



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

1st Session

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1987

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

The Hon. Red Pedersen, M.L.A.
 General Delivery
 Coppermine, N.W.T.
 XOE OEO
 (403) 873-7629 (Office)
 (403) 873-5788 (Home) (Yellowknife)
 (403) 982-5788 (Coppermine)
 (Kitikmeot West)

Allooloo, The Hon. Titus, M.L.A.
 5024 - 57th Street
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.
 X1A 1Y6
 (403) 873-7113 (Office)
 (403) 873-4813 (Home)
 (Amittuq)
 Minister of Culture & Communications
 and Renewable Resources

Angottitauruq, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
 General Delivery
 Gjoa Haven, N.W.T.
 XOE 1J0
 (403) 360-6600 (Office)
 (403) 360-6704 (Home)
 (Natilikmiot)
 Deputy Chairman
 Committee of the Whole

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.
 General Delivery
 Lake Harbour, N.W.T.
 XOA ONO
 (819) 939-2363 (Home)
 (Baffin South)

Ballantyne, The Hon. Michael, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 1091
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.
 X1A 2N8
 (403) 873-7658 (Office)
 (403) 920-2963 (Home)
 (Yellowknife North)
 Minister of Finance and Justice

Butters, Mr. Tom, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 1069
 Inuvik, N.W.T.
 XOE OTO
 (403) 979-2373 (Office)
 (403) 979-2373 (Home)
 (Inuvik)

Cournoyey, The Hon. Nellie, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 1184
 Inuvik, N.W.T.
 XOE OTO
 (403) 873-7128 (Office)
 (403) 977-2405 (Tuktoyaktuk)
 (403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)
 (Nunakput)
 Minister of Health

Crow, Mr. Charlie, M.L.A.
 General Delivery
 Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
 XOA OWO
 (819) 266-8940 (Home)
 (Hudson Bay)

Ernerk, Mr. Peter, M.L.A.
 Box 182
 Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
 XOC OGO
 (819) 645-2800
 (819) 645-2500
 (Aivilik)

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.
 General Delivery
 Fort Providence, N.W.T.
 XOE OLO
 (403) 873-7999 (Office)
 (403) 699-3171 (Home)
 (Deh Cho)
 Deputy Speaker and Chairman,
 Committee of the Whole

Kakfwi, The Hon. Stephen, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 1320
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.
 X1A 2L9
 (403) 873-7139 (Office)
 (403) 873-8215 (Home)
 (Sahtu)
 Minister of Government Services
 and Housing

Kilabuk, Mr. Ipeelee, M.L.A.
 General Delivery
 Pangnirtung, N.W.T.
 XOA ORO
 (819) 437-8827 (Home)
 (Baffin Central)

Lewis, Mr. Brian, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 1320
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.
 X1A 2L9
 (403) 873-7999 (Office)
 (403) 873-5549 (Home)
 (Yellowknife Centre)

Marie-Jewell, The Hon. Jeannie, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 1051
 Fort Smith, N.W.T.
 XOE OPO
 (403) 873-7959 (Office)
 (403) 872-2940 (Home)
 (Slave River)
 Minister of Social Services

McLaughlin, Mr. Bruce, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 2637
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.
 X1A 2P9
 (403) 393-2939 (Office)
 (403) 393-2226 (Home)
 (403) 920-3166 (Office)
 (403) 873-6220 (Home)
 (Pine Point)

Morin, Mr. Don, M.L.A.
 General Delivery
 Fort Resolution, N.W.T.
 XOE OMO
 (403) 394-3471
 (Tu Nede)

Nerysoo, Mr. Richard, M.L.A.
 Fort McPherson, N.W.T.
 XOE OJO
 (403) 979-2668 (Home) (Inuvik)
 (Mackenzie Delta)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis
 P.O. Box 310
 Iqaluit, N.W.T.
 XOA OHO
 (403) 873-7112 (Office)
 (819) 979-5993 (Office)
 (403) 873-2802 (Home)
 (Iqaluit)
 Government Leader,
 Chairman of Executive Council,
 Minister of Executive and Education

Pollard, Mr. John, M.L.A.
 Bag 5000
 Hay River, N.W.T.
 XOE ORO
 (403) 874-6522 (Office)
 (403) 874-2600 (Home)
 (Hay River)

