



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Alloo, 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): Before proceeding with the orders of the day, the Clerk gave us a petition, Petition 4-87(2), on November 16th. This, I feel, is a document that Mr. Kilabuk intended as a tabled document. So to keep the record straight, I have ordered withdrawn Petition 4-87(2) and will ask Mr. Kilabuk to table his document under Item 11, tabling of documents.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 18. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 2-87(2): Live-In Caretaker And Protective Overnight Service, Mary Murphy Seniors' Home - Yellowknife

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House that a concern about the lack of overnight protective services at the Yellowknife Mary Murphy Seniors' Home has been resolved.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: The home is operated by the Yellowknife Housing Authority and has 15 elderly people living there. It is considered to be available to older people capable of living on their own. All other elderly people needing personal care were to be relocated to the new Aven Seniors' Centre when it was opened in June of this year.

This apparently has not happened. Two people needing extra personal care chose to stay at the Mary Murphy Home, which accentuated the concerns of the residents. During the day, home care services looked after those people but the major problems have happened during the evening.

Previously, Mr. Speaker, there was 24 hour care at the Mary Murphy Home. The housing authority had regular home care services to residents from 8:00 o'clock in the morning until 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon, a caretaker between 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon and midnight and a protective overnight shift between midnight and 8:00 o'clock in the morning. The midnight shift was supposed to last only until a permanent personal care facility opened. It ended when the Aven Seniors' Centre opened. This has created considerable concern among residents and the public.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Social Services has agreed to share the costs with the Yellowknife Housing Authority for a resident supervisor/caretaker for the rest of this year. This person will provide overnight protective services to the residents of the Mary Murphy Home. Further, officials from the Departments of Health, Social Services and the Housing Corporation are reviewing their roles in providing housing and services to senior citizens. They will clarify the level of service to be provided by each agency in senior citizen homes for independent living.

This, Mr. Speaker, should ensure that our elderly people are provided with a comfortable and secure living environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudluk.

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Public Swearing In Of Ministers

MR. PUDLUK: Two minutes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am really concerned about my proud Ministers at this time. I was not really happy that they were sworn in in camera, and not in public as I was. I do not know if they are sworn in yet. That is my concern. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

### ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: This is in response to a question from Mr. Angottitauruq on November 17th, oral Question 05-87(2), housing in Spence Bay. Apparently, two four-bedroom units were delivered to Spence Bay this summer with the sealift and these will be constructed in the coming spring. As well, the Housing Corporation's five year capital plan addresses Spence Bay's housing requirements through the provision of the following: For 1988-89 there are intended to be two HAP and two public housing units constructed; in 1989-90, two HAP units and two public housing units are intended to be constructed; and for 1990-91, the same is intended, as well as for 1992-93.

The Housing Corporation's intentions are to provide 22 units over the period of the plan in addition to the two being constructed this spring. He should know as well that as needs surveys are completed, these numbers may be adjusted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ernerk, first.

### ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Question 06-87(2): Inclusion Of Inuit Organizations To Do Studies On Child Care

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I read in one of the newspapers that the territorial government will be allocating some funding in the amount of \$163,000 for some aboriginal organizations to do some studies on child care, throughout the NWT. They have asked the following native organizations: the Metis Association, the Native Women's Association and the Dene Nation to do some studies. The report indicates this funding is for all the NWT. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Social Services why the Inuit organizations were not included in this study and I would like to get a response later on whether the Inuit women's associations, ITC and regional organizations will be included in this planned study.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the question of why the Inuit organizations are excluded, I am sorry I really do not know, but I will take your question and concern as notice and put forth the concern to my department and reply to you as soon as possible. Thank you.



MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 07-87(2): Response To Petition 3-87(2)

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Municipal Affairs. I tabled a petition on Monday concerning the lake where the Lake Harbour residents get their water. If that lake is polluted, this winter we will not be able to find out whether that lake is polluted but we would be able to in the summertime. The petition indicates they are requesting another reservoir. My question is whether Municipal Affairs will take this seriously or not. Could I please have a response as soon as possible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 07-87(2): Response To Petition 3-87(2)

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the rules of this House indicate, there is a 60-day allowance time to respond to petitions; however, given that the nature of the petition deals with water supply, which is very critical to any community, we will try to have an answer to the Member before this session concludes. It may not be possible, however. But we are treating it very seriously and as soon as we can indicate to the Member exactly what it is that we intend to do, then we will try to get that to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chair would like to recognize His Worship Mayor Andy Theriault from Iqaluit in the gallery.

---Applause

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

Question 08-87(2): Personal Care Services For Seniors In Communities

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Social Services. I applaud the Member on taking quick action on the Mary Murphy Home. In only a few communities is a personal care unit available, as in Yellowknife and Fort Smith, for example, and there are dozens of other communities where there is only independent senior citizen housing and then after that people have to be taken to hospitals, sometimes uprooted out of their community. I would like to ask the Minister if this service, which has been made available to two people living in independent senior citizens housing in a community where personal care is available in another facility, will be extended, then, to the dozens of other facilities in the Northwest Territories where there is no personal care available in the community. Will she then extend it to every facility where there are seniors living in independent seniors' housing and there are at least one or two residents requiring personal care?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take my colleague's concern as notice and I will be reviewing the problem. I felt that the concern with the Mary Murphy Home needed a quick remedy to ensure the senior citizens were looked after, although also in the back of my mind I looked at the other problems that may snowball from this solution. Therefore, I will assure you that I will take this as notice and reply to this as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister.

MR. RICHARD: The previous Minister could not have done any better.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair would like to recognize in the gallery Mr. Lucassie Nakoolak, elected hamlet councillor from Coral Harbour.

---Applause

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 09-87(2): Policy On School Gyms And Community Halls

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I received a response from Mr. Wray concerning the need for a community hall on the Hay River Reserve. Unfortunately, in his reply, Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that you cannot have a primary school gym and a community hall in a community the size of Hay River Reserve. According to Mr. Wray that has been their policy. I have just received a complete government policy. I think all the Members received this. But in here I do not see where this policy exists. I just wanted to ask the Minister if, in fact, such a policy does exist. If so, I would like to get a copy of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will forward a copy of the policy to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking the question as notice. The Chair would like to also recognize His Worship Mayor Michael Miltenberger of Fort Smith in the gallery.

---Applause

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ernerk.

Question 010-87(2): Tabling Of Policy On Decentralization And On Privatization

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I would like the Government of the NWT to table two items before the session is over: 1) decentralization policy; 2) privatization policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. I wonder which Member of the Executive Council would like to field this. Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question 010-87(2): Tabling Of Policy On Decentralization And On Privatization

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not exactly sure whether we have policies or guidelines, but I would be happy to ensure that whatever materials are available covering government policy on those areas, are provided to the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Crow.

Question 011-87(2): Coverage For Soapstone Carvers Through Workers' Compensation

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Four weeks ago I was attending the Baffin Regional Council session in Iqaluit. Mr. Mike Moore, the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board and Mr. Moseesie Koonoo, board member from Baffin were giving some briefs to the BRC. During that time I was very pleased that hunters will be covered by the Workers' Compensation Board. My question is: What about soapstone carvers? This question came up after I heard Mr. Moore and Mr. Koonoo. I do not think the carvers are covered under Workers' Compensation. They face a lot of hazards, especially the good carvers, who prefer to quarry or mine their own soapstone. In my constituency I think I can safely say that about one third of the population of my community are carvers and the majority of them prefer to get their own soapstone supply for winter. That is my question. Would the Workers' Compensation Board see if they can cover the soapstone carvers? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Crow. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, your responsibility, I think.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the question submitted, I will take that as notice. When I do speak to Mr. Moore with the Workers' Compensation Board -- I do recall reading this in the last Assembly's Hansard but I will take it as notice and reply to the honourable Member as quickly as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. You are taking the question as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.



Question 012-87(2): Gymnasium For New School, Pangnirtung

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I just want some clarification in regard to the petition I tabled in regard to the education authority. I would like to get an answer to that petition before this session is over in regard to whether or not we can get a gymnasium in the school. So, I would like a reply before this session is over. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 012-87(2): Gymnasium For New School, Pangnirtung

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, that is a very tall order. If the session is to end in a day or two I do not expect I could provide an answer since what the Member is requesting would require both a change to our policy on schools which provides now standard designs for certain size schools and standard gym sizes. Secondly, it would also require an adjustment to the capital plan which would be a change to the budget. So, if the Assembly is to end in the next two days, I have to tell the Member that I do not believe an answer could be provided. However, we will be working on the problem and certainly well before the winter session begins we could have an answer given to the Member, but to tackle a problem of this size in three days is difficult. This government is efficient and decisive but does not operate in haste either. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 013-87(2): Submission By GNWT On Proposed Free Trade Agreement

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the federal House of Commons is sending a committee to Yellowknife next week to hear submissions from Canadians with respect to the proposed free trade agreement with the Americans. My question, Mr. Speaker, is: Is the Government of the Northwest Territories going to be making a submission to that House of Commons committee on the impact of the proposed agreement on the people of the Northwest Territories? If so, can or will this House be apprized of the thrust of the submission that is going to be made on behalf of the people? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 013-87(2): Submission By GNWT On Proposed Free Trade Agreement

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we are aware of the House of Commons standing committee on free trade coming to Yellowknife next week. The Government of the Northwest Territories will be making a submission to that committee. The subject of our position on free trade is on the agenda of the Executive Council tomorrow morning. Once our position is arrived at, I would be pleased to provide the House with information on that position.

May I also say, Mr. Speaker, that in discussing the subject of free trade, the cabinet, this morning, felt it would be desirable to approach the caucus and to provide an opportunity for a briefing on this very complicated agreement and how it affects the Northwest Territories. So we will be recommending to the caucus that a briefing be set up at the earliest opportunity to give Members an opportunity to be briefed and to ask questions on this subject. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chair would like to recognize at this time, His Worship Piet Van Loon from Fort McPherson in the gallery and also His Worship Louis Pilakapsi from Rankin Inlet.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

Question 014-87(2): Role In Free Trade Negotiations

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader. I would like to ask him which of the two departments, Economic Development or Energy, Mines and Resources, will be taking the lead role in the free trade matters.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, please.

Return To Question 014-87(2): Role In Free Trade Negotiations

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 014-87(2): Role In Free Trade Negotiations

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary then to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Several months ago I sent advice to yourself and Mr. Butters, who was then the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources, that Mr. Millican, the Alberta free trade representative, might be available to meet with officials in your department. As the Northwest Territories is not a party to these negotiations -- only the provinces and the federal government -- I felt that would be an advantage to us. Then I found out about a month ago that no follow-up had been done on that and I once again sent a letter to you, as Minister, and a copy to Energy, Mines and Resources that this was available. I feel that because Alberta is an exporter of renewable and non-renewable resources similar to us that it would be to our advantage to use Mr. Millican's advice to help us out with this. I wonder, since I sent that letter a month ago if any action has been taken in that regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, or Mr. Sibbeston.

Further Return To Question 014-87(2): Role In Free Trade Negotiations

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Member, I do not recall receiving the letter. I will look through the mail I received in the last few weeks and see if I can find it. If I concur with the Member then and if I think it is still useful to consult with the Member and the person indicated, I will do so.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those friends opposite, this is not heaven over here.

---Laughter

MR. McLAUGHLIN: This is the neck twisting department.

MR. RICHARD: Former Ministers...

AN HON. MEMBER: They need more room.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: This is where they twist their neck.

Question 015-87(2): Briefing On Free Trade Agreement

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask, through you, Mr. Speaker, the Government Leader whether or not he will be prepared to table in this House a report outlining the major concerns with regard to the free trade issue so that the Members of this House and the people of the public will become aware of the issues that are of major concern and that require a response on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question 015-87(2): Briefing On Free Trade Agreement

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the cabinet discussed that very question this morning. We reviewed a paper that had been prepared by Mr. Sibbeston on the implications of the free trade package to the Northwest Territories, both benefits and perhaps disadvantages, and we discussed how we might best inform the Legislature on that free trade agreement. Unfortunately, it may be difficult to translate that paper quickly and before the House adjourns but I propose to raise the matter in caucus at the first opportunity, which I believe is after session today, and we will get advice from caucus on how we can best approach briefing the

House on this matter. As well, by tomorrow I expect the government will have a position or the beginnings of a position on the free trade agreement which we will be prepared to present and discuss in the Legislature in the form most appropriate. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 016-87(2): Establishment Of Public Service Commission

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, several years ago the Executive Council examined the possibility of setting up a public service commission. It was rejected because it was felt that such a commission would hamper and restrict the actions of the government in doing what it wants to with regard to the way it treats its employees. I would therefore like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Personnel, and a simple yes or no answer would be quite adequate...

