



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

6th Session

11th Assembly

HANSARD
Official Report
DAY 28

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1990

Pages 630 - 634

Speaker: The Hon. Richard Nerysoo, M.L.A.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS
FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1990

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	630
Ministers' Statements	
- 48-90(1) Hanging Ice Bison Ranch	630
Members' Statements	
- Mr. Whitford on Gus D'Aoust	630
- Mr. Lewis on Tactics Used on Passage of Interim Appropriation Act	631
- Mr. Kilabuk on GNWT Regional Staff	631
- Mr. Ernerk on Questions Asked by Members Re Constituencies Other Than Their Own	631
Returns to Oral Questions	631
Tabling of Documents	632
Notices of Motion	632
Second Reading of Bills	
- Bill 16-90(1) Status of Women Council Act	633
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	632
Report of Committee of the Whole of:	633
Orders of the Day	634

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1990

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

--Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Prior to proceeding with orders of the day I would like to draw the attention of honourable Members to the visitors in our gallery, the Nanisivik swimming team from Allurut School in Nanisivik, with their coach, Susan Naylor; and the grade five students from Mildred Hall Elementary School, with their teacher, Bill Strain.

--Applause

Orders of the day for Friday, March 30, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, not a Ministers' statement but on a point of order. Could you inform the House who is taking pictures this morning?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I just want to also draw the Members' attention to a camera group that is in our chamber today. It is the French network of Radio Canada that are here.

Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 48-90(1): Hanging Ice Bison Ranch

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, has presented the long history of the purpose and development of the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch. As the Department of Renewable Resources also has responsibility for renewable resource development, we too, were involved throughout the development of the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch proposal. I would like to emphasize that Agriculture Canada's proposal to use the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch as a source of disease-free bison was never a reason for our department's support of the ranch.

However, from the beginning the purpose of the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch has been twofold: first, to examine its potential as a commercial venture and second, as a source of stock to assist the Department of Renewable Resources in its objective to reintroduce wood bison throughout their former range in the Northwest Territories. Over the past 10 years, we have been involved with the development of a formal recovery plan for wood bison.

The department has also been involved with the environmental assessment and review panel on northern diseased bison. In 1989, along with all other involved agencies, the department responded to two information requests from the panel. One of the major questions was, what actions could departments take to eliminate the disease and help to repopulate the healthy animals? In our submissions we identified three potential sources for healthy bison: healthy bison salvaged from the affected area; bison from Elk Island National Park;

and bison from the Mackenzie Wood Bison Sanctuary.

The Department of Renewable Resources did not specifically mention the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch in its submission. However, we did identify the need for holding and breeding facilities in the Slave River lowlands and Wood Buffalo National Park if reintroduction of healthy bison is necessary. In order to develop our submissions, meetings were held among involved agencies to exchange information. The final documents then became public information.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress that in the future the use of any surplus wood bison from the ranch will be decided by the management committee for the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Gus D'Acoust

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as is all too often the case, when history does its recording of people, it looks for glamour, glory and greatness, and often it by-passes true heroes, unsung heroes, and a lot of northern heroes. Sometimes all you see is a short item on the back pages of a newspaper that some old-timer is remembered most often in the obituary columns, too late to pay tribute to people who have spent their lives in the North.

Such was the case recently when I read a short item in the Yellowknifer that Gus D'Acoust had died at the age of 83, in Ste. Rose, Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, Gus was among the last of the old white Barren Lands' trappers that came North in the 1920s and 1930s and remained here. Over his 60-odd years in the North he spent the majority of time around the Fort Reliance area trapping on the Barrens. He had served in the Canadian Armed Forces for a short period of time but in the 1920s he decided to move north and came here and remained here most of his life. It was a tough, meagre living but he enjoyed the lifestyle. After he had semi-retired near the Fort Reliance area he started up a trading post and although he moved to Manitoba in his later years he left his heart in the North.

Mr. Speaker, in 1977 the sculptor, Harold Pfeiffer, sculptured a bust of Gus and that bust is now located in the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre and Gus, being the type of guy he was -- I had the pleasure of meeting him personally several times and travelled with him up to Reliance -- his words about the bust when it was made were, "When the end of the trail comes, as the last sun sets, and when I am long gone, I will still be part of the North which was so dear to me." I just wanted to pass this on to the Members who might have known this elderly gentleman in the folk hero category of the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. The

honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Member's Statement On Tactics Used On Passage Of Interim Appropriation Act

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, last night we passed the Interim Appropriation Act and I was not sure, today, whether to congratulate the Minister of Finance on his brilliance or whether to accuse him, in fact, of undermining the very principles of democracy.

