in taking part in our collaring program that we do on the Korkdjuak River. They have been very, very co-operative in returning ear tags that were put on the caribou there. So they have already taken part in the studies and we appreciate their help. Most of what we know about Baffin caribou comes from that help from the Inuit there.

Hunters And Trappers To Help Biologists

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the answer. I can now tell the people in Baffin to help with the biologists. We want to help them. Thank you. The caribou have to be managed very carefully and it has to be used in a proper way. I can understand the hunters and trappers now have to help. Thank you very much for answering my question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you very much. The Chair will now recognize Hon. Tom Butters or Mr. Whitford or Mr. Evaluarjuk who have not spoken yet. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I do not mind dealing with Motion 11-66, Discontinuance of Funding of Organized Hunts, so long as I am assured that we can carry on with this particular program. Otherwise my other problem, as I said earlier, is the fact that the chiefs had to go to a meeting here in Yellowknife in regard to the school board and the society and could not possibly be here at this time to explain themselves, but we have already given reasons at a previous session as to why this funding of the organized caribou hunt should continue.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Whitford, we are not dealing with Motion 11-66 at this time. We are just dealing with Caribou Management Briefing. You could make your point if this matter is put forth by the Speaker of the Assembly in committee of the whole. We are not dealing with that at the present time at all. You have our assurance. Have you any questions relative to the Caribou Management Briefing?

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, in light of what Hon. David Searle has said at the time that he felt the officials of game were here and we are dealing with game I would have agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): That is fine. Thank you, Mr. Whitford, but the Minister has indicated that the witnesses will be present when this matter of Motion 11-66 is presented officially. I will accept Hon. Tom Butters or Mr. Evaluarjuk if they wish to speak at this time because they have not spoken. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Communities Should Be Consulted Before Quotas Are Imposed

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any specific points in this area. I feel we should be going into the area more. I personally feel that we should not provide quotas without asking the communities. The communities would be definitely against this action. They should be asked. Consult the communities before you set up any quota system. I definitely feel that if there are to be quotas, it would be better for us to consult the communities. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you very much, Mr. Evaluarjuk. Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you very much. I thought that the whole subject of caribou had been referred to this committee but I gather that I am wrong. The motions were not referred at the same time as the caribou briefing. Is that right?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): My instruction from the Speaker is to take over the chair in the committee of the whole meeting to deal with Caribou Management Briefing, period. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: In reply to Mr. Evaluarjuk's statement, that is exactly what we want to do, that is to say, get the people of the Keewatin region involved, to get the people of Baker Lake involved. Do not worry. We are not going to set up quotas without talking to the people of Baker Lake first, or for that matter the Keewatin region.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Have you anything further, Mr. Evaluarjuk?

MR. EVALUARJUK: No.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): I have one speaker left, Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to pursue a matter that was raised by Mr. Pearson and that is remote sensing. I have had a deep concern that we ourselves, this administration is one of the causes of the calf mortality in view of the fact that the manner in which the counting is done sees aircraft flying at low altitudes over the calving grounds. I fear that during the scramble of mothers away from the noise of the aircraft's engine and from the aircraft itself flying overhead, the little ones are lost. I felt that happened when I had the responsibility for the department. There should be a real hard look taken at the remote sensing opportunities that are available to us and I have made this point to both Dr. Simmons and Dr. Calef in the past.

Remote Sensing Investigated

Pursuing that matter too, I went to Saskatchewan because Saskatchewan is tied into a satellite operation. As one of the witnesses mentioned, it deals with vegetation. Although Saskatchewan is very interested in co-operating with us, they could not offer us the technical dimension that we require. I then went to Ottawa and discussed the matter with the Department of National Defence and learned that our National Defence department is not involved in any satellite technology which would provide this service. They referred me to the Americans. I did go to the United States Embassy and I found that the Americans were very interested in co-operating in this whole remote sensing area, having caribou populations of their own in Alaska. Even though it was late in the season, they were willing to take photographs of the Kaminuriak herd from high flying military aircraft. Unfortunately, the difficulty of working through three or four departments, Mr. Jamieson's, the Department of