MR. BUTTERS: You will not get that.

---Laughter

MR. LEWIS: ...whether he would consider, and I use the word "consider", whether he would consider the possibility of establishing such a commission. And if he decides he will not do that, if he will report back to this House why he has made his decision in that direction. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 016-87(2): Establishment Of Public Service Commission

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your simplicity. Item 5, oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 017-87(2): Feasibility Of Core Servicing In Communities

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to again direct my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I do not know if it is proper now, Mr. Speaker, but I still have some written questions from the 10th Assembly that were not answered. So I am just dealing with the question that deals with the core utilidor system that the Minister mentioned. In June I asked that same question, but I did not get a response at that time. Now five or six months have passed and I am just wondering whether it is still the intention of the department to look at that possibility and whether the Minister has made a decision with regard to which communities might benefit from such a system being put in place.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 017-87(2): Feasibility Of Core Servicing In Communities

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In early summer we did undertake a study utilizing Reid Crowther and Underwood McClellan in a number of communities -- of which Fort Providence was one -- to study the feasibility of core servicing in those communities. I first of all wanted to get an idea of just what kind of cost we were talking about. I have received the preliminary reports of those studies about four weeks ago. I am waiting for the final report from the consultants and once I have that the department will be developing a position which we will take to the Executive Council. So it is under way and Fort Providence is one of the communities which is part of the study. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time the Chair would like to recognize in the gallery a group of students from the Deninoo School in Fort Resolution, accompanied by their teachers, Glen Staples and Dorothy Beaulieu. I would like to point out that these students are all honour students. We welcome you to the Assembly.

---Applause

Item 5, oral questions. This would appear to conclude oral questions for today.

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to written questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought. Are there any nays? Mr. Nerysoo, you have unanimous consent. Proceed with your written question.

#### ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

##### Question W3-87(2): Rental Scale Review

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a written question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Would the Minister provide an update on the rental scale review and indicate to this House when the Members will have the opportunity to discuss the recommendations of the review committee and the government?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. We will return to orders of the day. Item 8, replies to the Opening Address. Mr. Richard.

#### ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

##### Mr. Richard's Reply

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to take this opportunity to give a brief reply and pass on some concerns of my constituents and concerns of my own with respect to the work of this Assembly in the next four years.

I am pleased, as my colleagues here are, Mr. Speaker, to be back in the Assembly. I want to publicly, for the record, thank the voters of Yellowknife South for returning me in such a manner to be the representative in this House for the next four years. I am fairly enthusiastic, Mr. Speaker, to see the amount of fresh blood around this table or on both sides of this circle. The energy that I have witnessed so far, the energetic enthusiasm of Members, particularly new Members, is very, very welcome in my view. The competition for Ministers' portfolios and for chairmanship of various standing committees of this Assembly is nice to see and I am sure it will result in the energy just keeping going, with all the hard work, right around the whole group of 24.

I want to publicly, Mr. Speaker, extend my congratulations to each of the Members of the Executive Council on their appointment, particularly the new Ministers. I am looking forward, Mr. Speaker, to working with the new Ministers on the Executive Council. I have been a fairly active MLA in the last three years and previous Ministers can tell the new Ministers that although I am fairly active, I am probably the most reasonable person in the room when it comes to working with the Ministers. And I am sure that my friends who have been Ministers before will pass that on...

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, we will. We will, Ted.

MR. RICHARD: ...to the new Ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I too, want to publicly, in seriousness, pass on my appreciation to former Ministers who are not on the Executive Council this time around: Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Butters. I say with respect to Mr. Butters, that in a special way, Mr. Speaker, this man has been a tireless worker in the three years that I have been here and I know from personal knowledge, for many years before that. But particularly in the Finance portfolio, in the last few years that I have been here, I think he has done a difficult job in that portfolio in an exemplary

fashion. Also, because I was here and witnessed many, many things, I think he deserves an "A" on his report card for his job as government House Leader during that time with so many wandering Ministers to...

---Laughter

...take care of.

MR. BUTTERS: You are right on. Do not wander any more.

MR. RICHARD: There were times, Mr. Speaker, in the past few years when I, some other MLAs and the finance committee were dealing with Mr. Butters and the Executive Council on financial matters and deficit budgets, that I felt that it was only Mr. Butters, of the previous group of eight, who was not a spendthrift. It was the only ear that we were able to have listen to us in a sincere way. I have some trepidation that one Minister, of the past group of eight, who was not a spendthrift is not there any more. But I trust that Mr. Ballantyne, the new Minister, will carry out that portfolio with the able assistance of the new and energetic finance committee in this 11th Assembly.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. RICHARD: Again, Mr. Speaker, in seriousness with respect to Mr. Butters I would encourage new Ministers, particularly, and new MLAs in this House, when they have an opportunity, to listen to Mr. Butters and to heed his advice because he is the dean of this Assembly and all of us were brought up to respect the views of our elders.

---Laughter

I will move on from that, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GORDON WRAY: You have more gray hair than he has.

MR. RICHARD: And I have earned every one of them because I am working with you, Wray!

#### Time Taken For Selection Process

Mr. Speaker, the public did express some concern about the fact that it took our group of MLAs almost a week to arrive at our decisions with respect to the selection process and the actual selection of our Executive cabinet. It was a very time-consuming process, as you are aware, but I believe it was a very necessary five or six days. Each time we do this, Mr. Speaker, even if it is once every four years, we are, in effect, writing a page of the history of the NWT. And when we are charged with that kind of responsibility, I do not think we should be rushing it in any way whatsoever.

At this particular juncture in our development, I was one who wanted to take a bigger step than we did, to make a leap of faith in the Government Leader. But I accept the wishes of the majority of these Members that we change the selection process in a moderate way rather than in a dramatic way. However, sir, we did, as you know, take some steps forward in electing our Government Leader first and then in electing the other seven. We have clearly designated in one elected person the status of First Minister among the Ministers, and also, with our resolutions and motions with respect to the Government Leader, the additional authorities given to him. I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Patterson in carrying out what may be awesome responsibilities because of the new era of the status of Government Leader. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that Dennis Patterson is equal to the task and, as one MLA in this House, I look forward to working with him as he puts his stamp on this new era of the status of Government Leader and on the Executive branch of government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

### Code Of Conduct For Ministers Should Be Developed

MR. RICHARD: I am hoping, Mr. Speaker, that in the weeks and months ahead the Government Leader and his colleagues will develop a code of conduct for the Ministers. We too often see, in the news media, stories of the scandals and the attacks, most of them justified, on politicians in southern Canada and in the United States, where Ministers of government who have had trust put in them by their colleagues and by the people, have misbehaved in some fashion or other in the profession, if it is one, of politicians. In southern Canada, in some of those provinces where there have been so many problems, patronage scandals, etc., I believe young people in this country do not want to aspire to become full-time politicians. We have, fortunately, Mr. Speaker, not had that kind of problem, as yet, in the NWT.

I would hope that Mr. Patterson and his colleagues will take this opportunity, before something untoward happens, to develop a code of conduct dealing with matters of discipline to Ministers, conflict of interest guidelines, that would guide the eight Ministers in their deliberations and that that sort of code might be tabled for the public to see before there are any incidents. Perhaps we can once again get a jump ahead of politicians, generally, in southern jurisdictions.

### Policy On Cabinet Secrecy

Among those things, Mr. Speaker, that I am looking forward to seeing from the new Executive is their policy on such things as cabinet secrecy. We did, in the previous year, have a document tabled by the previous Government Leader with respect to that, and I hope that the new Government Leader will confirm or amend the previous policy with respect to items such as cabinet secrecy.

Mr. Speaker, if I could turn briefly to some issues that are of concern to residents of my constituency and the city residents generally. We had an election campaign in my riding. It was a very active campaign, with three candidates.

Mr Speaker, I believe that there were three -- if I could put it this way, maybe emphatically -- there were three issues that dominated the 1987 election campaign in Yellowknife. They were these: the first one was housing; the second one was housing; and the third one was housing. There is a crisis virtually, Mr. Speaker, in this city with respect to the shortage and affordability of housing. The housing crisis that we have in this city is different from what some of my colleagues may describe as a housing crisis in their own communities. But that does not take away from the fact that we have a crisis in this community. More units need to be added to the public housing stock in this city. More units need to be added to the private housing stock, both home-ownership and rental accommodation. It is because of the state of development in my community. It is very much a municipal issue as well, but, Mr. Speaker, much can be done by the Government of the NWT. This is not to take away from the fact that much has been done by the territorial government in recent years in the area of housing in this city.

### Rental Scale For Public Housing In Yellowknife

I do not have all of the answers, Mr. Speaker, but we need more public housing in the city. Work needs to be done on the rental scale for public housing. I have been after the previous Minister of Housing for at least two years on that issue because my constituents are concerned about the rental scale. The special committee on housing had public meetings in Yellowknife in 1984. It was raised then and nothing has been done about the rental scale in the intervening three years. We need more co-op projects. It is a method of providing affordable housing to people. And although the primary source of co-op housing funding comes from CMHC, I think our government has a role to play in assisting local groups in accessing the co-op housing money.

There are other areas related to this city. Our government, I believe, has a role in assisting the city and/or developers in putting more serviced lots or even unserved lots on the private market. As I say, Mr. Speaker, I do not have all the answers for the Executive on what they can do to alleviate the housing problem in the city but if they listen closely in the next month or so, we have five mayoralty candidates and 10 aldermanic candidates and these people will have all the answers in the next four weeks. So, for Mr. Kakfwi, the new Housing Minister, if he just believes the media reporting exactly what is being said, there will be lots of answers put on the table for consideration in the next month as the municipal election comes closer and closer.



Other issues, Mr. Speaker, which were raised during the recent territorial election in the city were, of course, day care; extended benefits for senior citizens, particularly in the area of medical benefits; pay equity for women, particularly in the government public service; and the underrepresentation by residents of the city of Yellowknife in this Legislature -- and Members will not be surprised if I and others request this Assembly to call for an electoral boundaries commission sometime in the next two years or so. It is not only Yellowknife's population which is changing, but there are other constituencies where there are population shifts. I believe the time has come, Mr. Speaker, for another electoral boundaries commission.

Moving from my own home community, Mr. Speaker, to larger issues which are of importance to me and, I would hope, to all Members, that relate to the entire Northwest Territories -- and as I say, I do not have the answers to these but I want to raise them. I think they should be on our agenda in the months ahead.

The Meech Lake Accord. I hope that we will be dealing with a motion later today, if there are no naysayers, dealing with the Meech Lake Accord. There was a motion in the last Assembly at a time between the Meech Lake meeting and the Langevin Block meeting. The response by the Prime Minister of this country to this Legislature's motion was not a response, it was virtually an acknowledgement of receipt of copy of our motion. The response by the joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons to the government's presentation given by Mr. Ballantyne, the response of that joint committee -- how can I say it kindly -- was disappointing and it will come out later, Mr. Speaker, when we are dealing with the motion. There are more public hearings that are going to be held in the South and I believe that our message should be taken to those hearings.

Tax reform is another territorial issue and national issue and this one, Mr. Speaker, quite frankly is going to take as much or more energy than the Meech Lake matter took...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. RICHARD: ...by northerners. The ordinary person in the street may not be losing any sleep over Meech Lake but let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, my assessment of what is coming down the tube in stage two of the federal tax reform is going to make a lot of northerners lose sleep because of the implications of the proposals on our way of living.

