



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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Speaker: The Honourable Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Monday, February 25th.

Item 2, Members' replies. There do not appear to be any replies. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On A Point Of Privilege

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of privilege. The 11 Members of the Legislative Assembly known as the Nunavut caucus, which includes the MLAs from Nunakput and Kitikmeot West, have spent many agonizing hours reviewing the terms of Tabled Document 23-85(1), dated February 22nd, 1985, the Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Constitutional Alliance of the NWT including the tentative boundary agreement of the Constitutional Alliance dated January 13, 1985, and also the notice of Motion 6-85(1) respecting the mandate of the Constitutional Alliance, dated February 22, 1985. The unanimous consensus which emerged yesterday, Mr. Speaker, was that the conditions precedent to division insisted upon and demanded by the Western Constitutional Forum would likely result in a new Nunavut territory which would not be viable nor have the potential for provincehood for a long time, if ever. The price demanded of us all by the Western Constitutional Forum, which would have required dividing people with a common economy, language, history and culture against themselves, would have resulted in an unacceptable shell of the original Nunavut proposal. Our caucus also felt that it would be unfair to expect the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic, who have always been strong supporters of Nunavut, along with all other seacoast communities, to have the sole burden of resolving the dilemma into which we have been forced by the preconditions set by the Western Constitutional Forum for their continuing support for division and the settlement of the boundary. Our consensus, therefore, was not to be part of something which would be so divisive amongst people who naturally consider themselves as one; but to resolve to take the necessary time to continue to work together to gain wider understanding of, support and acceptance in the Northwest Territories for the logic, justice, and inevitability of Nunavut.

In making our decision, we had to take into account several important events which followed the announcement of the principles of agreement for the tentative boundary January 14, 1985. Firstly, shortly after a tour by the Western Constitutional Forum of Inuvialuit communities January 15 to 18, 1985, resolutions from the community councils of Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk, Holman Island and Tuktoyaktuk, stated that those communities, among other things:

- 1) strongly oppose any action by the NCF, WCF or any government to impose unacceptable constitutional arrangements on us;
- 2) stand together with other communities in the Western Arctic region in their present position of being part of the NCF and the territory of Nunavut.

Secondly, after hearing from the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, the annual general assembly of the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement held in Sachs Harbour February 16, 1985, endorsed the above resolutions of the four communities and further, it was resolved that: Whereas the communities of Kitikmeot West have been offered a vote on the tentative boundary; now therefore, let it be resolved that the COPE annual assembly demands the same democratic right to vote for the communities of Holman, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk and Paulatuk and for the Inuvialuit of Aklavik and Inuvik.

In light of these strong messages, the Nunavut caucus has affirmed the original NCF position presented to the Western Constitutional Forum as recently as July 7 and 8, 1984, in Rankin Inlet, but rejected by them, that the democratic right of communities to express their collective desire for self-determination is of prime importance in selecting a boundary. In doing so, we acknowledge that this request of certain Inuvialuit communities is not allowed under the terms of the tentative boundary agreement, and furthermore that this kind of request has been consistently rejected by the Western Constitutional Forum.

Mr. Speaker, I did in good faith lead the negotiations for the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. I ask this acknowledgement from the other Members of this House and of the Constitutional Alliance who worked with me and I ask for at least this much respect from the editor of News/North, who in an emotional and I believe extreme editorial of last Friday, February 22nd, called our behaviour "foul and contemptible". I did negotiate in good faith with the Western Constitutional Forum, according to the mandate given to me by other members of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum and by my Nunavut colleagues in this Assembly, but I have failed to secure their acceptance of the terms of this tentative boundary. I have discussed this matter today with all members of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, including the MP for Nunatsiaq, an ex-officio member of the NCF, and have received their concurrence for the action I must take.

Accordingly, and with regret, I have no honourable alternative but to tender to this Assembly, effective today, my resignation as a member and the chairman of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum.