---Laughter

However, probably my comments would sort of be half-way between great praise for his brilliance and his lack of consideration for the fact that Members came here to work and to deal in a serious fashion with this budget. I have three objections to what we did last night, Mr. Speaker. The amount of money requested for interim funding goes beyond what is reasonable and according to practice in every jurisdiction in this country. Last year, Mr. Speaker, the government requested one month's interim funding so that, beginning April 1, they would have enough money to pay their bills. This year they have asked for six months' funding.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the inclusion of the entire capital budget in this Interim Appropriation Act, minus \$19 million, makes a mockery of any further consideration of the capital budgets that have not yet been examined by this Legislative Assembly. We like to take our work seriously as legislators, and I believe that the act that we passed last night has taken away from us that right to deal seriously with the Appropriation Act.

The third objection I have, Mr. Speaker, is that that interim spending authority was never sent to the standing committee on finance for its examination, which is the custom of all money bills in this Assembly. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, the tactic of taking advantage of tired people who have worked hard all week, bringing it in the very last minute, really makes me wonder whether we should be spending any more time looking at the budget. We should just simply pass it and not spend any more time with it. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

Member's Statement On GNWT Regional Staff

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel that I have to rise today. I do not want to embarrass Ministers, but I want to say what I want to say with regard to our staff, especially in the regions, who work for different departments. A lot of times there are people who do not obey the orders from their superiors. I was quite shocked, especially just a couple of days ago when I asked if DPW could provide a coffin for Isaac Papatsie's wife. Isaac is a long-time employee of DPW. I asked the Minister if they would be able to look after obtaining a coffin and she replied that they would look after that. I am pretty sure, right then and there, that her staff telephoned their staff in the regional office. I kept calling Pangnirtung to get more information. DPW in Iqaluit did not do anything. That body had to be buried yesterday. I had requested a coffin. I feel that maybe they do not think that whatever they are ordered to do, they do not do it right away. Maybe if you inform your staff, maybe you can let them know that when you ask them, they have to represent each one of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Member's Statement On Questions Asked By Members Re Constituencies Other Than Their Own

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to address honourable Members asking questions about each other's constituencies, including mine. Two questions have been posed to the government in the past two days regarding my constituency. One example was the military base that is being built in Rankin Inlet. The area containing the gravel they are going to use on that airstrip, according to the MLA's question, has the highest concentration of peregrine falcons in North America. Mr. Speaker, last night I spoke to a number of very knowledgeable people from Rankin Inlet, including our wildlife officer, and all of us agree that there are no nesting grounds for peregrine falcons at Esker.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully suggest the honourable Members should do at least some basic consultation with affected MLAs if they plan to ask questions about other constituencies. It is very much a matter of principle, courtesy and respect. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we should strive to ensure that such questions and statements are based on facts. Mr. Speaker, I, and the people that I represent, do very much appreciate when other MLAs raise issues that concern my constituency because we do need all the help that we can get.

MR. SPEAKER: Time has expired. Members statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Returns To Questions O398-90(1): Procedures Followed Re Fort Simpson Elder Sent To Mental Institution; O399-90(1): Interpretation Services At Fort Simpson Hospital; And O400-90(1): Provision Of Interpretation Services For Patients In Edmonton

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the question asked by Mr. Sibbeston on March 26, in relation to the elderly gentleman from Fort Simpson. The Department of Health staff advise me that the correct procedures were followed when this patient from Fort Simpson was committed under the Mental Health Act and admitted to the Alberta Hospital in Edmonton.

After examining the patient and consulting with attending staff and with one of the patient's daughters, the patient's attending physician was of the opinion that a further psychiatric assessment was required in order to establish a proper treatment plan for the staff in Fort Simpson to follow, upon the patient's return to the community. The matter was fully discussed with the daughter, who agreed that a further assessment should be carried out at the Alberta Hospital in Edmonton. In fact, discussions with the family regarding the required assessment and treatment plan went on for about six weeks prior to the patient going to Alberta.

It is the policy of the Health Department to refer its residents to wherever the appropriate service is available. In this case, the necessary expertise in mental health was available at the Alberta Hospital. The honourable Member seems to suggest there was some stigma attached to being admitted to a hospital specializing in mental health services. I would like to suggest to him that illness of the mind should not be viewed any differently from illness of the body.

In the case under discussion, all requirements under the Mental Health Act were met: the patient's attending physician

applied to have the patient admitted as an involuntary patient and requested the patient be transferred to the Alberta Hospital; the daughter was given formal notice of the transfer and even accompanied the patient to Edmonton where he was admitted to the Alberta Hospital for an assessment and development of a treatment plan. The intention was always to return the patient to his community on completion of the treatment plan. Throughout the discussions regarding the care of the patient, the daughter, who speaks excellent English, was involved and apparently agreed to the proposed plan of action.

The availability of suitable interpreter services in Fort Simpson and Edmonton has also been raised. The Fort Simpson Hospital has always used its Slavey-speaking support staff or Slavey-speaking family members for interpreting purposes. When no one suitable is available within the facility, the hospital arranges for an interpreter to be brought in.

Mr. Speaker, the Alberta Hospital in Edmonton determines through its admitting services whether an interpreter is needed, and if so, whether one is available through the hospital's roster. If one is not available, a call is made to the patient referral service in Edmonton and an interpreter is assigned to the patient as needed.

It is my understanding that in this particular incident the patient was escorted by his daughter who was able to translate for him.