#### Proposed Northern Accord

The northern accord is something that I believe, from what I have heard from Members in the last week -- the proposed northern accord is something that we will be addressing and I think we should get on with that and somewhere in Mr. Patterson's Executive Council's list of priorities, northern accord negotiations have to be near the top of the list. I noticed recently an article somewhere indicating that a Pacific Accord between the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada is almost ready for signature, so surely with the Atlantic Accord and the Western Accord and Pacific Accord, we are now free to command the attention of the federal government in this regard.

Free trade, Mr. Speaker, we have already addressed this afternoon. I think that is an important issue, national issue, on our agenda. Constitutional development here in the Northwest Territories. What is the future of the Constitutional Alliance, the two constitutional forums? Where does it fit? Where does the non-plebiscite of May, 1987 -- where does it fit in our priorities? I think this is something we should address. Formula financing, the NCPC devolution -- these are all larger issues, Mr. Speaker, which I feel we must use our collective best efforts to address in the months ahead.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, there has been a suggestion by virtually all of the MLAs, old and new, that the economy of the Northwest Territories -- that we, as elected representatives of the people, can no longer ignore the fact that we do not have an economy in the Northwest Territories. There is a suggestion that has been made that this Legislature should put a priority on that and strike a special committee on the economy as was done on large issues such as education and housing in previous Legislatures and I am in agreement with that, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we should do that. It is an excellent idea and we should devote our collective energies, as I say, to that issue. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Item 8, replies to the Opening Address. Mr. Ernerk.

Mr. Ernerk's Reply

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes I make a mistake -- my apologies. Whenever I arise to speak I get a little bit nervous. I am not doing it on purpose. I am a bit shy at times but I try not to be. I am very sorry.

Perhaps I am so small, I am not easy to spot and there are times I do not get noticed very easily. It is quite all right. Sometimes when I try and make myself very clear when I am talking, sometimes I do not think I am understood but I will try my best during the Assembly sessions. I do not want to wait 60 days for replies to my questions. There will be times I will demand to have a response immediately.

Tribute To Tagak Curley

When I am going to speak on the issues as I was elected to do by the people of Aivilik. I am pleased for those people who were elected. I would like to thank and recognize Tagak Curley.

---Applause

For a number of years when he was with this Assembly he contributed an awful lot to the progress of economic development in the communities and he contributed a lot to the communities. I would like to recognize him especially for the success of Expo '86 in Vancouver.

Constituency Issues Will Be Raised

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, we will be here for the four years coming anyway. We are sure we will get to know each other in the future. We will be talking on behalf of our constituency at this House. We will try to do our best on behalf of our constituents. On this side of the House we are calling ourselves "ajauqtit", the people who push. It is like a dog team. If the load begins to get too heavy we start to push to make the pulling easier. On the other side, you are pulling and if the load you are pulling is too heavy, then we push and this is why we are calling ourselves "ajauqtit".

Just recently after the election in the Aivilik riding, we had meetings in these communities of Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Repulse Bay and Rankin Inlet. Their requests on issues were recorded and they also want powers to the different organizations. They will be requesting issues within our communities, like for instance, relocation of the airport in Repulse Bay. Or in regard to renewable resources they will want to see more authority for the local HTAs and regional councils in regard to renewable resources so that they will have more power.

I am very happy to be here. The issues that we will be raising in the future are tough but we have to be. Right now I am in the House to work for my constituency. I am not only thinking about my communities but for the whole of the Northwest Territories. I am here because I really care. (Translation ends)

You know, when I went to school in Chesterfield Inlet at the age of 12 one of the things that I thought about was becoming a priest. I had seen this movie, I do not remember the title of it, but in this movie the hero was a priest, his name was Father Loken, who helped people, fed them and saved them from being beaten. As a boy, this seemed to be the best way of helping people at the time. But as a man, my career goal has changed but my motivation has not. I believe that motives are very important in this time of broken promises, pork barrelling, nepotism; it is sometimes important to examine politicians. They often ignore the needs and wishes of the majority of the people and represent the select few. I do not wish to see this happen to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories this time around. People are expecting a lot from us. People are expecting things to happen.

You know, Mr. Speaker, throughout my life I have always tried to remain true to my principles and responsibility and be faithful to those who have confidence in me. What has the government in Yellowknife done for the economic situation in the Northwest Territories? We are still slaves to outside economic influences. We are still dependent upon government handouts and social assistance; we still have very little work.

#### Training And Employment Opportunities

So, that brings me to the point of training, training and employment opportunities; training, in terms of training people to do something. When I travelled throughout the constituency of Aivilik, I met people who want to be trained to do something. When I went to visit the communities after the election a lot of people came to me and said, "I want to be trained to do something. I want a job at the end of my training." That is the kind of thing that we should be aiming for. That is the kind of thing that the Government of the Northwest Territories should be looking at. It is no use training unless you have a job for people at the end. I had to be trained when I was a little boy. I wanted to become a good hunter. I wanted to become a good provider for my family. So my father taught me how to become a good hunter. He taught me how to do things like seal hunting and caribou hunting.

(Translation) What about today, what are we going to do now in regard to the education, to training in the North? We have been asking the Government of the Northwest Territories for a long time to have a high school in the Keewatin. I pretty well understand the roles of the Department of Education. It is nice to get a building, but just a building is not enough. Years ago, we had a good training by our parents and we were taught by the teachers. I always like to refer back to my school days in Chesterfield Inlet. My colleague right next to me even wrote about it. Today, you know, here in the Northwest Territories, if we were to look at people who went to school in Chesterfield Inlet they are all holding positions: Jack Anawak, Marie Uviluq, John Ningark, Germaine Arnaktauyok and I can go on and on and on. Also, today people who went to school in Chesterfield Inlet still have not forgotten their lifestyles, their language. We have told the Minister of Education not only once, we have told him a number of times, that for the people who went to school in Chesterfield Inlet, all of them, why do they not have a reunion to meet and make recommendations about the education system in the NWT. Those of us who went to school in Chesterfield Inlet would make recommendations on language and on the quality of education in the Northwest Territories. I think we can give them hope for improving the education of our children in future.

#### Day Care Programs Needed

As well, the women's concerns. There are many women in the Northwest Territories who cannot work or who could do more work than they have. But, there is not enough initiative with the government in regard to day care facilities. In Keewatin, there are many women, more women than men; 52 per cent of the population. The concern is that the territorial government system treats our women as second-class citizens. And it hurts to see our women being treated this way in Keewatin. In regard to day care centres we do need funding to develop day care centres. This subject was raised; some said it was probably impossible to establish a universal day care program in the Northwest Territories. I disagree. I can see that it is quite possible to establish day care as a universal program. (Translation ends)

On this point, if we are serious about the future of our children we must be prepared to give them the best of care and services. We must take that challenge. In Rankin Inlet, for instance, in the last eight years our day care facility was moved three times, three times. Surely we can provide better service for our young children. That is the kind of thing we should take a look at as number one priority.

#### Health Services In Keewatin

(Translation) In regard to health, in Keewatin we are the only people in the Northwest Territories that have to move out of the NWT in order to go to hospital. We go to the hospitals in Manitoba -- even older people who cannot speak English who are unilingual -- to receive health services. The people in Keewatin go to the hospital in the South maybe for a whole month, maybe sometimes just for short occasions. Our elders who are unilingual go through trying times when they go to Churchill or Winnipeg. They go through very difficult situations and times in moving out of their own environment. They cannot eat the country food they like to eat and sometimes they do not even

have an interpreter all day; I know on different occasions I visit Churchill or Winnipeg. I usually go and visit the patients there, they go through very difficult times psychologically. In 1975 we made a recommendation that we should get a hospital in Keewatin. Where did that recommendation go to? It was lost! Nobody has ever spoken about it since then. More people outside of this Assembly raised the issue of a regional hospital than those who are in the Legislative Assembly.

Another issue as well is for our women. It is obvious that we have many times brought up the subject of midwifery in Keewatin. We are the only region in the NWT whose women have to go South to give birth. Two years ago we co-sponsored a study with the University of Manitoba with regard to the issue of obstetrics and evacuation programs. We visited the communities and we found out when the pregnant women are away from home for two weeks or even up to two months that the person who is away from home, goes through a very difficult time especially when they have to leave their children behind at home. It is very difficult psychologically.

On February 6th, 1986, I met with the territorial government Minister in Yellowknife concerning this issue, that there should be a birthing centre in Keewatin. The Minister responded -- we will stress this having a birthing centre in Keewatin to the present new Minister -- he responded that he could not provide birthing centres in the Keewatin, but they could try for one as a pilot project. That was in 1986. It is away past February 1986; where is it? I do not think it has been considered seriously when it is like this. If there were birthing centres then we could train nurses through federal government and territorial government programs; we could have trained nurses. We need the training now. (Translation ends)

In April of 1978 with regard to economics, I said social and political evolution comes about due to a thriving economy, a low rate of unemployment and a government that is responsible to the person on the street.

(Translation) This is a quote from April 1978 here in Yellowknife. (Translation ends)

The only way we will see any real progress is through sound economic development. The government says that the only way we can have a strong North is through diversified economy. I agree, Mr. Speaker. You know there is that much promise and it has yet to be seen -- that much promise by the Government of the NWT.

#### Development Of Tourism Industry

Tourism. I would like to again refer to my days in tourism. In 1976 as Minister of Economic Development, I spoke in favour of tourism as a major growth industry that had much potential in the North. Throughout the years I have given my full support to tourism development. I have supported employment, oriented training in hospitality and the development of tourism programs at the high school. When I was travelling throughout the communities in the Aivilik riding, a number of people said that they want guides to be trained, hospitality training and they want to see more promotional and educational material for tourism. They want tourists. They want to take part in tourism. They want to be able to establish their own tourism organizations.

(Translation) We should not forget about the tourism industry in the NWT. Also one of the ideas I have, and I often talk about this with many people in Keewatin, is how can the Inuit in the communities get training into the management levels within the territorial government, within the federal government, at the Arctic airports and different companies. I think you already have a fair idea about the suggestions we have. The Inuit will never leave the NWT; we will remain in our communities. We tried to get educated. We have been in the communities for many years and will be for years to come. The future generation will remain in the communities. This is Inuit land. I would be very happy to see the different departments transferred to the communities. The people need training. The territorial government is starting to recognize this fact and I am very happy about it.

### Wildlife Management

I would like to congratulate the Executive Council for moving in this direction. The Inuit would like to see their land unspoiled. We were born there and live with the wildlife. We cannot grow potatoes. We cannot have agricultural farming and we do not have any trees. We have marine mammals. We have not been given any responsibility from the territorial government up until now concerning the wildlife. We do get funded peanuts. The newly elected Executive Council should move toward giving more authority to HTAs using the Tungavik Federation's management board. There are eight representatives on this board; four Inuit and four from the two governments. The Inuit have absolutely no say in running their own wildlife resources and yet we have utilized animals for our livelihood for many years. The studies and the collection of data of wildlife population and preserving the environment -- this is a very good idea. The Inuit have existed for many years and they have not depleted the population. We have spoken about this. Why can the Inuit not participate in deciding the quota system and not just be given the tags or the quota limit? If the Inuit participate more on these issues, they can come up with very good ideas on the management of the wildlife. I will stress that you should not ignore the fact that the authority to manage the wildlife should be handed over to the Inuit.

Also in our area, why cannot the Inuit themselves do the direct marketing of pelts or skins overseas? There is legislation that prevents this. I will give an example. If Keewatin Wildlife Federation wants to export to overseas countries polar bear skins or fox pelts, why cannot we get any assistance from the territorial government through Economic Development or through Renewable Resources? Why cannot these ideas be implemented, so that the Inuit can sell or export pelts and skins overseas? The polar bear's price tag right now is close to \$3000. Last April we went to Germany to take part in the Frankfurt fair. I saw a polar bear skin mounted and the highest price that it went for was \$20,000. Why cannot the territorial government delegate these authorities and responsibilities to the regional HTAs so that they can directly export to overseas and do away with the middleman? A lot of people overseas would like to help out the Inuit in this area.