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 240
 Resolute Bay, N.W.T.
 XOA OVO
 (819) 252-3719 (Home)
 (High Arctic)

Richard, Mr. Ted, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 1320
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.
 X1A 2L9
 (403) 873-7920 (Office)
 (403) 873-3667 (Home)
 (Yellowknife South)

Sibbeston, The Hon. Nick, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 560
 Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
 XOE ONO
 (403) 873-7123 (Office)
 (403) 873-6215 (Home)
 (Nahendeh)
 Minister of Economic Development
 & Tourism

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.
 Baker Lake, N.W.T.
 XOC OAO
 (403) 873-7962 (Office)
 (819) 793-2700 (Home)
 (Kivallivik)
 Minister of Municipal & Community
 Affairs, Personnel and
 Public Works & Highways

Zoe, Mr. Henry, M.L.A.
 P.O. Box 1320
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.
 X1A 2L9
 (403) 873-7999 (Office)
 (403) 873-4136 (Home)
 (Rae - Lac la Martre)
 Deputy Chairman,
 Committee of the Whole

Officers

Clerk
 Mr. David Hamilton
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant
 Vacant

Law Clerk
 Mr. Joel Fournier
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard
 Ms Marie J. Coe
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Crow, Mr. Ernerk, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Lewis, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): The House will come to order, please. I have a message for the House from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and it reads: "The government wishes to proceed at this session with Bill 5-87(2), An Amendment to the Student Financial Assistance Act." It further states, "I recommend passage of this bill to the Members of the Legislative Assembly." It is signed by Commissioner John H. Parker.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 17.

Item 2, Ministers' statements.

Item 3, Members' statements.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ernerk.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 04-87(2): Response To Petition 1-87(2)

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I put forth to this House Petition 1-87(2) with regard to education. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, when can I expect an answer? Because we require an answer as soon as possible. There were 346 people in Rankin Inlet who signed this petition and I will be expecting more names. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 04-87(2): Response To Petition 1-87(2)

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I do realize the depth of feeling on this issue in Rankin Inlet. Mr. Speaker, the rules of this Assembly require that any petition be answered within 60 days. It is a complicated matter and I cannot promise an answer within the next few days but we will certainly be prepared to provide an answer as quickly as possible, and certainly well before the 60 days required by the rules. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. I would like at this time to draw to the House's attention that we have the mayor of Sachs Harbour, His Worship Les Carpenter, in the gallery today.

---Applause

Oral questions. Mr. Angottitauruq.

Question 05-87(2): Housing Units For Spence Bay

MR. ANGOTTITAUROUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Housing. I would like to get an answer from the Minister while we are meeting in this House. When do we expect to get new houses for Spence Bay? If you can answer that while we are meeting I would appreciate that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Minister of Housing, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: As the honourable Member knows, as the new Minister I understand his question, but I do not know the answer. I will take notice of it and try to answer tomorrow.

---Applause

MR. NERYSOO: Excellent.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Ernerk.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W1-87(2): Canlog Technical Services Defence Contract

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Government Leader. Mr. Speaker, as this House is aware, the North Warning System operations and maintenance contract will be awarded shortly. This contract, of course, provides for all of the support services necessary to operate the new North Warning System radars. It is a multimillion dollar contract that will extend, in all likelihood, for many years. In short, this represents the largest industrial project we are likely to see in the North for some time.

This project operates entirely in the homeland of the Inuit and Inuvialuit, stretching as it does from Tuktoyaktuk to Baffin. It is critical that northerners, particularly native northerners, have the opportunity to share in this industrial project. I am deeply concerned to learn that it now seems likely that this contract is to be awarded to the Atco interests in Alberta, through their company known as Frontec. This will, of course, be at the expense of another bidder, Canlog Technical Services, which is one-third owned by the Inuvialuit and Inuit of the Northwest Territories through their ownership of NTCL. I shall table with you shortly a paper respecting this.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Mr. Ernerk, could you get to your question, please?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Good try, Peter.

---Laughter

MR. ERNERK: The best is yet to come. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Government Leader is this: Will the Government of the Northwest Territories intervene with the Prime Minister to ensure that this most northern of defence contracts be awarded to a company with substantial northern ownership, namely Canlog Technical Services?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Ernerk.