I would like to take one more moment, Mr. Speaker, to thank all those who have worked so hard on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum since February, 1982, when we began our work, and to assure them that it will not have been in vain. The Nunavut caucus of this Assembly is confident that together with the people of the area known as Nunavut, we will emerge from this difficult period, stronger and more united in common cause than ever before. There will be a Nunavut. Thank you. (Translation) Thank you very much. Are we going to get Nunavut?

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Item 3, Ministers' statements.

Item 4, oral questions.

Item 5, written questions. Item 6, returns. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 112-85(1): Funding For Community Hall, Clyde River

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I will say this in my language. Mr. Paniloo had questioned me about the community hall in Clyde River and I have an answer for him now.

The funding that they asked for the community hall -- they had received it in the past. But last winter they started to put some of that funding toward a gymnasium and in the future that funding will be only used for recreational purposes. (Translation ends)

I wish to advise that O and M funding has consistently been provided for the community hall under the recreation O and M assistance program. There had been some consideration, in the past year, of applying this funding to the school gymnasium in Clyde River, but I wish to repeat that O and M funding will continue to be provided to the present Clyde River community hall.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, returns. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 55-85(1): Transfer Of Territorial Education System, Yellowknife

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a further return to oral Question 55-85(1), asked by Mr. Richard on February 12, 1985, respecting a request for jurisdiction over kindergarten to grade 12, from the Yellowknife Public Board of Education. Further to the response which I gave to this question asked by the honourable Member on February 12th, I would like to add the following information and indicate the commitments I am prepared to make. The desire of the Yellowknife Public Board of Education to have jurisdiction over the kindergarten to grade 12 program within its district is understandable from my point of view and, in principle, I am supportive to the extent that programs can be delivered in an economical fashion.

Over the past year, some meetings were held between my officials, representatives of the board, and representatives from the Community Education Society which is the publicly-elected local education authority for the Sir John Franklin High School. The transfer of the Sir John Franklin High School to the Yellowknife Board of Education was discussed as one way of meeting the board's desire for jurisdiction over the kindergarten to grade 12 program. However, much work has yet to be done to explore the impact of such a transfer and no detailed proposal has as yet been presented to me by the board. To support the board in the preparation of its proposal, my officials are gathering the required information, including current operating costs.

In the meantime, my deputy minister has approached the board and the society to set up a meeting in the near future to review what has been done to date and to plan for the future. When this meeting is complete and the board has provided me with a formal proposal, I will be in a position to determine the possibility of a transfer of these programs. At that point the issue of funding levels and scheduling can also be addressed. Thank you.

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

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 9, tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Motion 5-84(1). Mr. Wah-Shee.

Motion 5-85(1), Removed From The Order Paper

Mr. Wah-Shee is not in the House. Motion 5-85(1) is now dropped, having been called the required number of times.

---Applause

Motion 6-85(1), Reconfirming of Support to the Constitutional Alliance. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I am sorry for the confusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to defer the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: First reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should give this House notice that, for obvious reasons, I will be unable to second Motion 6-85(1). Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Sibbeston, take note that you will require another seconder. Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion 6-85(1), Withdrawn

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of that I will simply withdraw the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The records will indicate Motion 6-85(1) has been withdrawn.

Mr. MacQuarrie, you have asked if you can request a 15 minute adjournment. A motion to adjourn the Assembly or debate shall always be in order but no second motion to the same effect shall be made until some intermediate proceeding has taken place. So, if your motion is an adjournment for 15 minutes, it is in order.

Motion That House Adjourn For 15 Minutes, Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will make a motion that the House recess for 15 minutes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you use the word "adjourn" please?

MR. MacQUARRIE: I use the word adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

This House stands adjourned for 15 minutes.

---SHORT ADJOURNMENT

MR. SPEAKER: I call the House back to order. Item 14, second reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, we were at Item 13.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I believe you are correct. Item 13, first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 13: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 9-85(1): Loan Authorization Act, No. 1, 1985-86

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 9-85(1), An Act to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds and Make Loans to Municipalities in the Northwest Territories During the Financial Year 1985-86, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the question. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 9-85(1) has had first reading. First reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills.

Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 23-85(1), Report of the Constitutional Alliance of the Northwest Territories; Bill 7-85(1), Appropriation Act, 1985-86; and Bill 3-85(1), Workers' Compensation Act, with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

ITEM 15: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER TABLED DOCUMENT 23-85(1), REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Good afternoon. The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with Tabled Document 23-85(1), Report of the Constitutional Alliance of the Northwest Territories. We will now take 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will now come to order. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the statement made earlier today under a point of privilege by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit, Dennis Patterson, on his decision to resign as a member and as chairman of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, has very far-reaching implications on all of us.

Mr. Chairman, I personally and I am certain that all other members of the Nunavut caucus feel a sense of loss. We no longer have a chairman of the NCF and we no longer have any leadership or direction in any debate on the report before us or for that matter in any debate dealing with constitutional development, Constitutional Alliance or a tentative boundary. Mr. Chairman, I feel it is imperative that we, the Members of the Nunavut caucus, have some time to deal with the necessary reassessment of our individual and collective position, and also have time to select a new chairman before we can enter into any meaningful debate on the report which is now before us.

I think also, Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that the Nunavut caucus has declined to endorse the agreement in principle on a tentative boundary that the debate on the report before us would be futile at this time. Mr. Chairman, I would therefore like to move that we adjourn debate on the report before us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Pedersen, what was your point of order, please?

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, the point of order was that we cannot debate the report in front of us because we no longer have a Nunavut Constitutional Forum operational.

AN HON. MEMBER: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Before I recognize anyone in the committee, I would like to ask Mr. Pedersen if he could repeat his motion, please.

Motion To Adjourn Debate On Tabled Document 23-85(1)

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should withdraw the point of order and just make the motion, then. The motion is that we adjourn debate on the Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Constitutional Alliance of the NWT, Tabled Document 23-85(1).

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Could I have a copy of that, please? Mr. MacQuarrie, your point of order, please.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I feel that the motion is not in order. It may be very shortly but the report is not yet before the House and there was a motion of the House to put it into this committee. So I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, at the very least that the report be given to the committee and then if it were Mr. Pedersen's wish to make such a motion it may be more appropriate at that time.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Once I get a copy of the honourable Member's motion then I would like to deal with it as chairman. Mr. Pedersen, in regard to your motion, it seems rather an unusual move so I will take 10 minutes to consider that.

---SHORT RECESS

Chairman's Ruling

The House will come to order. In regard to the motion put forward by Mr. Pedersen, I have reviewed the motion and find that the Tabled Document 23-85(1) was sent by formal motion to the committee of the whole for discussion. I feel that a motion once made in formal session cannot be rescinded by a committee motion. Mr. Pedersen's motion would not allow the direction of the House to be carried out. I therefore rule the motion out of order. Mr. Wray, your point of order.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Chairman, with all respect, sir, I contend that the document was tabled on Friday, and that when you called the committee to order, that document was then in the House and that Mr. Pedersen's motion is in order under Rule 43 and I would challenge your ruling, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you for challenging me, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 23-85(1), REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, a motion was put forward in the committee as a whole. I made a ruling on the motion put forward and my ruling was challenged.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We will just stand recessed for a few moments. I do not pretend to leave the chair, I just want to think this out for a moment. If any of the honourable Members wish to smoke we will take the mace down.

---SHORT RECESS

Speaker's Ruling

Relative to the problem that confronts the House as to whether or not the orders of the day can be continued. A motion made by Mr. Pedersen on the document wishing to have it rescinded -- could I have that motion, please? "I move to adjourn the debate on the Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Constitutional Alliance of the NWT Tabled Document 23-85(1)." The ruling of the chairman you have just heard.