### Treatment Of Elders

Also, bilingualism in Inuktitut and English that we have mentioned over and over again regarding Inuit culture and Inuit language. Why do we not start thinking about recognizing the aboriginal languages and using the Official Languages Act? If we did so, we could begin to utilize the services of our own elders. (Translation ends)

I place a lot of emphasis on our elders as a native person. I also place a lot of emphasis on the young people. You know that we have completely forgotten about our older people today and I think it is very shameful that we do that. We should be looking at their experiences. You know that if you are not educated, if you have no grade levels at all, you cannot get employment at all with the government or with any company in the Northwest Territories. How can this society forget the older people? These are the people that brought us up. The Canadian government, the present government in Canada, wanted to do away with the old age pensions. Is that how we thank our older people? Is that how we treat our older people?

In terms of young people, they wanted to take away the family allowance. These are universal programs. In many of my meetings with various organizations in the Eastern Arctic, whether they be native organizations, whether they be regional councils, every meeting mentioned the old people, that we do not have anything for them to do any more. We lack facilities for them. We do not have senior citizens homes for them. The Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories lack in providing health care services for them, especially for the chronically ill. You know it really bugs me to see how the people who brought us up to where we are today are being treated by this society. In the Northwest Territories we should be coming out ahead. We should be number one in treating our older people the way we should.

That brings me to an interesting point. Mr. Minister of Education, why do you not consider changing the Education Act of the Northwest Territories to hire unilingual Inuit, Inuit people speaking only Inuktitut, as professors? We are talking about forgetting our culture. We keep talking about forgetting our traditions, our languages. Why do we not start looking at the idea of hiring Inuit professors in the classrooms in the high schools? These people would be teaching our traditions. Give them the certification. Give them papers. Recognize them as full-time professors within the education society of the NWT. I think it is a good idea.



(Translation) With the present government we would like to see more accountability especially in the Executive Council. We will have to push this idea. (Translation ends) You are here to provide services, not favours.

#### Constitutional Issues

(Translation) In our community, I am a great supporter of the aboriginal people and my ideals have not changed concerning the land claims. I have been supporting the Tungavik Federation through KIA on the constitutional issues. But I was not very happy when the Premiers of Canada, the First Ministers of Canada, froze the constitutional agreement for the implementation of the rights of aboriginal people. (Translation ends)

I have had so many disappointments. First, the First Ministers' Conference; then the Meech Lake Accord. The people of the NWT were disappointed so much in being treated as second-class citizens by society, by the Canadian government, by 10 provinces and the Prime Minister of Canada. I do not really like to be left out of decisions that are being made and I really think that we should push and, as a Legislature, come up with a position and present our views to the Prime Minister of Canada about our disappointment with regard to the Meech Lake Accord. Initially my reaction to the Meech Lake Accord a number of months ago was with regard to the aboriginal people of Canada and how the Prime Minister and his Premiers keep talking about one Canada, a united Canada. One family, they said. To me, native people of Canada according to the Meech Lake Accord are merely adopted members of this new family. That is the way the Meech Lake Accord works. So every resident of the NWT must, time and time again, voice their opinions disapproving the Meech Lake Accord.

Mr. Speaker, I support Nunavut unconditionally. To me its creation is in keeping with the aspirations of the people of the Eastern Arctic. We will need to tap the best minds to ensure that we are armed with a sound blueprint for its success. We must create an ongoing mechanism through which we identify opportunities and support programs for groups and individuals. Well, I support Nunavut. I support division and that is no secret, I have said it many times now.

#### Economic Development

I would like to call upon the Government of the NWT to establish a task force on a comprehensive economic planning initiative immediately. (Translation) It also has been mentioned that Nunavut does not have anything. (Translation ends) Mining companies are operating or interested in getting into the Keewatin Region right now. What we must also ensure, Mr. Speaker, is that while these companies are interested in coming North, we must make sure that we have a program where we, in the communities, begin to benefit from these companies. If it means using local grocery stores, that is a very good benefit. Also, use of transportation companies, use of local labour. It could provide many things -- training and employment opportunities for people. That is the kind of direction we should be looking at as we take a look at economic development of Nunavut.

(Translation) With regard to social services. Training is the issue here. I can see a lot of good things with regard to services. I guess we have to look at issues as to how this can be implemented. With regard to social assistance, there are people who would like to work; why do we not use that money to train these people who are looking for work? (Translation ends) Why do we not put social assistance money up as training money for those people who are able to work, recognizing the fact that there are people out there in the communities who really do need social assistance? What about that idea? Why not put social assistance into that kind of program? We kind of had it worked out with the STEP program a number of years ago.

(Translation) Maybe, Mr. Speaker, we still have four years ahead of us and I will have a lot to say. Lastly, I would like to say that for now I think we will have to work among ourselves and exchange ideas and we should come to an agreement and make sure they are initiated. (Translation ends) I am going to have a lot of time to say what I want to say within the next four years. But I would like to start trading ideas. I would like to start producing something. I would like to be productive and get going and at the same time I would like to say to my constituents and to all of the people of the Northwest Territories, although we seem to have had a lot of disappointments with regard to national issues, I would like to say to them, "Keep the faith, keep the spirit." Thank you very much.

---Applause



MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. The Chair would like to recognize in the gallery the students from St. Patrick's High School here in Yellowknife; grade 10 students and their teacher, Dale Bischoff.

---Applause

The House will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

We are on Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the finance committee met this morning with the Finance Minister, Mr. Ballantyne. The committee would like to report, Mr. Speaker, that Bills 1-87(2), 2-87(2), 3-87(2), 4-87(2) and 5-87(2) were reviewed and it is the committee's suggestion that these bills, after second reading, be moved into committee of the whole as there are some individual committee Members who wish to question individual Ministers and there may be other Members in the House who wish to question items in these bills as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pollard, for your report. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Kilabuk.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 2-87(2), A Proposal for Increase in School Facilities, Attagoyuk School, Pangnirtung, NWT. They are requesting a gymnasium and I will be introducing this. Thank you, that is all I have.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Item 11, tabling of documents.

The Chair would like to advise the House that in accordance with section 22 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, I have laid on the table Tabled Document 3-87(2), Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Chairman, Management and Services Board, on the Examination of the Accounts and Financial Statements of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund for the Year Ended March 31st, 1987. Item 11, tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Ernerk.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 18-87(2): Terms Of Reference For Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 20th, 1987, I will move a motion to adopt the terms of reference for the standing committee on legislation.

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

Notice Of Motion 19-87(2): Appointments To The Management And Services Board

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, November 20th, 1987, I will move a motion appointing Members of this Assembly to the Management and Services Board, in accordance with the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Notices of motion. Mr. Gargan.

Notice Of Motion 20-87(2): Health Benefits Review

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on November 20th, 1987, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that the Executive Council review the existing health benefits available to the general population of the Northwest Territories to ensure all people receive equal benefits; and further, that in the review, the Executive Council pay particular attention to ensure that the Metis people of the Northwest Territories receive the same level of health benefits available to territorial employees, Inuit and status Indians, respectively. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. The Chair would like to recognize a former Member of this House, Mark Evaluarjuk of Igloodik.

---Applause

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 5-87(2), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, this is notice of motion for first reading. Mr. Patterson, you gave notice yesterday of that bill. We can deal with it in first reading.

MR. RICHARD: You want to make sure we know...

MR. SPEAKER: Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 13-87(2), Territorial Income Supplement. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 13-87(2): Territorial Income Supplement

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Assembly recommend that the cabinet consider raising the maximum territorial income supplement for seniors to \$101.00.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Your motion is in order. Do you wish to speak to the motion?

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the increase I considered the amount the Yukon pays to their senior citizens and that is \$100. In Manitoba, they pay \$105.50 for married and \$98.20 for single. Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Nova Scotia all pay the guaranteed income supplement based on a scale, so it would vary between those provinces. And New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Newfoundland do not pay a guaranteed income supplement to their seniors. Mr. Speaker, the motion is pretty well straightforward, to request that this government assist our senior citizens for their middle of the month income supplement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, I am sorry I did not notice at the time of taking your motion that your seconder is not in the House. You will need another seconder. Can you get another seconder, please?

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I will second it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Do you wish to speak to the motion as the seconder of the motion?

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to second the motion in the House. I will be assisting Mr. Gargan. I have many reasons but I will be brief at this time. In the North the price of items in the stores is getting very high and the older people are getting

poorer. In my constituency, the price of items in the store, such as clothing and food, is very high. The incomes cannot keep up with the rising prices. It is difficult to live in High Arctic, it is easier to live in the South. The fresh food has to be brought up by air and the freight is very high. At this time there is no other means of transportation except for air freight. The ship arrives only once a year to our community bringing store items and they do not carry fresh produce. It is very difficult to live on the supplement that they have for the pensioners. I am pleased to second the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have asked my officials to examine the possibilities of increasing the senior citizens' supplementary benefit as proposed in Mr. Gargan's motion on November 16th. This benefit for our elderly residents was first established in 1978 with the benefit amount set at \$50 a month. The benefit amount was adjusted in August 1983 to \$75 and in February to the current \$85. There are currently 1413 senior citizens in the NWT receiving the federal old age security pension. Of these, 1262 qualify for the federal guaranteed income supplement. This figure includes those receiving the spousal allowance. All northern seniors who qualify for the federal guaranteed income supplement receive the full \$85 territorial supplementary benefit. In 1987 an average of 1223 recipients received a benefit each month for the annual estimate at \$1.2 million, to be exact \$1,247,000. Eighty per cent of the NWT old age pension recipients who qualify for the guaranteed income supplement receive the full guaranteed income supplement. These individuals, therefore, have minimum or no other income available to meet their needs.

It seems more appropriate from an administrative and a benefit plan point of view to continue to provide a flat rate instead of utilizing a sliding scale which is used in other jurisdictions. The projected cost of increasing the senior citizens' supplementary benefit to \$100 in the fiscal year of 1988-89 is \$240,000. Current expenditure trends in the financial assistance activity from which both the social assistance and the senior citizens' benefits are paid, currently indicate that there will not be sufficient funds to finance the increase from within the activity.

Although I am personally sympathetic to the idea of increasing the senior citizens' supplementary benefit, being aware that the single senior citizen's annual income is \$9108 when receiving all pensions, the federal pensions, the guaranteed income supplement and the NWT supplement, and the married annual income is \$15,150 per year, it will be necessary for me to discuss the matter with my colleagues in the cabinet to determine whether or not we can find a way to identify the necessary funds for this worth-while initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister, for your explanation. I am not sure whether that was for or against the motion. To the motion, please.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. Mr. Gargan, would you like to close debate?

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, just to go a bit further on what Mrs. Marie-Jewell has said. In 1983 when there was a motion to increase the supplement from \$75 to \$85, we also were able to come up with a figure of \$20,000 as what a person in the NWT would have to make in order to make a comfortable living. So even though married couples get approximately \$15,000 on their federal old age pension, it hardly meets the \$20,000 that is required for an individual to make it up here. That was two or three years ago, so presumably that figure has gone up somewhat to reflect the cost of living factor up here.

Motion 13-87(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Are you ready for the question? Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? This motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 14, motions. Motion 14-87(2), Meech Lake Accord Concerns of Northern Citizens. Mr. Richard.