Question W2-87(2): Assistance To Business Program

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I understand that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has a program commonly known as "assistance to business" that is administered by the Minister and deputy minister, which provides contributions to businesses that are in distress and also to northern businesses that will create jobs. I am sure there is a more precise name for this policy but it has been described to me as "winners and losers" policy.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister table in this House, for the last three fiscal years -- that is, for the fiscal years of 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 year to date -- a list of all recipients of these contributions, the amount of the contribution to each recipient and a short description of the purpose of the contribution? Can the Minister also table a copy of the policy for these contributions in this House? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to the Opening Address. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Gargan's Reply

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have anything written or prepared but I thought maybe at this time I would like to express some of the concerns I have with regard to this government and my constituency.

Bison Quota, Fort Providence

Mr. Speaker, during the 10th Assembly the then Minister of Renewable Resources, which was yourself, Mr. Speaker, made an announcement in the House with regard to a quota on the bison herd in Fort Providence. Based on this quota, it was decided that the department would then look at a quota of 20, 16 of which would be split between Fort Providence and Fort Rae. The balance of four would be then drawn in sort of a lottery system. Mr. Speaker, as far as this particular announcement went, it does put my constituency at a disadvantage with regard to the tag system or the quota system. That is, among the 52 communities in the North, most or all of the local hunters and trappers in the Northwest Territories have control over the quota system or the tag system. And it is up to the people from our area, if they require polar bears or musk-ox from the Eastern or the High Arctic, to write to the local hunters and trappers and they are then given a quota. Unfortunately, that is not the case in my area and it is up to the people of Fort Providence and Fort Rae to resolve this particular quota system. Unfortunately, this system would mean that we will probably never resolve it unless the government comes up with a fair system. In the case of the rest of the communities in the Northwest Territories, the local hunters and trappers have control.

The other thing about the quota is that the balance of four, which is under the territorial government's control, again, is based on the lottery system and it is up to the people to approach the territorial government with regard to this balance of four which doesn't occur anywhere else in the North. Again, this leaves out Fort Providence. Fort Providence was never consulted when this quota was implemented and I think it is unfair that they were not consulted.

Community Medical Services

Another situation, Mr. Speaker, that I find is still a problem in the communities is with regard to the nursing stations. I realize that the transfer would be implemented by April 1st. Unfortunately, there are still some deficiencies or difficulties in the community's experience and it is with regard, especially in my own area, to where people who drink at weekends or drink in the evenings run into emergency situations and the nurses are reluctant to see them or allow them in, or are under the impression that they are under the influence of alcohol and then the nurses will not see them. This situation again occurred with an individual by the name of John Bonnetrouge. Mr. Speaker, this individual has been in sobriety for about seven years now. He is retired now due to a sickness that he has that will no longer allow him to work. When he went down to the nursing station on November 7th, he was pushed out and the nurse told him that she would not see him because he was under the influence of alcohol. Mr. Speaker, this person has been sober now for seven years and I thought maybe I would bring this up. In a lot of cases the situation arises because, I suppose, the nurses in the community have that notion that everybody in the community is an alcoholic.

Judicial System

Another area where I have experienced problems is with regard to our local hunters and trappers. And as far as the judicial system goes, we have a situation where normally a person who is a justice of the peace is usually a person that is not maybe residing in the community but is a

transient. He could be a teacher or a nurse or something like that. And it does impose some difficulties on our local hunters and trappers. This occurred again, like a couple of years ago, where two individuals, although they maybe committed an offence in the springtime, did not go to court until late in the fall, just before Christmas. So what happens is that this individual comes to the community and has a backlog of court cases that he has to hear. In this case, Mr. Speaker, these people went to court and were expected to serve weekend sentences. So what happened is that they never went out until about March, which is away too late for a hunter or trapper to get any kind of reasonable income, pursuing that life, if they are expected to spend their weekends in jail. So, I find that to be a difficulty in my own constituency. It is not really at the convenience of the local inhabitants; it is always at the convenience of the court system. I have to say the same thing occurs, too, when they have magistrate's court and even Supreme Court, where people are at the mercy of the courts and are also at the mercy of their convenience, too. So, that is another area that I would perhaps like to see the government try to do something about.