National Defence and our Minister's, did not permit this operation to be set up. All I am saying here is that I think that NASA might be turning satellites over in the air now which they would gladly -- maybe not gladly, but they would make available to Canada if we approached them at the correct time and at the correct diplomatic level. I would not like to see anybody walk away and discount Mr. Pearson's suggestion as being unrealistic at this time. I think it is very realistic and also we should do more to look into the possibility of remote sensing and counting by using aircraft. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. That concludes every speaker for the first time. I will go back to my list. Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I think I would like to congratulate the Speaker. He forgot what he had to say but when he got up to say it I do not wonder why he forgot. Anyway I finally got on the floor here. We have talked about caribou, we started off talking about caribou and then we went on to wolves and then we went on to native people and satellites and then pollution. I wonder maybe if I could add to that list by asking the witnesses what happened to the reindeer herd that they transported with a lot of expense into the Belcher Islands? Are they calving or are they increasing or decreasing? That is my first question, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Simmons.

Reindeer Transplanted To The Belcher Islands

DR. SIMMONS: I can get more detailed information on that very quickly. However, it is my impression that the group of reindeer we transplanted to the Belcher Islands is doing well. They had a good calving year and the situation looks good. If you wish, however, I can get you some definite statistics on it.

MR. FRASER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like some detail on that.

My next question deals with the wolf bounty. I understand there is a bounty on wolves but I think it is only in the park. We had a bounty on wolves in the territories and it was discontinued a couple of years ago and just about everybody was thinking that wolves were the main reason for the depleting of caribou herds. I wonder if the witnesses could tell me if there is any possibility of this bounty coming back. Would it be of any importance to the caribou herds if there was again a bounty on wolves?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Simmons.

Bounties Not Effective For Wolf Control

DR. SIMMONS: I might be stirring up a hornet's nest here, but it is our opinion, and it is our policy, that bounties are not an effective means of controlling wolf populations. There is considerable evidence from jurisdictions that have used bounties for many, many years in the South, in the provinces, and in the United States, that have led to the cancelling of bounty programs throughout North America. I believe there are other ways that we can effect a control program on wolves that are better.

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, my final question, and I do not know if the witnesses are in a position to answer this question, but I understand that the Wood Buffalo National Park is paying a bounty plus \$300 for the carcass. Is this right?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Simmons.

DR. SIMMONS: Essentially you are correct. We are paying for the delivery of

carcasses to the wildlife service, and I am not sure of the figure at this time. Again I could get that precise figure for you. I am sorry, perhaps I misunderstood your question. Are you talking about within Wood Buffalo National Park?

MR. FRASER: Within Wood Buffalo National Park or in the territories. I just had heard a rumour and I just wanted to clarify it.

DR. SIMMONS: The program I am talking about is within the Northwest Territories. There is no bounty or remuneration program to my knowledge being conducted within the park. We are paying trappers from Fort Resolution and Fort Smith to deliver carcasses, wolf carcasses, to us for autopsy purposes.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, a supplementary question. How much are you paying for a wolf carcass?

MR. SIMMONS: I will get that information for you very quickly. I do not recall what we are paying right now.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get the questions answered if I could.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. We will make a note of them and get you a reply. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, am I to believe that Motion 12-66, is that what we have been discussing?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The orders of the Speaker were to go into committee of the whole for Caribou Management Briefing and I suppose we have dealt generally in this committee with Motion 12-66, but as far as I am concerned we are dealing strictly with Caribou Management Briefing and they are almost the same, they are almost identical. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, to my way of thinking, I think we have been dealing with that motion and I think the motion has been carried. I think we should go on to something else.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Lyall. Hon. Peter Ernerk is on my list next. The Hon. Peter Ernerk, do you wish to say something? I have your name on the list. Have you anything to say at this time?

HON. PETER ERNERK: It is also unfortunate that I forget what I was going -- I do not think ask, I was going to make a statement with respect to some policy and Dr. Simmons has already indicated it to this House and I forget exactly what it was now, I am sorry.