Motion 14-87(2): Meech Lake Accord Concerns Of Northern Citizens

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Constitution of Canada provides for the constitutional framework of Canada, its governments and institutions;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution of Canada also guarantees rights and freedoms to all Canadian citizens;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution of Canada specifically recognizes the existence of the governments and Legislative Assemblies of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, and compels these governments and Legislative Assemblies to be bound by all provisions of the Constitution of Canada;

AND WHEREAS in 1983 the Prime Minister of Canada and the 10 Premiers agreed in a formal accord with elected representatives of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories to involve those elected representatives in future discussions regarding amendments to sections 42(1)(e) and 42(1)(f) of the Constitution of Canada;

AND WHEREAS at the time of the Meech Lake Accord and Langevin Block agreement, participation in the discussions was denied to elected representatives of the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the 10th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories passed a resolution on the 28th day of May 1987, protesting the process by which the Constitution of Canada was being amended, a process which denied participation by elected representatives of people living in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution Act 1982 provided for further constitutional conferences with the objective of identifying and defining the rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada and this series of conferences ended in failure just a few weeks before the Meech Lake Accord;

AND WHEREAS all peoples of the Northwest Territories remain opposed to the process which led to the Meech Lake Accord and certain provisions of the Meech Lake Accord which adversely affect the rights of Canadian citizens residing in the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Aivilik, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Government Leader that he continue to express to the Prime Minister and to the 10 Premiers the concerns of northern Canadians with respect to the Meech Lake Accord;

AND FURTHER, that this Legislative Assembly send representatives of this Assembly to public hearings which are being held by the Legislative Assemblies of the provinces to receive submissions on the Meech Lake Accord.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard, your motion is in order. Mr. Richard, you have the floor.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, most Members, and I hope most members of the public are aware of the background which leads to this motion today. In May of this year the last Assembly, the 10th Assembly, passed a motion regarding the Meech Lake Accord which had happened just previous to May of 1987. I should say, Mr. Speaker, in these days of accusing politicians of plagiarism, the first three "whereas" clauses of this motion today are identical to the first three "whereas" clauses of the motion of May 28, 1987. Members who were in the last Assembly will recall the debate leading to that motion which directed the Speaker of our Assembly to communicate the concern of this Assembly to the Prime Minister and the 10 Premiers. Mr. Speaker, Members may recall that the 28th of May, 1987 was prior to the Langevin Block agreement or meeting of early June, 1987. Our then Government Leader, Mr. Sibbeston, and the Yukon Government Leader, Mr. Penikett, travelled to Ottawa and attempted to gain access to the constitutional conference. The Prime Minister may call it a private meeting but it was a constitutional conference. Our elected leaders from the North were denied access to that meeting and you will recall, sir, that we also ran a full page ad in the Globe and Mail to draw to the attention of the people of Canada what was happening to us prior to the meetings in the Langevin Block in early June.

#### Five Northern Concerns With Meech Lake Accord

The problems, Mr. Speaker, that we northerners identified back then, I believe, are five in number and these five problems remain today with the Meech Lake Accord and the Langevin Block agreement. They are: the creation of new provinces, the manner in which the current Constitution and the proposed amendment would deal with that issue of new provinces being created; the extension of provincial boundaries north into the Territories -- and the issue there is identical, it is the manner in which the current Constitution and the proposed amendment would deal with the desires of a province to extend its boundaries north into the Territories; thirdly, the matter of appointments to the Senate of Canada; fourthly, the matter of appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada; and fifthly, the very process by which the amendments are being made to the Constitution of Canada, the very process which led to and followed the Meech Lake Accord leading up to the Langevin Block agreement.

A related issue, Mr. Speaker, that concerned northerners at that time was, and it is alluded to in one of the "whereas" clauses, that the aboriginal peoples of Canada had, since 1982, attempted through many, many meetings and a number of constitutional conferences, to achieve a definition of their constitutional rights as set out in the Constitution of Canada. That, we all know, led to a bunch of Premiers throwing up their hands and giving up in the early part of 1987, I believe in March. And yet a month later in April, the same 11 men met for a few short hours at a resort in Meech Lake and were able to come up with some serious amendments to our federal Constitution. That, Mr. Speaker, I think we all agree was an insult to those who had sought a definition of aboriginal rights from the same 11 men.

Mr. Speaker, when I spoke to this issue during the debate in the Assembly in May, I conceded that what I call items three and four, the appointments to the Senate of Canada and the appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada, were surely mere oversights; that because we were not at the Meech Lake meeting they forgot about us when it came to writing the rules for appointments to these federal institutions. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled to hear in August from the mouth of none other than Senator Lowell Murray speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister of this country when he stated at a public hearing in Ottawa that these were not oversights. He was at the meeting, I was not, but he says that they intentionally did not provide for our elected representatives to have any input into appointments into the Supreme Court of Canada or to the Senate of Canada as provided for the provinces. What an appalling statement, Mr. Speaker, for a senator of this country to say on behalf of the Prime Minister of this country; that that was not an oversight, that it was intentional.

#### Response From Prime Minister

Since our motion in May, Mr. Speaker, the motion was sent by your predecessor, Mr. Stewart, to the Prime Minister and to the 10 Premiers. Many northerners themselves individually wrote to the Prime Minister, to other federal leaders and to the Premiers of the provinces. The response, Mr. Speaker, from the Prime Minister in itself is somewhat, well, it is more than disappointing, when you consider that our motion was communicated prior to the Langevin Block meetings of early June.

This letter in response to our Speaker, Mr. Stewart, is dated July 24th. It was only then that the Prime Minister of this country saw fit to reply to our Speaker and to this Assembly acknowledging receipt of the communication of late May and it goes on to say, "I would note that the meeting of June 2nd and 3rd was a private one..."

---Laughter

"The practice is to restrict the attendance at such meetings to the Prime Minister and the Premiers of the 10 provinces. As you know it is only with respect to aboriginal matters that the territorial governments have a constitutionally defined role." Well, precisely the point, Mr. Speaker. We have no rights according to the Prime Minister to be heard or to have our elected leaders heard.

Later in the summer the Prime Minister and the federal cabinet agreed to hold public hearings to hear from the people of Canada about the change to their Constitution. The meetings were scheduled at a time when most Canadians take their summer holidays, the month of August. At the meetings of the joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons, arranged in a hurry, held in a hurry, at a time when most people were absent from their normal daily lives, the government deigned to hear from Canadians on this very important matter.



I was pleased, Mr. Speaker, that our government was able to marshal together the forces to present an excellent submission to the joint committee in Ottawa in August.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. RICHARD: And I believe that my friend, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Ballantyne, made the presentation on behalf of our government and from unbiased reports, sir, that came to me, it was an excellent presentation.

---Applause

#### Federal Government's Commitment To Territories Re Section 42(1)(e) And (f)

Mr. Speaker, since I am handing out the kudos, if my colleague, Mr. Ballantyne, or indeed the Government Leader is going to speak to this motion, I would ask that they expand on one aspect which I am not as familiar with myself, and that is referred to in the fourth "whereas" clause. I do not believe we made it public on the record in May, but there is actually a document in writing, signed by at least the Prime Minister of the day and the 10 Premiers of the day, committing themselves to involve our elected representatives in future discussions of 42(1)(e) and 42(1)(f), which are the new provinces and the extension of boundaries issues; that they would involve us if ever there were discussions on these issues. I am told there was something in writing in 1983. When you look at that background and you look at what happened in April of this year and May and June of this year, it makes it even more appalling. The reason I mention Mr. Ballantyne and Mr. Patterson is that I know that when Mr. Ballantyne made his submission to the joint committee that he made reference to that commitment in writing, going back to as far as 1983.

Mr. Speaker, as excellent as the presentation was, I must say that it was almost all for naught. That joint committee that was rushed to do its business, rushed out with a report of a few hundred pages. There is one chapter, chapter 12, of the joint committee's report that deals specifically with the impact of the Meech Lake Accord on the northern territories. It is 20 or 30 pages in length. And yet even in this document, even after the submission by our government, there is a misrepresentation of the position our government put forward and the position that the Yukon government put forward. The report ignores some of the main points that were made.

I have listed what I always call the five points. The most important one, for myself, is the extension of boundaries issue. I said in May that even this government back then was not putting enough emphasis on the extension of boundaries issue. They were listening, because they started to do that and Mr. Ballantyne had, in his presentation to the joint committee, an excellent submission on that one point. Mr. Speaker, this chapter 12 starts off by saying "The territorial governments of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, together with Members of Parliament from the territories and many other witnesses have criticized the 1987 accord on the following grounds...", a),b),c),d), and no one reference to the extension of boundaries, notwithstanding the many submissions by Mr. Ballantyne and others.

Subsequent to those August meetings and the presentation of the rushed report, the Senate of Canada, in their wisdom, appointed a task force to travel to the northern territories and listen to northern Canadian citizens on how they felt the Meech Lake Accord impacted on them. As everyone knows, that task force travelled and had public meetings in Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit. I was delighted, Mr. Speaker, to see first-hand in Yellowknife and through the media of the meetings in Whitehorse and Iqaluit, the many, many people who came forward in response to the invitation of the senators. Although there were politicians who spoke, many, many ordinary people came forward and spoke to the senators without prepared text, spoke from their hearts, on this issue. There was, Mr. Speaker, some national news coverage for a few days on how we felt about the Meech Lake Accord.

#### Seek Audience With The Provinces

I had occasion, during the senators' visit to Yellowknife, to speak to some of the senators after the hearings and they indicated to me that they were quite impressed with the presentations that were made to them thus far in Whitehorse and Yellowknife. But one thing struck me from what one of the senators said about what we were about in trying to stop this thing even though it appears that it is the eleventh hour and the door is closed. And that was simply that one of the senators reminded me that the Constitution of Canada does not belong to those 11 men. Those 11 men met



behind closed doors at Meech Lake and at Langevin Block and they came out of those meetings and said "This is for us to decide. No one outside the group of 11 is going to convince us 11 to change our minds on these things." That senator reminded me that the Constitution of Canada belongs not to those 11 men, but to the people of Canada and that we who are unhappy with the Meech Lake Accord and the proposed amendments to the national Constitution should take our message to the people of Canada, rather than to simply the Prime Minister who appears to be ignoring us.

In that context, Mr. Speaker, I bring forward this motion today for my colleagues in the Assembly to consider, that we not give up the fight, that we ask our Government Leader, who I understand is seeking a personal audience with the Prime Minister of Canada, in any event, we ask him to continue the fight, bring the message to the Prime Minister, but more importantly, that we somehow get the message to the people in the provinces. If any of the provinces are going to hold public hearings, that we somehow seek the right to appear, even though we may not be citizens of New Brunswick, for example, where I understand Mr. McKenna is going to hold public hearings; that we somehow seek the right to sit at the table in New Brunswick and speak to the New Brunswick media and the New Brunswick people, and ask them to request of Mr. McKenna to halt this thing.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that it is too late. It is never too late. I am encouraged, sir, that for example in a national publication called "Policy Options" that just arrived in the mail -- it is a forum for views on Canadian public policy -- there are two lead articles and one is on the Meech Lake Accord and one is on an accord for aboriginal people. And each of these authors calls for a halt in process, to try to have the leaders of this country try and do the accord properly.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that Members consider supporting this motion so that we can communicate this message again and again to the people of Canada. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. May I compliment you on your marvellous timing. you were within 20 seconds of your 20 minutes. The seconder of the motion, Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really do not have a long speech in regard to this issue except that I would like to support the motion wholeheartedly. All of the people in the whole of the Northwest Territories felt like that in regard to the Meech Lake Accord issue, so therefore when I made my reply to the Opening Address I indicated the things that I did not like in regard to the Meech Lake Accord. We, as the people in the Northwest Territories, and also the aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories were touched on this issue of the Meech Lake Accord. (Translation ends)

We should not just let the Premiers and the Prime Minister of Canada forget about us only because of the Meech Lake Accord. I thought about this for some time, especially since the signing of the Meech Lake Accord, and I always thought ever since then that the people of the Northwest Territories and in particular the native people of Canada, all native people of Canada, were being treated as second-class citizens and I thought June 3, 1987 was an historic shame for all of Canada.

#### Views Of Native Organizations

How do we get back into the discussion of constitutional matters with the Government of Canada? How do we get in there? I think the thing to do, as suggested by Mr. Richard, is not to give up. So, I fully support this motion, Mr. Speaker, because in the last several months organizations from the Eastern Arctic, such as the Keewatin Inuit Association, Inuit Committee on National Issues, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and Tungavik Federation of Nunavut have all passed resolutions calling upon the Government of Canada to reopen discussions and disapproving the Meech Lake Accord. So, I would ask the Government Leader to seek the views of various native organizations in the Northwest Territories before he goes to Ottawa and come up with various positions because I, too, believe that the Meech Lake Accord, especially the constitutional matters, is everybody's business. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

### Problem Started Back In Time

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not go into all the details of the presentations made by the government. I think Mr. Richard handled those very, very well and I think he covered all of the concerns that were put forward by the government. But what I would like to do if I could, Mr. Speaker, is take us back to the time when this problem really started.

In March of 1981 Members of this Assembly flew down to Ottawa because at that time the then Prime Minister of Canada, with his 10 provincial colleagues, was attempting to repatriate the Canadian Constitution and there was a lot of concern expressed at that time by aboriginal groups across the country and by our government that aboriginal rights should be included in the proposed new Constitution Act, 1982. And there was also concern expressed by this government that there would be new amendments in the Constitution Act, 1982 so that it would take seven provinces with 50 per cent of the population of Canada to create a new province or it would take seven provinces with 50 per cent of the population of Canada to extend their boundaries northward. In 1981 the entire Assembly flew to Ottawa.