In the area of government programs, Mr. Speaker, we do have some universal programs which are in effect. For example, we do have education which everybody gets. Education is one of the areas where everybody benefits from that particular system. Unfortunately, that is not the case with regard to the health programs. I still feel that if you are a Dene person or an Inuit person you are covered under the non-insurable health benefits, which means that Ottawa pays the bills for these particular people. Unfortunately, that is not the case for the Metis population in the NWT. If you are not a government employee or if you are not working in the mining or oil industry, you are not covered adequately under the health system. A lot of these people do benefit through the pension plan and the guaranteed income supplement but they are still burdened with covering their own costs for medical services and that includes hospitalization, medication and transportation. For the last four years that I have been here as a Member, these are the areas that people have complained about and no apparent result has ever occurred. Under the existing system Metis people are not covered for a lot of the medicare.

Housing Programs

Another area, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to address is regarding the senior citizens home in Fort Providence that was built in the late, late 60s. When it was built, there was not much consideration with regard to ventilation. This is one area that the people have complained about quite a bit. In the senior citizens home in Fort Providence we do not have adequate ventilation and I think that the senior citizens in the community have also addressed that particular problem.

Under the senior citizens home repair program, Mr. Speaker, right now the senior citizen is entitled to \$5400, which is not adequate when you consider the amount of work that is required if they want to stay in their own house rather than live in a senior citizens home. I would like to see, perhaps, the government consider increasing that amount to maybe \$8000 so they would have enough to cover all their necessities with regard to windows, doors and that sort of thing.

The private home repair program in the Fort Smith district, Mr. Speaker, is allocated \$200,000. This \$200,000 covers approximately 12 different communities. In my own area, for example, we go on a basis of intervals; every second year it is Fort Providence that gets it, every other year it is Hay River Reserve that gets it. So again there, too, we have some shortfalls with the amount of money that is allotted for the Fort Smith district or the Hay River district. I would like to see that doubled or increased.

During the 10th Assembly, Mr. Speaker, I also identified Marvin Simba, John Cousa and Louis Lacorne, who have not completed their houses to date. This still has not been completed and I would like to see whether the department might address this particular situation. These people obviously do pursue the traditional way of life but it also does not allow them enough time, or they cannot afford to complete the houses. I would like to see the department do something in this particular area.

Mr. Speaker, during the spring I heard an announcement on the radio with regard to the transportation of dangerous goods between the Government of the United States and Japan, especially the transportation of plutonium over our airspace. I object to that. I feel that is a danger to the people of the North and I would like the government to address this particular issue. Mr. Speaker, these are some of the things that I wanted to address at this time and I would hope that perhaps the government will be able to address them.

School Hostel for Fort Providence

One area that I have not mentioned and which I should mention now is with regard to the hostel facility in Fort Providence. This is something that I indicated I would like for the community during the 10th Assembly. I am still indicating that there is an expressed interest in the community with regard to it. There is no opposition. I have met with the local education authorities, the hamlet council and the band council and they have not objected to such a facility being implemented. I have also said during my election campaign that this is something that if I were re-elected I would like to pursue for the community. It not only helps the local hunters and trappers to pursue the traditional way of life, it would also encourage the younger generation that do have children to perhaps pursue a traditional way of life, too. So this is the extent of my reply to the Opening Address, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. The Chair would like to recognize in the gallery, an elected hamlet councillor from Rankin Inlet, Jack Anawak.

---Applause

Item 8, replies to the Opening Address. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell's Reply

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to take this opportunity to reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address. I will be very brief; I am not going to try to break any record for speaking as Mr. Wray did and will try to bring my concerns right to the point.

I was born and raised in Fort Smith and I am honoured to represent that constituency -- my constituency, the Slave River riding. I am also honoured, not only by becoming a new MLA, but by being elected to the Executive Council. I thank my colleagues with great sincerity and I will serve each one of you to the best of my ability.