The argument of Mr. Wray I presume falls under what would be Rule 43. When a question is under debate no motion shall be received except to amend it, to postpone it to a day certain for proceeding to another order, to adjourn the debate or the adjournment of the Assembly. The problem here, what is a question? A question basically in parliamentary terminology is a motion that is under debate. It is not a tabled document. So in my opinion, Rule 43 does not apply because this is a tabled document, it is not a motion that is under debate. It is not under debate, it is under review.

Motion To Adjourn Debate On Tabled Document 23-85(1), Ruled Out Of Order

So, I would substantiate the ruling of the chairman that Mr. Pedersen's motion is out of order and also Mr. Wray's position is also out of order and that the House should resolve back into committee of the whole with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

REVERT TO ITEM 15: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER TABLED DOCUMENT 23-85(1), REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Tabled Document 23-85(1). Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, as chairman of the Western Constitutional Forum, who were involved with the Nunavut forum in preparing the alliance report, I am prepared to read the report, recognizing that the chairman of Nunavut forum has resigned effective today and I consider that certainly is a setback with respect to the activities of the alliance but there are other persons, there are other groups that I am sure support the alliance report and certainly the Western Constitutional Forum supports the report and also the agreement that the report refers to. So, I would like to begin reading the report and Members, of course, will feel free to question myself or any other persons that are part of the alliance.

Mr. Chairman, the Constitutional Alliance of the Northwest Territories is comprised of representatives of the Dene Nation, the Inuit Tapirisat, Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, Metis Association, Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement and the Legislative Assembly. It is

charged with the responsibility of reaching a tentative agreement on a boundary to divide the Northwest Territories, submitting its recommendations to the public for ratification and developing mechanisms to facilitate co-operation between the two territories on unavoidable transborder concerns. In addition, the alliance divides itself into two forums, the Nunavut and Western Constitutional Forums for the purpose of developing in close consultation with the public, constitutional proposals for each new territory. The Constitutional Alliance has had a very productive year, so we thought, until very recently. In March 1984, the alliance agreed that the primary objective of division is to create "two viable public government jurisdictions that have the political and economic potential to evolve toward provincial status". Related to this objective and accepted by all parties was a list of 11 principles or criteria against which all boundary proposals would be assessed. These principles ranged from numbers of aboriginal peoples, the protection of language and culture, traditional land-use and claims boundaries, to land mass and distribution of renewable and non-renewable resources, to government infrastructures, transportation and communication links, to proposed forms and styles of government.

The alliance met again in Rankin Inlet in July at which time they added two more principles to the list. First, that the alliance would try to minimize the number of transborder concerns and conflicts in selecting a boundary, and, for those transborder issues which could not be avoided, reach agreements on how they could be used and managed co-operatively. Members also agreed to set June 1985 as a target date for reaching a tentative agreement on the boundary.

The Western Constitutional Forum released two research documents in October. They are titled, "Resource Management Boundary Problems", and "The Impact of Division on the Distribution of NWT Non-Renewable Resource Wealth".

HON. GORDON WRAY: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Point of order, Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Chairman, there is no quorum.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Shame!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Attention has been drawn to the lack of quorum, so we will have to ring the bells for 15 minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Just one moment, please. I must have a report from my chairman, first. Mr. Wah-Shee.

REVERT TO ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 23-85(1), REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, during the proceedings of the committee of the whole it was drawn to my attention that we lack a quorum. So this is really what I have to report at this time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I note, Mr. Speaker, that there is a quorum in the House at this moment. I would ask for unanimous consent to return to the Item 10, notices of motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 8-85(1): Acceptance Of Report Of Constitutional Alliance Of NWT

---Agreed

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on an appropriate day, I will move that this Assembly accept the tabled report of the Constitutional Alliance of the NWT and endorse the principles of agreement attached to the report as Appendix A. I will ask for unanimous consent to deal with this motion today, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Could we have a copy of the motion, please? Mr. MacQuarrie, are you asking for unanimous consent to go to motions?