### Concept Of Aboriginal Rights First In Constitution Act 1982

It was, I think, a very risky endeavour for an Assembly but this Assembly, along with the major aboriginal groups in this country, turned around at least one part of that Constitution Act, 1982. For the first time, the concept of aboriginal rights was put into the Constitution of Canada. This Assembly was not able to change the mind of the Premiers and Prime Minister about the new provisions for the creation of new provinces and for the extension of existing provinces into the North but, as Mr. Richard alluded to, one thing did happen out of the Constitution Act, 1982. In the Constitution there was provision for three further constitutional conferences and during the constitutional conference of 1983 an agenda was agreed to of subjects that would be dealt with by the 10 Premiers, by the leaders of the major native organizations and by the Governments of the Northwest Territories and of the Yukon.

Tomorrow I will table what was known as the 1983 Constitutional Accord on Aboriginal Rights which Mr. Richard referred to. This accord specifically named agenda items that should be considered in the following two constitutional meetings. The first one obviously was the whole concept of the definition of aboriginal rights and aboriginal self-government. Number four on the agenda was the repeal of section 42(1)(e) and (f) and they are the two provisions that deal with the creation of new provinces and the extension of existing provinces into the North.

Now, this agreement was signed by the Prime Minister of Canada, by the Premier of every province, excluding the Province of Quebec. You will recall that the Province of Quebec for a number of reasons was not included in the signing of this agreement. The Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Committee on National Issues, the Metis National Council, the Native Council of Canada, Yukon Territory and at the time the Government Leader of the Northwest Territories, Mr. George Braden, also signed the agreement. So, a solemn promise was made by the Prime Minister and by nine of the premiers that these issues would be dealt with. As one who attended the subsequent two constitutional conferences and as a non-native, I was ashamed and appalled that after years of work and after millions of dollars has been expended, no resolution to the issue of the definition of aboriginal rights came out of those conferences. Those conferences ended in failure and, as Mr. Richard said so well, two months later, with an even more difficult issue that should have taken years and years of very serious reflection before those decisions were taken, in a matter of hours, the agreement was made in Meech Lake by most of the same people who were not able, after five years, to come to an agreement on the definition of aboriginal rights.

### Meech Lake Accord Makes Our Problem Worse

I think to all of us up here it was a shock and one criticism of this government has been, well, what did you do from 1982 until 1987? Well, the reality is that this government had a solemn declaration from the Prime Minister of Canada and nine Premiers that the issue would be looked at. We, probably in our naivete, believed him. We trusted him. Obviously we were wrong to do so because the Meech Lake Accord was signed with absolutely no reference whatsoever to our problem except to make it worse. Where in the Constitution Act, 1982, it took seven provinces and 50 per

cent, in the 1987 Accord and Langevin agreement it now takes 10 provinces along with the federal government to allow us to become a province or provinces. So, the situation now is much worse than it was then in 1982.

As one who on behalf of this government has appeared in front of a couple of committees, I thank Mr. Richard for his kind words. I had the support of my colleagues and during my presentation I would like to give credit to them and to the Department of Justice staff and others who assisted me in that presentation. I would also like to give credit to Mr. Richard. He said, and it is true, that he phoned me up one night soon after this process started and said that he did not think that our government was spending enough effort or were concerned enough about the provision for extension of boundaries into the North. And I thought about it and we discussed it, and he was right. Mainly because of Mr. Richard's comments we strengthened that component of our presentation. After reflection we totally agree with Mr. Richard, that it is as important as any other difficulties that we face, if not the most important. So I think Mr. Richard deserves credit for bringing that to the government's attention.

After the presentation that I made on behalf of the government to this joint Senate and House of Commons committee and when we received a copy of the committee's report I, for one, was appalled, shocked in the way that our presentation and the presentation of the Yukon were not understood. And in fact, what I thought -- I think all of you have copies of the presentation we made -- is, as clearly and concisely as we knew how, we presented the five issues that Mr. Richard alluded to. The Senate and House of Commons committee, in their wisdom, could not quite understand them and I found, as a person who appeared in front of them, that their report at least was convoluted. I found that at times it was patronizing. I found that they really missed a fundamental issue that we were talking about and that was that we as northerners, as northern Canadians, are not treated the same as other Canadians. They came up with a number of solutions which indicated to me that at least there is some sympathy for our position but they did not have, as a parliamentary committee, the courage nor as it turned out, the mandate, to actually make a strong political statement on our behalf or on behalf of other Canadians who feel somehow threatened by the Meech Lake Accord and the Langevin agreement.

#### Effective Presentations Made To Senate Committee

Mr. Richard also talked about the Senate committee that was here. A number of people, myself, Mr. Patterson, the then Government Leader, Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. Richard himself, and many, many people from across the Territories made, I thought, very effective presentations to the Senate committee. And I truly believe that the Senate committee was very sympathetic; I truly believe that the presentations made by northerners from across the Northwest Territories were very effective and that the Senate committee left the Northwest Territories and left the Yukon feeling that, yes, there has been an injustice done. The problem, as I see it and as you realize, is that the Senate only has the power in a constitutional issue to delay it for six months. They cannot undo what has been done by the House of Commons. So, I think it gave us an opportunity again, to have the country, for a couple of days, hear our concerns and I think that over the last year one thing that has happened is that more and more southern Canadians are very aware of the fact that there are people, be it few in number, in northern Canada who have not been treated fairly. I think that it is something that we are going to have to build on.

We took another approach because we felt, as a government, that the political approach would not necessarily be enough. As you know, we have challenged not only the Meech Lake Accord but the actual Constitution Act, 1982 in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. The Government of the Northwest Territories is paying John Sopinka a very well-known Toronto lawyer, to act on our behalf. There already has been a court case in the Yukon. Mr. Sopinka intervened on our behalf in the Yukon and from all accounts was quite effective. We are taking a slightly different approach from the one taken in the Yukon. We are not only, as I said, challenging the Meech Lake Accord, we are challenging the Constitution Act, 1982 itself. The decision in the Yukon was that of, I think, 25 points put forward by the Yukon government, the court agreed that there is a possibility that at least three of them might be considered in the future. But it was the court's opinion that because the process is not complete, because the accord itself is not a constitutional amendment until it has been endorsed by the 10 Legislatures and the House of Commons and Senate, that he must set it aside. So, there is a possibility in the future that the Yukon government can come forward and make their case.

Principles Of Constitution Act, 1982, Attacked

We are doing it a little bit differently. We are actually attacking some of the principles in the Constitution Act, 1982 itself. On November 30th the trial will start here in Yellowknife. We do not know what the outcome of the legal proceedings will be but we think it is important to pursue all avenues. I think all of us will be looking with a lot of interest to see whether or not a court of law will defend the rights that we think we have and whether the court will agree that perhaps our rights in some way have been put aside. We can only look optimistically. I, for one, have no idea what the outcome will be.

I think I have talked enough. I only want to say that our government is concerned. We are obviously not giving up. This motion in this Legislative Assembly, I think, is key to what we do because as a consensus government we cannot work in isolation and unless all of us around this table here today work together, I think we can expect no positive results. But, if all of us continue to work, whether it takes one year or whether it takes 25 years, I am sure a day will come when either we or our children or our children's children will be equal to all other Canadians. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak briefly on this. I think that what all northern residents realized was that, previous to the Constitution being brought home to Canada from the United Kingdom, all that it took for a territory to become a province was an act in the House of Commons. No province had the ability to do anything. In fact, the province of Newfoundland even entered Confederation over some objection from the Province of Quebec. So in the past a province could be created out of a territory strictly by an act of Parliament in the federal House only.

The Prime Minister of Canada of the day, Mr. Trudeau, wanted to do a very honourable thing, which all Canadians wanted; he wanted to bring our Constitution home to our country so that we could amend it in our own House of Commons and not have to go to Great Britain to have our Constitution amended. But while he was trying to do this very honourable thing, the provinces basically blackmailed him and forced some concessions from him. So while he was trying to accomplish this honourable objective, the provinces blackmailed him and created a situation where it took the agreement of seven out of 10 provinces before the Northwest Territories could become a province.

At the same time they left aboriginal people, the first citizens of this country, out of the Constitution. So as other Members have said, we went down to Ottawa at the time to fight that and we were successful in one area on aboriginal rights, in getting that at least mentioned in the Constitution -- that there were aboriginal rights which would later be defined. One of the reasons we were successful in doing that is that, at the same time we were in Ottawa, various First Nations organizations across the country were on the front steps of the Legislative Assemblies across this country. So I support Mr. Richard's suggestion that Members of this Assembly should make presentations to each of those legislatures so that the residents of those provinces will realize the injustice which their Premiers have dealt upon us.

Amending Formula For Provincial Status Not Obtained

At the same time, unfortunately, we were not successful when we were in Ottawa, at the time, on the amending formula for provincial status. I would say the door was closed to us then. Closed in such a manner that it made it very difficult for us to become a province. Now, this last change, when it becomes 10 out of 10, in other words unanimous consent, I do not think is significantly different from seven out of 10, but what it has done is firmly put the latch on the door.

I also appreciate, as other Members do -- and I was on the Executive Council at the time, and I commend Mr. Ballantyne on the presentation he made. I would also like to commend Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. Richard, and other northerners who made presentations to the Senate committee, on their excellent presentations. From what I heard in talking to some members on the committee, our presentations were some of the best they heard in the country. But I do have some difficulty with the Senate committee itself sitting there and appearing to be so supportive and sympathetic to us when in fact, over half of those senators, when the Constitution was brought home and the votes



were taken in the House of Parliament and in the Senate, back in the early 1980s, voted in favour of that amendment which restricted us and moved us to seven out of 10. Some of those senators were staff in the Prime Minister's office and were subsequently made senators. They were people who worked with the Prime Minister to close the door.

#### Senators Worked Against The North Earlier

So I find it very difficult to listen to a bunch of senators, people who voted against us and worked against us when they were employed by the Prime Minister, who come up here and make big, high-sounding statements and sympathetic noises, when in fact they did us harm back in the early 1980s. I thought that was a little two-faced of those senators to say one thing now, when they were the ones who helped shove the door closed on us in the early 1980s.

As well, agreements that were made at the time -- the agreement that Mr. Ballantyne referred to, where the Prime Minister and the provinces agreed to discuss the matter of provincial status for the Territories at a future date -- that was certainly ignored. But even worse than that was something that was actually put in, that there would be three meetings to define aboriginal rights -- that was actually put in the Constitution. Even that was just shunted aside at the three meetings, where provinces scuttled and mumbled around and did whatever they could to make those meetings meaningless.

#### First Nations Not Given Rights In Constitution

So here we have the first nations of this country not even given rights in our constitution. That is shameful. We do not have a situation in this country where native people were defeated in a war, as they were in some other countries, and signed a surrender document. We basically -- if you want to say "we", as people who came over from Europe, as British or Canadians or even the French at one stage -- signed treaties with native people which were basically treaties of understanding, but not surrender documents. So it is a very shameful thing that has happened. When you come right down to it, the very Northwest Territories and the lands that were administered out of England under the Hudson Bay agreement, for example -- all of those lands, when Canada became a country, were put in trust to Canada to administer. Those lands were a territorial possession of England and became a territorial possession of Canada. There were various acts and proclamations made in the House of Commons in Britain which protected aboriginal people who inhabited those territories at that time and that trust has been broken by Canada now.

I think one of the cases we should be making to provinces is, "Why should we become a province? What advantages are there to Canada?" One of the most significant ones is that if we become a province we will enhance Canada's claim to the northern territories and to the Arctic Islands and the waters that surround them. That is a positive thing that we can sell to the provinces as a reason for our becoming a province.