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

Critical Number, Kaminuriak Herd

MR. NICKERSON: I have two technical questions, Mr. Chairman. The first one is with respect to certain species of wildlife. I understand there is something known as a critical number and when the size of the herd of that species or the number of them reaches a certain minimum then there is practically no hope of recovery. My first question is does this same thing apply to caribou and, if it does, what would you say would be the critical number as far as the Kaminuriak herd is concerned?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: I think the answer is that there is no evidence that there is such a number in caribou. However not in Barren-ground caribou but in Mountain

caribou in British Columbia there is evidence of the persistence of tiny populations, 30 or 40 animals on a mountain or small area of mountain range. The only thing that might be a factor here is that as the herd decreases, and as we have seen before the range is shrinking, it is possible that the herd could reach a level in which migratory traditions would be lost. In other words they would forget how to go to Manitoba or forget that Manitoba is there or some such thing, although I doubt very much that this will happen. I think the evidence from Newfoundland where the caribou were almost exterminated around the turn of the century is that as the herds have increased they have expanded their ranges and in fact they sort of walk in the trails of their ancestors. As you saw from some of those slides there are deep worn trails in the tundra and of course some people think the migration routes that they follow are just sort of the paths of least resistance around lakes and through river crossings and so on. So, I think the answer is no, that herd should be able to recover from essentially any level but the time required will get greater and greater as the numbers get less and less.

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

Harassment Caused By Surveys

MR. NICKERSON: The second question at this time, Mr. Chairman, is, with respect to the surveys which you do after calving. What would be the dates when you would do these surveys? I think I understood you to have said June before but which week in June. At what altitude above the ground would the search aircraft normally fly and, in your opinions, does this survey work cause any great amount of harassment, undue harassment to the caribou herd? I know Hon. Tom Butters said a little while ago that in his opinion he thought that this would cause distress to the caribou and obviously it will cause a minor amount of distress and it might be quite okay for instance because we need the information for other purposes to have a small amount of distress caused. However, in your opinion what would be the kind of level of harassment?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: Usually our surveys take two or even three weeks sometimes to complete. We go to the calving grounds usually at the very end of May or the first of June which is about four or five days before the peak of calving, that is the date on which the maximum number of calves are being born. Calving incidentally takes place over about a seven to ten day period but maybe usually half the calves are born on three or four days, it is very synchronized.

What we do the first few days is we just fly sort of randomly over the area where we expect calving to occur to locate the exact area that is occupied by cows that are going to have calves and this is important because that is the area you survey, so you do not want to make it bigger than it is, you do not want to include animals that are not calving but on the other hand you do not want to miss any calving animals. Then, we usually try to fly our surveys right at the peak of calving, this is the actual count, because that is the time when there is the least movement of animals and it will sometimes take two or three days to complete a survey. If you are doing your survey while the animals are moving, after calving, then you might count some twice or you might miss some and so on.

Counting Animals By Aircraft

Generally the surveys are flown at the altitude that the observers feel confident they are counting, you know that they are capable of counting all the animals that are there. It is usually between 300 and 500 feet. Personally I use lower levels myself and in my opinion it is a very minor disturbance to the caribou. Many of the animals that are lying down for example will not get up when the aircraft goes overhead. The calves that are born will always run to their mother, that is the most extreme reaction you can get and you can see exactly which calf belongs to which female by where they go.

Occasionally a female will run a short distance or trot a short distance. We do see a few more extreme reactions, you can not say that every animal will behave in a certain way. Sometimes you will get an animal who is apparently disoriented when perhaps the aircraft is directly overhead and she will whirl around, obviously wondering where to go or where to look and we have seen cows knock over their calves and this sort of thing but from a percentage standpoint it is a very small percentage.

The third part of the survey is to go back afterwards and count the number of live calves, say several days after the peak of calving or after the majority of calves are born and usually this is done by landing half a mile or so away from an area where there are a lot of cows and calves and walking to the area and watching with a spotting scope or binoculars. We have not seen any evidence of loss of animals, females having lost their calves between the peak of calving when our survey is done and the other surveys are done. The way we can tell this is that we can tell when an animal has had a calf by the fact that her udder swells and you can see a visible udder so you can see when an animal has an udder that it has given birth that year. If we were to see lots of cows with swollen udders but without calves then we would know that there has been a loss and we do not see that.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Trend Of Hunter Kill