I hope I have set the honourable Member's mind at rest concerning the procedures. I am concerned for the elderly gentleman and hope that he will receive the care and treatment that he needs. In addition, I would like to assure this House of my confidence in the patient's physician and other attending staff in Fort Simpson. They have demonstrated that in situations of this kind they are sensitive to the patient's and family's needs, and that they attempt to keep the concerned family involved.

Return To Question O299-90(1): Doctor For Fort Simpson

I have another return to an oral question, also asked by Mr. Sibbeston, on March 19, 1990, concerning a permanent physician for Fort Simpson. Mr. Speaker, recruitment of physicians who are prepared to make a long-term commitment to the North is an ongoing problem for the health boards and the Department of Health. This has been the case in Fort Simpson where the position for a physician has been filled by a series of locums since transfer. The Mackenzie Health Service has made extensive efforts to recruit for this position including local, national and international advertising. At the present time, discussions are taking place between the Mackenzie Health Service and an overseas physician, and the possibilities of recruitment are hopeful. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions.

Item 5, oral questions. Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 63-90(1), entitled "A Framework For Discussion On The Environment", recently tabled by the Minister of the Environment in the House of Commons.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 14-90(1): Recommendation To Cease Provision Of Staff Accommodation

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Monday, April 2, 1990, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move that this Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories take immediate steps to cease the provision of staff accommodation throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Pine Point.

Notice Of Motion 15-90(1): Appointment To Special Committee On Constitutional Reform

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Monday, April 2, I will move the following motion: That the Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, Mr. Zoe, be appointed as a Member to the special committee on constitutional reform.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motions. The honourable Member for Pine Point.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to proceed with the motion which I gave notice of previously. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Pine Point is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the motion that he gave notice of. Are there any nays? I hear a nay. Unanimous consent has not been given. Motions. Motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills. First reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 1-90(1), Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on the 1990-91 Main Estimates; Bill 9-90(1), Appropriation Act, 1990-91; Committee Report 2-90(1), Special Committee on the Northern Economy Report: Building our Economic Future; Consideration of the Issue of Family Violence and Abuse; Motion 5-90(1), Opposition to Exploration and Mining of Uranium in the Northwest Territories, with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I would like to call the committee to order. Could the chairman of the committee of the whole get direction from the committee as to which item of business they would like to deal with? Government House Leader, do you have any suggestions?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately we missed second reading of Bill 16-90(1). It was our intention to deal with the bill dealing with the Status of Women today and afterwards the Women's Directorate. I wonder if I could move that we report progress, deal with second reading of that bill and then return to committee of the whole to deal with the bill?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee has heard the suggestion from the Government House Leader. Anyone can move a motion to report progress but you cannot put a condition on it. Does the committee agree to the suggestion of the Government House Leader to proceed with the Status of Women and the Women's Directorate? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Just to explain again, unfortunately we missed second reading of Bill 16-90(1), and I would like the direction of the chairman because I would like to move we report progress, deal with Bill 16-90(1) and return to committee of the whole. Is that motion in order?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Unfortunately, your motion is not in order, Mr. Ballantyne. You can make a motion to report progress and then you have to seek unanimous consent from the House to do the other things you are suggesting. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have a motion on the floor to report progress, which is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: Item 18, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has met and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Members have heard the report of the chairman of committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, it is not Item 19, but may I ask for consideration of the House to go back to Item 16, second reading of bills?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 16, second reading of bills. Are there any nays? Unanimous consent has been given. Proceed, Madam Minister.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 16-90(1): Status Of Women Council Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 16-90(1), Status of Women Council Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to establish the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories; to set out the objects and powers of the council; to provide for the appointment of members to the council; to limit the personal liability of members of the council; to provide for the designation of a president and two vice-presidents of the council; to permit the council to hire its own employees; to establish the fiscal year of the council; to provide for tabling of an annual report; to consequentially amend the Financial Administration Act by adding the council to Schedule A of that act; and to repeal the Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 16-90(1), Status of Women Council Act, has had second reading and is ordered into committee. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you for your consideration, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Is that a point of order?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Whatever it was necessary to be, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the honourable Member for Yellowknife North seeking a point of order?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member, on a point of order, is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Are there any nays?

MR. ERNERK: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent has not been given to return to Item 17.

Item 19, third reading of bills. Third reading of bills.

Item 20, assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, Item 21, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for Monday, April 2: at 10:00 a.m. a meeting of the special committee on constitutional reform.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, April 2nd.

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: Motion 14-90(1); Motion 15-90(1)
15. First Reading of Bills: Bills 2-90(1), 3-90(1), 5-90(1) and 7-90(1)
16. Second Reading of Bills: Bill 1-90(1)
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Committee Report 1-90(1); Bill 9-90(1); Committee Report 2-90(1); Consideration of the Issue of Family Violence and Abuse; Motion 5-90(1); Bill 16-90(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Assent to Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Monday, April 2, 1990.

---ADJOURNMENT

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Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Northwest Territories