#### North May Not Be Considered Part Of Canada

One of the things that is interesting is that we are a territory and I think in the eyes of a lot of other countries in the world, we may be no more considered a part of Canada by those countries than the Falkland Islands are considered to be a part of Great Britain. In the eyes of many nations, we are just a territorial possession of Canada. I think with regard to the land and especially the aboriginal people -- it certainly applies to aboriginal people up here more than to those of us who moved up here -- there is a trust given from Britain to Canada in this regard and it has definitely been broken. I think that one of the things we should say to the people in southern Canada is, "If you do not want us, there are other countries that have not recognized Canada's ownership of the Arctic Islands and some other parts of this area." There are the Scandinavian countries and the United States who did exploration, planted their flags on islands in the Arctic Ocean and have never acknowledged Canada's sovereignty for control over those lands or waters. Perhaps we should talk to them; maybe they will give us a better deal. Maybe they will treat us in their country as equals, instead of being treated in Canada like second-class citizens.

I came from the Province of Alberta and moved up to the NWT in the late 1960s. I knew that I was going from a province to a territory and I knew that the government up here did not have the powers of the provincial government, but I thought that everybody up here was a Canadian citizen and that we were the same as everybody else. But no, not any more. That got traded off and we are probably second-class and possibly even third-class Canadians, depending on how you want to look at it.

Especially when you see provinces like Saskatchewan and Alberta. They used to be parts of the NWT and became provinces solely by an act in the House of Commons, over the objections of the Province of Ontario.

In fact, the objections of the Province of Ontario were strong at the time. The intention of the Assembly of the NWT in 1905 was that they would become one province. All the area of Saskatchewan and Alberta would be one province. But Ontario did not want to have another big province, so they first tried to stop the area from becoming a province. They were unable to do that but they were at least effective in making sure it became two provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta, so that Ontario, being a big province, would not be threatened by a big province in the West. They also managed to keep the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta from having ownership of the resources until 1936. It was shameful for me to hear, during the national energy program debates and subsequent battles between the Province of Alberta and, basically, the eastern central government, some federal Members of Parliament, not just of the government at the time but of the opposition party, saying, "We would not be in this trouble if we had never given Alberta ownership of the resources." So that is the attitude that some of these people have toward the other regions of the country.

We have a problem with the central power brokers in the two largest-populated provinces, and we also have problems with some of the various regions and provinces who have gone through what we are going through. They started out with a small territorial council which eventually became an assembly with the elected Premier Haultain, who was the Premier of the Northwest Territories leading up to 1905, and they were able to obtain status through an act of Parliament.

#### Premiers Expanding Power In Confederation

So, it comes down to the fact that we had one Prime Minister in the early 1980s trying to do an honourable thing: bringing the Constitution home. We have a Prime Minister today, Brian Mulroney, trying to do an honourable thing which all Canadians want, which is to bring Quebec into the Constitution. But, what has happened once again is that those 10 provinces have blackmailed the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister, both times, was trying to do an honourable thing and both times the gang of 10, greedy provincial Premiers, trying to expand their power in Confederation at the expense of northern residents and aboriginal people of this country, have done a great injustice to us. So once again I would support Mr. Richard's motion that some of us should go back specifically to the provinces that we came from and help make these presentations, because I myself feel pretty upset that a province that I came from which gained Confederation in one way is going to now try to limit it to us as northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House on May 28th of this year and was not able to participate in the debate on the first motion to which Mr. Richard referred. I would like to look at that motion in context with the one that is currently being advanced. The motion at that time indicated that the Legislative Assembly strongly protest the denial of participation by elected representatives of people of the northern territories in a constitutional conference which directly and indirectly affects the people of these territories. The second part of that motion, sir, was that the Assembly's objection be immediately communicated in the strongest possible words, through the Speaker, to the Prime Minister of Canada and to the First Ministers of each of the provinces.

Now, I read the debate on that motion and I do not think you can find any stronger possible words than were said in this House on that occasion by the Members of the 10th Assembly.

#### Summary Of Debates Of May 28

In fact, I took the liberty of summarizing some of the things that were said at that time and I think it is worth while just repeating in brief what some Members said:

Mr. Richard: "We demand our right to be heard."



Mr. McCallum: "We should enjoy the rights of other citizens of this country."

Mr. Erkloo: "We are excluded from appointments to the Senate or the Supreme Court of Canada even though the provinces will have the right to make appointments...."

Mr. Wray: "...the type of thing that was done is so reprehensible that you first of all start off by thinking, 'Well...this is Canada and these things cannot happen.' And then you think, 'Well, there must have been a mistake, it must have been an oversight.' But...the more we learn, I guess, the more convinced we become that, in fact, it was deliberate."

Mr. Patterson: "And now, the very potential of the Northwest Territories or future territories to become provinces, a right every other citizen of Canada enjoys, has been snatched from us...If provincehood is virtually unreachable, then we have been frozen in time."

Mrs. Lawrence: "It appears that we have come full circle back to the colonial days where Ottawa and, now, all provincial jurisdictions will dictate to the Northwest Territories how we will fit in with the rest of Canada...."

Mr. Curley: "I think the actions taken by the Yukon and the Northwest Territories through the courts will probably indicate that we do have a permanent interest in our association with Canada."

Mr. Nerysoo: "I hope that we go further than just this discussion, that we go to the extent of ensuring that this fight will not end today but, rather, will continue in future, whether it is through the election process or whether or not it is through our own ongoing responsibility of ensuring that the people of the North and the people of Canada recognize the consequences of such an accord."

Mr. MacQuarrie: "I think it is important in making our statements here in this House, Mr. Speaker, to be as fair as possible and in trying to be as fair as possible, I must note that the problem we are facing did not begin at Meech Lake. It began in 1981-82 with the then Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and the then Liberal Government of Canada...that is when our future rights began to be eroded...."

Mr. Appaqaq: "I know that the 10 Premiers will never have unanimous consent on anything."

Mr. Pedersen: "I am afraid that any move on our part toward obtaining powers of a provincial-type nature, such as the recent forestry or health transfers to our government, any devolution of any sort toward the provincial-type responsibilities can now be perceived by the individual provinces as being provincial-type and leading toward it and, therefore, blocked by a veto by any of the provinces, large or small."

Mr. McLaughlin: "...what we should have done, and I agree, maybe we should have made more efforts during the last period of time to change the seven out of 10, to try to get that removed from the Constitution, where seven out of the 10 provinces have to agree before we can become a province. That is what we should be trying to do and we should be sending the message to the 10 Premiers and the Prime Minister to...change the...Constitution so that only the Parliament in this country can determine if the Northwest Territories and the Yukon can have provincial status...."

Mr. Paniloo: "The Inuit in my constituency and the people of the NWT would like the federal government to know that we should have the right to speak in any forum."

Mr. T'Seleie: "I think in the strategy that this government decides to use, that central to it has to be the fact that the aboriginal people form the majority of the North. I think southern Canadians are more receptive to that rather than the straight-out constitutional rights of 50,000 people."

Mr. Gargan: "...when the First Ministers meet to define aboriginal rights and Indian self-government...nothing is resolved with regard to what we mean by Indian self-government...Really, there is nothing in there that gives special recognition to those people. It does give them aboriginal rights under the existing treaties and occupancy of land, but that is as far as it goes. It does not give them special rights such as Quebec would be given."

It was a debate in which Mr. Richard closed with the words, "...many eloquent words...A mixture of emotions and sentiments...Emotions of shock, of disappointment, of anger and sorrow." I am surprised that with the communication of that debate the former Speaker did not affect the thinking of any of our parliamentarians or the Premiers of the provinces.

#### Senate Task Force On Meech Lake Accord

A few weeks ago, it was my privilege to attend in Yellowknife the Senate task force on the Meech Lake Accord which convened hearings in both this community and in Iqaluit. I believe on that occasion I witnessed an historic moment in the North's evolution. Although I did not audit all the presentations made during the two days, I was moved by the eloquence, the intensity of the first few speakers who addressed the task force on the first morning: The Hon. Nick Sibbeston; Bill Erasmus, the president of the Dene Nation; Mike Paulette, the president of the NWT Metis Association; Ted Richard, the MLA for Yellowknife South; and the Hon. Michael Ballantyne, the Minister of Justice.

All those appearing were asked, in my recollection, two questions very pertinent to this motion: "Do you think anything can be done about the Meech Lake Accord?" The second, "What do you think you, as a representative of the people of the North, can do about it?"

I found in that room in the Explorer Hotel a ferment, a stirring which I believe is necessary, is quintessential if we are to move the hearts and minds of our fellow Canadians.

Regrettably, the way to do that is not through the East Block or the Langevin Block. Regrettably, the way to do that is not through the portals of legislative buildings in Victoria, Edmonton, Regina -- unfortunately not Regina -- Winnipeg, Toronto, Quebec City, Fredericton -- possibly Halifax, Charlottetown or St. John's. Regrettably, the way to do that is not through the office doors of opposition leaders of the federal House. They, along with our Prime Minister, have made their position clear. And I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the courage and personal commitment of the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic, Dave Nickerson, who recently rejected his party's position in his statement on behalf of his northern constituents. It is regrettable that his colleague from Nunatsiag could not be similarly persuaded.

No, the way lies, Mr. Speaker, as this motion suggests, through the main streets of southern Canada. It lies in the public hearings convened in the provinces to hear the concerns of Canadians, all Canadians, even of those poor souls who live on Canada's northern frontier, the adopted Canadians, as Mr. Ernerk so clearly enunciated. We must capture the minds and hearts of southern Canadians. We must appeal to their sense of good will, fair play. We must co-ordinate our efforts with our Yukon neighbours. We must take our case soon and convincingly to Premier McKenna and his new cabinet and to the people of Saskatchewan and Alberta. They cannot have forgotten their roots so soon. They cannot so soon have put behind them their own struggle for responsible government, their special treatment and consideration at the hands of the Government of Canada. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

#### People Of NWT Overlooked

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all northern citizens are very hurt that they were left out of the Meech Lake Accord and I can tell you, having been present at the hearings of the Senate task force in Iqaluit, that I, too, was moved by the fervency with which people from the Baffin Region who travelled to attend those hearings and ordinary constituents from Iqaluit, spoke on this subject. There were young people, there were elders, there were businessmen and all were profoundly disturbed by these actions of the Premiers of the provinces and the Prime Minister. People said, "We were overlooked even though we are a most critical part of Canada. We were not even given the dignity and respect of being heard."

Mr. Speaker, I welcome this motion and I am determined, as your Government Leader, that the Premiers and the Prime Minister be made to take us into account. We are not content with lesser status than other Canadians. We will never be content with less status than other citizens of this country because our people are loyal citizens of Canada. The aboriginal people of the Northwest

Territories have established sovereignty for Canada in its northern parts, having lived for centuries in the harshest climate in this country. They will not tolerate being overlooked and ignored.

Mr. Speaker, we feel betrayed in having been left out of the Meech Lake Accord because so much has happened which has given us reason to feel that we were making good progress in getting recognized as equals in Canada and in Canadian Confederation.

I have had the privilege of participating in many federal/provincial meetings and provincial meetings over the past six years and at most of those meetings, Mr. Speaker, we are treated as equals. We are allowed to participate, to make motions, to vote. We have even hosted federal/provincial and provincial meetings in the Northwest Territories. Ministers responsible for wildlife met in Tuktoyaktuk just last year. We have had meetings of Ministers of Energy and Education and of Attorneys General in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we were also led to believe that we had equal status with other Canadians in connection with another major aspect of constitutional change which occurred in 1981 and 1982. In 1982 this Legislature travelled en masse to Ottawa to object to that major constitutional change which left aboriginal rights out of the Constitution and added the invidious section 42(1)(e) and (f) which changed the rules for attaining provincehood and extending provincial boundaries. At that time we thought section 42(1)(e) and (f) was bad. Now the situation is much worse.

#### Role In Negotiations On Constitutional Accord, 1983

Mr. Speaker, a constitutional accord was signed in 1983 by all 10 provinces, by the federal government and by the Yukon and Northwest Territories. We were part of the reaching of that accord. We were in the back rooms negotiating with provinces on behalf of our citizens to hammer out that accord. The Government of the Northwest Territories and this Legislature and the native leaders of the Northwest Territories played a major role in negotiations which led to the establishment of that 1983 accord. No one said we should not be there. No one said our citizens are lesser Canadians.