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just have one question of Dr. Calef. I indicated earlier about the kills, I think I suggested that there would be about a 12 per cent kill between hunters and wolves, but that was based on a total population of the herd, that is using the figures he gave us on the Kaminuriak herd. I think it would be more to the point that there were 16,000 I think was the total kill and it would be more like 30 to 35 per cent. What I would want to ask Dr. Calef, and I know it is not a generalization but that particular percentage, you can not make a generalization on all herds, but I wonder if Dr. Calef would comment on a trend of hunter kill, if he can see a trend over say the last ten years or five years as to a more, an increased -- no, perhaps a decrease, but just a comment on it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: The Kaminuriak kill has remained relatively constant over the last ten years, although it is so variable, you know, that it is hard to talk about anything other than a ten year period. Let us just say for example the Canadian Wildlife Service conducted a very detailed study of the Kaminuriak herd in the late 1960s and their estimate for example for the 1968 kill was about 3100 or 3200 animals. This has been just about exactly the average that we have had reported over the ten years since then. Some years it goes much higher and it is predictable after the fact in that when caribou are wintering near settlements and there is going to be a big kill. That is all there is to it. So in the last few years when the caribou have not left the Keewatin to go to Manitoba they have been more accessible to communities like Baker Lake and Eskimo Point and the kill has gone up. But the average has stayed about the same. I would say the kill has probably increased slightly as a generalization over the last ten years on most herds.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Mobility Of Hunters Has Little Effect

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I know there were a number of factors that would lead one to suspect a trend. Proximity to settlements would be one, but if what you are saying is that it remained fairly constant, then the mobility of hunters in that particular area is not that great a factor if the average kill has been

relatively constant. I would think that within the last ten or 15 years hunters have become more mobile with the advent of machines to aid them. So it would seem to me that if there was no trend and the hunter kill has been relatively constant, then one of the factors that I would obviously deduce from that the mobility of hunters does not affect in any great amount the kill.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Dr. Calef.

DR. CALEF: I would say statistics bear that out. However, I think maybe the answer is that the potential is there for this to happen and I do not know. It is hard to measure hunting effort or something like this. Maybe these animals were secured more easily or whatever, but you are right, there has not been a dramatic increase in the numbers reported killed.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Because of the accessibility to the hunter?

DR. CALEF: That is right.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Any other Members wishing to speak at this time? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, this is not a question, but while we are discussing this matter of caribou management I would like to make known my particular long-term views and maybe make some suggestions. It would seem to me that the caribou is a most useful animal. It would seem that the type of management tactics that we are using at the present time or management strategy is to more or less preserve the natural type of lifestyle of these animals. The management tactics are to have wolf control, hunter control, disallowance of anything that is likely to disrupt the habitat, that kind of approach to life. For the next many number of years that might be good. We might be able to protect the caribou herds using that type of strategy but I think in the long run you probably will not be able to protect the herds using that strategy.

Domestication Of Caribou

I sometimes think that in ancient Mesopotamia if people 5000 or 6000 years ago had used the same strategy there for protecting cattle, the cow would be now an extinct animal and the cow is also a very useful animal to humankind. I think eventually because at some time in the future little bits of land of the Northwest Territories or Manitoba will be taken up for certain purposes, might even be used for agriculture at some time and agriculture more than any other industry disturbs the habitat because it takes up a lot of land, eventually we have got to look to the domestication of the caribou. I guess an initial step on that road is the one which was taken about 1000 years before Christ in northern Europe and northern Asia with the type of reindeer husbandry that was put into effect 3000 years ago and still exists today in very much the same state. It is my understanding that under modern conditions people are not really making a good modern livelihood out of this style of caribou or reindeer management in Scandinavia and Russia. The amount of money that you can get from this semidomestication does not really give people a good income. It is my understanding that in Lapland and northern Russia people engaged in this reindeer husbandry have to have their income supplemented by other means so that is probably a half step toward what we have to get to eventually.

Intensive Management Of Reindeer

It would seem to me that what we have to look for, maybe away in the future, maybe there is no necessity to start now but we have to look to the proper domestication of the reindeer. This might mean intensive management. It might mean the necessity for setting aside large grazing reserves for -- and it need not be restricted for that one use, other animals could still live there and the ground could be used for other purposes -- but a much more intensive style

of management. I think eventually we would have to get into such things as selective breeding. I would imagine by doing that you could increase the birth rate quite a bit, you could breed caribou selectively for ease of calving, resistance to disease, conversion ratios so they get fatter quicker, all the types of things that you would look for when breeding cattle. I am not an expert on cattle or reindeer and I am not really competent to discuss this matter in any detail, but I think that eventually we will have to look toward that intensive management, proper domestication of the caribou.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Do the witnesses wish to make any comments on that?