I decided to run for office in the month of September. I always had the desire to pursue my political career, although I did not anticipate to take such giant and leaping steps in such a short time frame, although, Mr. Speaker, I am confident I can take such movements in my stride, keeping in mind my political experience that I have gained over the past 10 years. I also bring experience and understanding of issues as a woman to this Legislative Assembly, and also as a mother of four children. I bring to this Legislative Assembly concerns of my constituency expressed by my constituents, especially in the areas of unemployment, the concern with the education system and a desire to achieve economic stability in our community. And further, the concerns expressed by the recent decision regarding decentralization in my constituency and particularly the decrease of programs in the Fort Smith area of the Thebacha Campus, the home of the first Arctic College campus here in the Northwest Territories, as I would like to remind some of my colleagues.

I know I have the support of my constituents to represent them in this House and I am honoured and I would like to ensure that the government will not treat, not only my constituency, but each and every one of us in such a hasty manner with the appearance of no clear direction as it has in the past. I believe this is why I am greatly honoured in sitting on the Executive Council, not only to show the Slave River riding that the government will work with them but at the same time indicating to my riding that it is essential to send an individual who is sincere and prepared to work toward the betterment of the North for all northerners.

As the Minister of Social Services and of the Women's Secretariat, I intend to work hard toward decreasing the issues and the barriers that are blocking the way for many northerners to achieve a quality of lifestyle that other northerners and other Canadians enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, my remarks are brief, as I had stated, but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues in this Assembly and my constituents and ask for your continued support and co-operation throughout the next four years. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The Chair would like to recognize Councillor Joe Kunnuk, town councillor from the town of Iqaluit, in the gallery.

---Applause

Item 8, replies to the Opening Address. That would appear to conclude Item 8 for today.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Ernerk.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I rise to table Tabled Document 1-87(2), a paper entitled "Will the Inuit and Inuvialuit be Permitted to Join in Canada's Defence?" Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Item 11, tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 15-87(2): Terms Of Reference, Standing Committee On Public Accounts

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 19th, I will move a motion to confirm the terms of reference for the standing committee on public accounts. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Pollard.

Notice Of Motion 16-87(2): Terms Of Reference, Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 19th, 1987, I will move a motion with regard to this House adopting the terms of reference for the standing committee on finance.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Item 12, notices of motion. Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 5-87(2), Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 19th, 1987, I shall move that Bill 5-87(2), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 14, motions. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I had intended to ask for consent to proceed with the motion on the terms of reference today but I do not have the motion quite ready. I am wondering, sir, if I could ask my colleagues' consent to proceed with the motion on the Meech Lake Accord, which is scheduled for tomorrow -- to proceed with that this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Unanimous consent is being sought. Do I hear any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Richard, you do not have unanimous consent. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pollard and I have motions to make with terms of reference that are not quite ready. Could we ask for an adjournment, sir, or permission to come back to this later on?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will adjourn for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

Order, please! Order, please! We are on Item 14, motions. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I would ask for the unanimous consent of Members of this House to allow me to proceed with my motion which would seek approval of the terms of reference for the standing committee on public accounts, today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Unanimous consent is being sought. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Richard.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Richard, you do not have unanimous consent. Motions. Item 14, motions. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to seek unanimous consent of the House with regard to my motion concerning the terms of reference for the standing committee on finance, which I will duly read after the motion is read.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Unanimous consent is being sought. Do I hear any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard, you do not have unanimous consent.

MR. POLLARD: Why, why...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Order, please! Order, please!

Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Mr. Lewis, please.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 12 since I was busily engaged with Mr. Richard and also with Mr. Pollard on another item at that time which has disrupted this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Unanimous consent to return to Item 12, is being sought. Do I hear any nays? Mr. Lewis, proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 17-87(2): Establishment Of A Special Committee On Economic Planning

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 19th, I would like to introduce Motion 17-87(2), that we establish a special committee on the economy to establish a sound economic base for our people.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. We are on Item 12, notices of motion. Item 12, notices of motion. Anything further? We go back to the orders of the day.

Item 18, report of committee of the whole. Item 19, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the striking committee at 2:15 this afternoon. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions at 2:30 this afternoon. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges at 3:00 this afternoon. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on legislation at 3:30 this afternoon. There will be a meeting of the ordinary Members committee at 4:00 this afternoon. Members are requested to remain in the building as these meetings may be moved up depending on the time taken by each committee.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 18th.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
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9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
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12. Notices of Motion
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15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 18th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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