MR. MacQUARRIE: I am.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested. Do I hear any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 8-85(1): Acceptance Of Report Of Constitutional Alliance Of NWT, Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho Gah, that this Assembly accept the tabled report of the Constitutional Alliance of the NWT, and endorse the principles of agreement attached to the report as Appendix A.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Recorded vote, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Recorded vote being requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Gargan, Mr. T'Seleie, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Richard, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Butters, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed, if any?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Oh, sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: Abstentions. Let the record show that the vote was unanimous with those present.

---Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege, Mr. MacQuarrie. Make it privilege, please.

Point Of Privilege

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is the first opportunity I have had, in view of events that occurred, to respond to comments that were made earlier this afternoon when Mr. Patterson made a statement to the House. In that statement, I feel that in some sense Members of the Western Constitutional Alliance were unfairly impugned. I would like the opportunity to clarify certain matters with respect to that statement, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I believe the statement was made that the Western Constitutional Forum was making demands that apparently were unreasonable. I must make it very clear to this House and to the public, Mr. Speaker, that the proposal that resulted in the agreements of principle that were to be brought to this House were made to the Western Constitutional Forum by the Nunavut Constitutional Forum.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. MacQUARRIE: I must make clear that at the meetings that were conducted to carry out that business that there was a representative at all times from COPE sitting on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. I would like further to say the implication was made in Mr. Patterson's statement that somehow the agreement that was reached was unfair to the eastern people as a result of demands made by those in the West, and specifically by the Western Constitutional Forum. I would like to clarify, Mr. Speaker, that for reasons that were advanced by Members of this House from the East over a period of years, reasons that included the vastness of this single territory, the remoteness that they felt from government beyond responsiveness of government, the fact that there had been historical divisions of the NWT in the past and that there was now sufficient political and social development in the East, they urged that a structure be put in place. And that was the alliance and the forums and a process agreed upon to bring about a political division of the NWT, that is to divide the NWT into two public government jurisdictions.

A Fair Decision On A Political Division

In light of that, Mr. Speaker, with that objective in mind, the keeping of a particular cultural group together in one territory, while it may be a consideration for a political division of the Territories, would not be a pre-eminent concern, and certainly not a sole determiner. In fact, when we look at a political division of the Territories, the various factors that were considered resulted in what the western forum felt was a fair, honourable and reasonable agreement. By not wishing to support that, it appears that other Members of this House, specifically those affiliated with the Nunavut Constitutional Forum in fact are saying that a political division of the NWT seems not to be desirable, because it is hard to see how it could be conducted any more fairly than it was in arriving at that decision. If some Members have as an objective the creation of an Inuit homeland, which is a totally different matter, then their quarrel is not particularly with the western forum because we did act honourably and fairly in carrying out trying to achieve a political division. Rather they must address that concern to the people and the Government of Canada. It is a different issue entirely.

I would finally like to say, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Patterson -- I have worked with him personally for some period of time and believe that he is an honourable man. I regretted a few of the comments that he made over the past couple of weeks but I understand the pressures he was under and I say that by doing what he did today, resigning, because he could not get other members to support his position that he did an honourable thing. In view of that, I would say that because there were other Nunavut constitutional members who similarly entered into a process with us to achieve a fair and reasonable agreement and we thought we had entered in good faith as well. That when they no longer support that agreement the question must be raised as to whether those members of that forum ought to resign as well.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: I certainly think they ought to. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: The matter of privilege and the matter of Ministers' statements took a terrible beating today but I think both sides are equal. So I will have considered that the Chair has done its duty to see that both sides were treated fairly.

We will resolve into committee of the whole with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair to continue with Bill 7-85(1).

MR. McCALLUM: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit, sir, that we are not moving into consideration of committee of the whole for the Appropriation Act, we are moving in to discuss the Report of the Constitutional Alliance of the Northwest Territories. Is that not so?

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: I had taken the matter that the motion had been cleared, that that business had been concluded. It is the wish of the House? Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, at the time that the quorum was lost we were in a process of dealing with the alliance report, in fact I was reading merrily along the good report that was before the House, and it became apparent that there was not a quorum so the chairman, I believe, had no choice but to indicate that there was no quorum.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I am afraid, gentlemen, that the motion says that you have accepted the report and endorsed the principles. Now, why would you give me any reason why you would wish to discuss the matter any further?