DR. CALEF: No.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Do I have the permission of the committee to make a few observations of my own on this inasmuch as I have shown a great deal of patience today? I had the honour and pleasure of seeing the caribou many, many years ago in the late 1930s. In fact when I first went into the gold fields in the North. I only had two pair of longjohns and I lost one pair to a herd that happened to decide to come right through the middle of the gold fields on their track and the last I saw of my underwear it was going down the main street. In Eldorado on Great Bear Lake in the early 1940s I had the pleasure of seeing herds that used to take up to three days to pass a given point. The funny part of it was there was only one decent camp within about 1000 miles of Eldorado other than Yellowknife South and they passed within a half mile of that camp. They did so for the two years I happened to be here so it appears to me that the presence of humans relative to the caribou was not really that important. It is the human with the gun in his hand that is really doing the damage to the herd.

Presence Of Man Does Not Damage Caribou

This is why I can not understand in part the presentations relative to development in the Northwest Territories, particularly such things as pipelines and so on, that such a fuss is made relative to the caribou because I do not believe that the presence of man himself really does any damage at all to the caribou. We have seen the caribou herds at Prudhoe Bay, they are using the pumps in the fields and scratching their backs, crawling under, over and around the pipeline and they seem to be doing very well. It seems to me that we have reached a stage of panic in certain areas realizing that we are losing certain natural resources and these things turn people completely against development. I do not think there is scientific data to establish that it is the development that is taking place that is doing the damage. It is the man with the gun or the wolf. Would either of you gentlemen like to comment on that point of view?

DR. SIMMONS: No.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Gentlemen, we have spent a great deal of time on this subject. Can I report the matter concluded to the Speaker?

---Agreed

Excuse me. Thank you very much, Dr. Simmons and Dr. Calef. You have been very good witnesses this afternoon. Thank you very much for your assistance and your patience.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Caribou Management Briefing And Motion 12-66, Kaminuriak And Other Caribou Herds

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Caribou Management Briefing as presented by the department and actually I suppose it really is Motion 12-66. I would conclude that Motion 12-66 has been dealt with.

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, the time is not quite 5:45 p.m. Is there anything else the Executive has in mind that might be regarded as fairly quick? Excuse me, Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Just a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Inasmuch as Motion 11-66 was set to a day certain and moved by motion to be dealt with today, however, because the witnesses were not here it has not been dealt with, would it be in order to go into committee and set it aside for another time period or could we just set it on the order paper again without going through the labour?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart, I would propose that unless there is some serious disagreement procedurally to simply leave that motion on the order paper in committee of the whole and deal with it when Mr. Whitford in consultation with Hon. Peter Ernerk arrives at a date when their respective witnesses can be back instead of sort of going from day-to-day. Has anyone a procedural objection to that course of action? Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I guess. The Executive has tabled a document Tabled Document 4-67 and I think if Mr. Whitford's witnesses are not available I think we could deal with this motion in a very short time because I think the only vote on that motion would be in line after we discussed this paper which is about two pages long. I think a vote on this could be done within 15 minutes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: What tabled document is that, Mr. Lyall?

MR. LYALL: Tabled Document 4-67, Community Caribou Hunt Policy, tabled January 19, 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: As I take it, Mr. Whitford, the suggestion is we go back into committee of the whole to discuss Motion 11-66 and Mr. Lyall is saying that Tabled Document 4-67 is relevant there too, although I have not read that tabled document. What is your position?

MR. WHITFORD: Agreed, Mr. Speaker. This document still keeps in mind what had transpired at the last session anyway.

MR. SPEAKER: Unless there is any serious suggestion to that I propose to put Motion 11-66 back into committee of the whole. Hon. Tom Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: It is suggested that this debate will only take about 12 minutes, is that correct?

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I have heard said.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Promises!