That 1983 accord set up a process to define aboriginal rights and, as well, to deal with the subjects of the creation of new provinces and the extension of provincial boundaries. We worked hard on those subjects and I believe we made great progress in understanding and mutual respect. However, after four years of very hard work and, in fact, weeks before the first Meech Lake Accord meeting -- as Prime Minister Mulroney put it on the morning of the second day of the final First Ministers' Conference, "The music has stopped." Why did the music stop for Mr. Mulroney? Did the possibility of bringing Quebec back into Confederation overwhelm the concerns of aboriginal people and the citizens of the North to pursue the subjects of the 1983 accord?

Mr. Speaker, we are glad to see Quebec re-enter Confederation. We are not opposed to those parts of the accord which bring Quebec back into Confederation. We are happy to see the circle of Confederation more complete. But it is not complete yet. The circle of Confederation is not complete until the Northwest Territories and Yukon are given equal status and equal status to obtain provincehood.

I, too, along with Mr. McLaughlin, find it ironic that even provinces like Alberta and Saskatchewan, which were relatively recently made provinces from the Northwest Territories under a rule which only required federal consent, should change the rules for us now that they are safely in the federal/provincial club.

Mr. Speaker, the circle of Confederation is not complete if the Francophone population of Canada is recognized as a distinct society but the rights of aboriginal people are not yet defined.

#### Treated As Equals At Meetings On Aboriginal Rights

Our expectations and the expectations of our people were raised by the 1983 accord. They were raised by the four years of meetings our government and other governments and the native organizations participated in. And the repeal of section 42(1)(e) and (f) was an item on that agenda for discussion. In fact, Mr. Speaker, and I checked on this the other day, our government was represented by no less than 57 officials at preparatory and FMC meetings on aboriginal rights in the Constitution. We were treated with respect, as equals, in this important matter of defining

aboriginal rights, yet we were not treated as equals when other major constitutional changes affecting our future and our rights were decided on behind closed doors. And that is simply not fair.

Mr. Speaker, the FMC on aboriginal rights and the 1983 accord are unfinished business for the aboriginal people of Canada and the Meech Lake Accord means that the circle of Confederation is incomplete without an equal place for the NWT and Yukon.

It is especially ironic to me, Mr. Speaker, that the current federal government, which has done more to devolve federal powers to the North in the last two years than has happened for decades previous, should treat us this way. Forestry and Health have been devolved in the past two years. There is an agreement being formulated on an ambitious list of other subjects for devolution, including an energy accord. As I have outlined, we have made enormous progress in our status at federal/provincial talks. We have made progress in participating equally with other governments in defining amendments to the Constitution and in aboriginal talks. We have been recognized as a responsible government by the Government of Canada in devolving province-like powers to the Northwest Territories. But then comes the hammer blow of Meech Lake. And, Mr. Speaker, there is a real concern that there are implications that may flow, if the Meech Lake Accord is approved, other than the inhibition on our ability to become a province.

#### Jealousy Of Province-Like Powers

I would like to quote from the joint Senate committee's report which says, "We were told by Senator Lowell Murray that at least some of the provinces are extremely jealous of the trappings of provincehood..." Is Senator Murray talking about province-like powers for the Northwest Territories? Are the Premiers now jealous of our plans to sign an energy accord? Does this mean that our efforts to acquire province-like powers in energy, in land and resource management, which are being encouraged by the federal government, could now be vetoed by any province? We have an ambitious agenda for devolution in concert with aboriginal organizations. This accord not only threatens our becoming provinces, it also may threaten our acquiring provincial-like powers. These powers are of critical importance to us and they are powers enjoyed by the citizens of every other province of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I think what is most disturbing about this accord is that it betrays such a narrow and incomplete vision of Canada. The Meech Lake Accord not only leaves out 40 per cent of the land mass of Canada, it leaves out a very strategic part of our country and it leaves out the very distinct peoples who live in the Canadian North. Canada is one of the two great northern countries in the world. Yet, the federal government and the governments of the provinces are neglecting this most strategic and important part of our country in their vision of the future of Canada.

I wish that Canadians and the Government of Canada had a vision of our country which values its vital northern reaches. We must make them see that complete and exciting vision of Canada. If we look at our northern neighbour to the East, Mr. Speaker, in Greenland we see that the Government of Denmark provided the Greenland people with Home Rule Government, with self-government in 1979. They have self-government in most areas of their lives and a stake in renewable resource development decisions and revenues as well.

I had the privilege, along with Mr. Wray, of visiting the Soviet Union and the Soviet north this past summer. There one can see aggressive investment by the national government in developing the Soviet north. Railroads on the permafrost, air and water transportation systems, a well-developed, well-supported renewable resource economy, huge cities built on permafrost. Mr. Speaker, Denmark and the USSR have a vision of the future depending on northern development and self-sufficiency which, I am afraid to say, makes Canada pale by comparison.

The Canadian true North is not strong and free. Nor are northern Canadians equal to other Canadians. Meech Lake presents a narrow vision of a Canada whose population is clustered around the 49th parallel. It is our challenge, Mr. Speaker, to force Canadian Premiers, the Prime Minister and the people of Canada to see our vision of a country which permits equal status for the citizens of the North. I am determined to see, on your behalf, that our interests are not overlooked in the rush to make a political deal with Quebec. We are not opposed to Quebec rejoining Confederation but it must not occur at the expense of the rights of northern citizens. We only need to persuade one government to force this accord to be changed. And I welcome your support through this motion in pursuing our case for equality and justice with provincial Premiers and the Prime Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

AN HON. MEMBER: Recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Recorded vote requested. Mr. Richard, you may have closing comments. Thank you, Mr. Richard. A recorded vote has been called for, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Crow, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Richard, Mr. Butters, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Wray, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Allooioo, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. SPEAKER: Rule 52(2) requires that I call for those opposed to stand. Abstentions to stand.

Motion 14-87(2), Carried

Let the record show that this motion was passed unanimously.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 14, motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 5-87(2), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, was that Bill 5-87(2)? If that is Bill 5-87(2), you will require unanimous consent to proceed today. Mr. Patterson, go ahead.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 5-87(2).

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought. Are there any nays? Mr. Patterson, you have unanimous consent. Proceed.

First Reading Of Bill 5-87(2): Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move -- we owe you one. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 5-87(2), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. All those in favour of Bill 5-87(2)? Opposed, if any? Bill 5-87(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

First Reading Of Bill 1-87(2): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 6, 1986-87

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 1-87(2), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1987, be read for the first time.



MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Are you ready for the question on Bill 1-87(2)? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 1-87(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

First reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

First Reading Of Bill 2-87(2): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1987-88

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that Bill 2-87(2), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1988, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Bill 2-87(2). All those in favour? Those against? Bill 2-87(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

First reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

First Reading Of Bill 3-87(2): Revolving Funds Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 3-87(2), An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Bill 3-87(2). All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 3-87(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Ballantyne.

First Reading Of Bill 4-87(2): Write-Off Of Assets And Debts Act, 1987-88

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 4-87(2), An Act to Amend the Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1987-88, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Bill 4-87(2). All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 4-87(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

First reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, with a certain amount of trepidation that I stand here...

---Laughter

...somewhat heartened by the comments of the chairman of the standing committee on finance that perhaps my request for unanimous consent will be accepted. I ask for unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 1-87(2).

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Unanimous consent being sought? Do we have any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 16, second reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was only trying to accommodate the wishes of the Members who wanted to proceed but none the less I will try it again. Mr. Speaker, I will ask for unanimous consent for second reading for Bill 2-87(2), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1988.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Unanimous consent being sought for second reading of Bill 2-87(2). Do I have any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne, you do not have unanimous consent. Item 16, second reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker...

AN HON. MEMBER: Three strikes and you are out.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I just want the record to show that I am attempting to co-operate with the honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to deal with Bill 3-87(2), An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Unanimous consent being sought. Do I have any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

AN HON. MEMBER: A big war here.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne, you do not have unanimous consent for second reading of Bill 3-87(2). Item 16, second reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, like the Blue Jays I am heading for a shut-out here.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I am asking for unanimous consent for second reading of Bill 4-87(2), An Act to Amend the Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1987-88.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Unanimous consent being sought for second reading of Bill 4-87(2). Do I have any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It is four to two now. You guys owe me two.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I saw that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 16, second reading of bills. Mr. Government Leader.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to try for unanimous consent to deal with the second reading of Bill 5-87(2), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Unanimous consent is being sought for second reading of Bill 5-87(2). Do I have any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed



MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, you have unanimous consent to proceed.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 5-87(2): Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 5-87(2)...

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: You used me as a seconder?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the schedule of the Student Financial Assistance Act to provide for the maximum aggregate of principal amounts outstanding in respect of all loans for the fiscal year 1987-88. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour of Bill 5-87(2)? Thank you. All those against? Mr. Clerk, Bill 5-87(2) is hereby ordered into committee of the whole for today. Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 5-87(2), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

ITEM 17: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 5-87(2), STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Bill 5-87(2), Student Financial Assistance Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with Bill 5-87(2), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, with Mr. Patterson.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am introducing this legislation because it appears that due to the number of students applying for financial assistance in the current fiscal year, we are going to have to raise the maximum ceiling on the amount permitted under the Student Financial Assistance Act for outstanding loans. Mr. Chairman, the number of students enrolled in post-secondary studies in the Northwest Territories took quite a dramatic jump last year from a total of 507 in 1986-87 to 550 in 1987-88. This has put pressure on our Students Loan Fund but I would suggest that in a way it is a nice problem to have, in that it does mean that more and more students from the North are getting assistance to obtain post-secondary education.

So, Mr. Speaker, unless this bill is approved, we could face the possibility, according to our forecasts, that our government would run out of authority to provide additional student loans for the second semester beginning in January. So, the bill requests that the maximum aggregate of principal amounts outstanding be increased from \$7,150,000 to \$8,500,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Are there any general comments? Would the chairman of the finance committee like to comment? Mr. Pollard.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this morning we did not get the luxury of having the Minister responsible for Education with us, so I would like to ask a question, if I may, sir. I would like to ask the Minister, of the loans outstanding at the present, how many dollars in that amount does the Government of the Northwest Territories think is recoverable? In other words, how much of that is active and how much is money that are a problem to recover? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, loans which are granted to Northwest Territories residents for post-secondary education are granted with the purpose of providing incentives to those students to return to the Northwest Territories, so our loan program provides that loans given are forgivable to students who return and take up residence in the Northwest Territories. I think the feeling of the government, in enacting those provisions, was that this would provide an incentive to students to return to the North, add their education and skills and income tax to the territorial economy and that forgiving the loans would be an incentive to them to return. Only if they do not return to the Northwest Territories after completing their studies do we require that the loans be repaid.

Percentage Of Loans Forgiven

Mr. Chairman, to answer Mr. Pollard's question, approximately 60 per cent of students who are granted these loans return to the Northwest Territories and therefore we forgive approximately 60 per cent of the loans granted. So we only expect to recover about 40 per cent of the amounts granted for student loans, although I think it could be said that indirectly we do recover from those students in that they do contribute to the territorial economy through income taxes and through contributing their skills and knowledge. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask the Minister, is the government or the Minister considering a review of the financial assistance that is provided to students and whether or not there will be a change including providing to those students who receive full grant, the possibility of the option of a loan also? There has been an indication that in certain circumstances the assistance being provided has not been adequate and they are trying to find other means of accessing financial resources to remain in post-secondary institutions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, yes, I can tell the Member that we have undertaken a review of the Student Financial Assistance Act and the grants and loans provisions. There are increasing demands on the fund. We are looking for ways of making sure that our dollars are well spent. We are looking for ways of meeting student needs and perhaps reducing costs as well. So, the loan program and the grants program are being reviewed. I am aware that there are concerns that the grant provisions do not always meet the needs of all students and their situations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Are there any further general comments? Does the committee agree that we go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 1, Schedule, \$8,500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 5-87(2) is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 5-87(2), STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 5-87(2) and wishes to report that Bill 5-87(2) is now ready for third reading.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The chairman of the committee of the whole has moved a motion. Is there a seconder? Mr. Nerysoo. Thank you. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 19, announcements and orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a caucus meeting immediately after adjournment today.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, November 19th, at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions

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. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until Thursday, November 19th, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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