MR. McCALLUM: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Privilege now, Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, yes, on a point of privilege because I have got to say mea culpa, you are absolutely right.

MR. SPEAKER: Coming from you, that is an awfully great compliment, Mr. McCallum.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: The Appropriation Act.

MR. SPEAKER: So, if we are all ready, Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair, we will go back to the Appropriation Act.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

REVERT TO ITEM 15: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 7-85(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1985-86

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. Last Friday we deferred the Department of Personnel. I wonder if Mr. Butters could indicate to the committee which department he wishes the committee to consider at this time. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, we had, I think, agreed to look at the two secretariats: Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, and the Ministry of the Status of Women. However, I do not see the Minister present. The next one in order would be Education and after that, Finance. We could go with Finance if that is the wish of the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Is the committee agreed to deal with the Department of Finance at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Page five. Does the committee agree that we agree with the Department of Finance? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Could we just take a coffee break because we were prepared for Education. Just five minutes to get some information. We were prepared for Education and Aboriginal Rights -- that information is not in the books.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Just a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would suggest that you allow Mr. Butters the opportunity to make his introductory remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Department Of Finance

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Butters, would you introduce the Department of Finance please?

Opening Remarks

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main function of the Department of Finance is to provide financial services in support of government programs. The services and support provided by the Department of Finance in order of priority are: 1) responsibilities defined in legislation, such as the NWT Act, Financial Administration Ordinance, Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, etc.; 2) services associated with Executive policies and directives, such as the cash management program or insurance risk management program; 3) services which contribute to the efficient and effective operation of the government, such as continued financial policy and systems development and the provision of financial advice and expertise to all departments and regions.

As a service department, the Department of Finance has a number of programs which are of interest to this House and the public, such as: initiatives in the area of northern taxation, including the development of an equitable taxation regime for territorial trappers and the resolution of the northern benefits issue; the review and redrafting of the Financial Administration Ordinance to reflect more appropriately ministerial governments and Executive accountability; and also revisions to the financial accounts of the government.

The annual report of territorial accounts tabled at the last session was revised to present more complete and comprehensive financial information to the public, an identification of northern career opportunities in finance areas. The Department of Finance has been looking at various ways to attract northern students and other northerners into the finance and administrative job market.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Finance's budget for 1985-86 continues to reflect an emphasis on internal restraints. The department's 1985-86 total appropriation of \$9,492,000 represents an increase of seven per cent over the 1984-85 spending level, with the major change, some five per cent, caused by basic price increases for goods and services. Four additional person years are included, which increases the total person years to 108.2 for 1985-86. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to make that presentation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if it would be in order if we asked Mr. Butters general questions about the Department of Finance now, but go into the details of the Financial Management Secretariat before we go into the details of the Department of Finance. Would that be a problem, Mr. Butters?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I do not know that it would be difficult. I have prepared an introduction for the secretariat as well, and the Financial Management Board, which I would like to present but I do not have it here. I think I have it at my seat or I can get it. So, maybe if we take that coffee break I will pick up my support and, also, my documentation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the committee agree to take a 10 minute coffee break? Correction, it is a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order please. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After having some discussion with my colleagues I think people recognize that there was a heated debate today, and there are some serious differences but we all recognize here that the business of government must go on. I think we have a responsibility to the people of the Territories to have everybody here including the other four Ministers, so I suggest right now that we report progress and come back tomorrow ready for work. I so move.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Okay, I shall report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

REVERT TO ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 7-85(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1985-86

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering the departmental details of the 1985-86 main estimates and wishes to report progress.

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.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Members have heard the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a caucus meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m.

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 26th at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Oral Questions
5. Written Questions
6. Returns
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents

10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 7-85(1); Bill 3-85(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 26th.

---ADJOURNMENT

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