MR. SPEAKER: Anyway if it takes longer the chairman is bound to recognize the clock. That being so this House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Motion 11-66, Discontinuance of Funding of Organized Hunts, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Motion 11-66, Discontinuance of Funding of Organized Hunts, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER MOTION 11-66, DISCONTINUANCE OF FUNDING OF ORGANIZED HUNTS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): This committee will come to order to study Motion 11-66, Discontinuance of Funding of Organized Hunts. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to indicate to you by way of information for the Members is that as a result of the motion to discontinue organized caribou hunts in the territories my officials since then have prepared a paper with respect to community caribou hunts policy. I tabled it last Friday, January 19th and I am sure the Members have had time to read the policy. This policy sets out guidelines with respect to applications from various groups, recognized groups, such as those of hunters' and trappers' associations. I have had time to discuss it with my Executive colleagues and I would just like to indicate to you that it is supported by the Executive Members.

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

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, although I very strongly am against organized caribou hunts as such, I see that the Executive have chosen to have a policy on this matter and although I will be voting for that motion I feel that after reading the tabled document that this motion that I made is ready for a vote.

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

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, did I understand you to say we were dealing with Motion 11-66 or are we dealing with Tabled Document 4-67?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): We are dealing with Motion 11-66.

MR. FRASER: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The tabled document is for information relative to that motion. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, on the motion itself I have said before that we wanted to have witnesses here and the witnesses at the moment are in court and they have also the problems in Rae-Edzo and can not appear to explain to the Members of this Assembly some of the things they do on the land through the assistance of funding for organized hunts.

If we are dealing with the policy then the policy falls in line with what had been agreed the last time and that is that the Government of the Northwest Territories may provide assistance for community caribou hunts where there is no reason to refuse such a hunt. Assistance will not be granted where there is a decline of caribou herd or where the hunt will occur during a critical period such as calving or migration. I have to vote against the motion, Mr. Chairman, and like I said I wanted to have witnesses here to discuss that with you if you are referring to the motion.

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

Witnesses Should Be Heard

MR. NICKERSON: There appears to be a certain misunderstanding as I ascertain. It was my assumption that Mr. Whitford insisted for a long time that when this motion was to be dealt with then people who were to be affected by its outcome were to be invited here. I think there was a great deal of insistence that Chief Charlo from Rae be here. I can see why there would be a very good reason why this would be so and I think if a course of action is to be taken which is going to affect people to a great degree then those people should have the opportunity to make known their views on it and to present all the arguments in their favour that they might wish to do so. I think the misunderstanding arose over the fact that certain Members thought that when this committee was reconvening we were just to discuss herein the policy paper put forward by the Government of the Northwest Territories. I do not think anybody would have any real objection to a general discussion on that policy paper but I think a number of Members would feel that it would not be right for them to vote on the motion, Motion 11-66, unless they had first heard what the people from Rae would like to say on the matter. This being the case, Mr. Chairman, I would move that we report progress at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): On a motion to report progress. It is not debatable. Those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Motion 11-66, Discontinuance Of Organized Hunts

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Motion 11-66 and wishes to report progress at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: On a point of order, sir. Before the translation was fully put through the intercom system we reported progress and I do not think it is proper.

MR. SPEAKER: The difficulty I have, Mr. Lyall, at this time is that that is the sort of objection that should properly be made to the chairman before he leaves the chair. I did not call the vote so I can not recall it. The chairman has imparted to me that there was a motion passed that you report progress and I can not go back to that at this point in time. In any case it is not a serious vote because the matter is still left over for serious discussion. It did not affect the matter one way or the other.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, that is not the point I am trying to make. The point I am trying to make is that everyone was standing up already before I could stand up and say anything to the chairman.

MR. SPEAKER: Again I did not call the question and there is nothing I can do about it. That kind of objection has to be made to the man who is in the chair at the time, at a time when he then has the opportunity to recall the question.

Are there any announcements for tomorrow? Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, there is a caucus meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m., in Katimavik A.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other announcements, gentlemen? Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 13: ORDERS OF THE DAY.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Orders of the day, January 25, 1979, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to Commissioner's Address
3. Questions and Returns
4. Oral Questions
5. Petitions
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motion
8. Motions for the Production of Papers
9. Motions
10. Tabling of Documents
11. Notices of Motion for the Introduction of Bills
12. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Bills 1-67, 9-67, 11-67, 5-67, and 7-67, Motion 11-66 and Proposed Amendments to the Federal Indian Act
13. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., January 25, 1979, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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