



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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Pages 1 to 22

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, 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. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Rev. Short, would you do us the honour of leading us in the opening prayer, please?

REV. PETER SHORT: Let us pray. O Spirit of God in whom the planet lives and the universe is sustained, help us by your presence to think clearly, to speak bravely, to act justly and to dedicate ourselves wholly to the health and peace of this good land and all its people. Give us the grace to leave behind every word and deed that is self-serving and mean so that when the day is done, we may rest without regret in clear conscience and in sure hope, that one day in society we are building together we will be as strong and as good as the land that sustains it. This to your glory and we to your service, O Spirit of God. Amen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Rev. Short. Please be seated. Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner is prepared to address this House?

ITEM 2: COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly: In welcoming Members to the sixth session of the 10th Legislative Assembly I note that this session marks the midpoint in the life of the Assembly and that Members will wish to take stock of progress made by the Assembly and the Executive Council since you first met on January 11, 1984. Several developments have taken place over the summer months as a result of the hard work and the dedication of Members of both the Assembly and the Executive Council. I refer to them today since they will in some measure determine the agenda of your government over the next two years.

Since you last met in Rankin Inlet in June, national attention has been focussed on Canada's North because of the journey of the icebreaker "Polar Sea" through the Northwest Passage. The issue of Arctic sovereignty was on the agenda of the 26th Premiers' Conference which was held in August, and the Hon. Richard Nerysoo used the opportunity to place before his provincial colleagues a strategy to assert Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic. A feature of his proposal was to make the Northwest Territories a full partner in Confederation, thus ending the present rather unsatisfactory status as a Canadian territorial possession and helping to discourage challenges to Canadian claims. While the main solution eventually chosen was an order in council establishing boundaries around the Arctic Islands, it should be noted that the Government Leader was able to speak on your behalf at the Premiers' Conference on matters of fundamental importance to all Members. It should also be noted that several of the points raised by the Government Leader were reflected in the statement on Arctic sovereignty by the Hon. Joe Clark on September 10th.

Changes In Government Organization

To provide enhanced service to the residents of the Northwest Territories and to advance your desire for more responsible self-government, the Executive Council approved in August several changes in the organization of your government. One of the keys to improved service is a continuation of the devolution of northern programs from Ottawa to the Northwest Territories. To facilitate the transfer of powers, an office of devolution has been established by the Government Leader. This office will provide a single contact point for the co-ordination of transfers from the federal government.

A decision was also made in August to create a Department of Communications and Culture. This department will support the government's commitment to the enhancement of aboriginal languages and cultures and the establishment of good communications with the residents of the Northwest Territories as a basic government service. The new department will include an expanded language bureau with the addition of 24 new positions funded under the federal/territorial language agreement.

The removal of several public service functions from the Department of Justice and Public Services means that the territorial government is placed in an improved position to accept responsibility for prosecution functions now held by the federal Department of Justice, and for labour relations currently held by Labour Canada. One immediate goal will be to work toward the establishment of an attorney general's office within the Government of the Northwest Territories. Other changes announced in August include a transfer of safety-related functions to the Department of Government Services.

Negotiations For Transfer Of Responsibility

A major transfer from the federal government currently being negotiated is the responsibility for forest fire suppression and forest management. Next April 1st has been set as the date for the transfer of administrative responsibility for these programs, with the legislative authority to be pursued at a later date.

The Minister and officers of the Department of Renewable Resources are also engaged in discussions with the federal government for the transfer of water resource management. It is expected that an agreement in principle will be reached with the federal government by the end of the calendar year.

Another transfer still being pursued is an arrangement whereby the Northern Canada Power Commission would become a territorial corporation subject to the NWT Utilities Board, with rates and capital plans consistent with territorial rather than federal priorities. It is hoped that a satisfactory arrangement can be worked out during the life of this Assembly.

Further transfers of responsibilities for highways was a subject of negotiations during the summer months and an agreement was reached to transfer the inter-territorial road reconstruction program by April 1, 1987. During 1985-86 further negotiations are planned over the transfer of responsibilities including construction of community access roads and new highway construction.

Co-operation With Federal Departments

It should be noted that while the reorganization of elements of the territorial government will facilitate further transfers from the federal government, the senior government has demonstrated its own desire to facilitate transfers by creating its own office of devolution. In addition to this continued good working relationship with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I would like to point out areas of continuing co-operation with other federal departments. The Treasury Board has agreed to fund the land use planning division within the Department of Renewable Resources. The Minister of Renewable Resources also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Minister of the Environment on the co-operative planning of wildlife conservation areas in the NWT, and began negotiations with the Canadian Wildlife Service on a management agreement for the Polar Bear Pass national wildlife area.

To underline the importance that the Government of the Northwest Territories has attached to economic matters, the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Finance have at various times met with federal officials on the proposed new federal arrangements for resource management and revenue sharing. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has committed himself to the development of new arrangements whereby northerners can benefit directly from resource development decisions.

Another issue which raised national awareness about northern Canada in recent months has been the announcement of a six year, one billion dollar program to upgrade the distant early warning system. In September the Government Leader made a presentation to the standing committee on external affairs and national defence, lending support to this development as long as economic benefits will be gained by northern residents and social and environmental impacts are minimized.

Economic Growth In NWT

While Ministers devoted very considerable energy and time in working with various federal departments, similar effort has been expended on matters of daily concern to northern residents. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is currently working on several initiatives designed to boost activity in the private sector. One million dollars has been allocated under the NWT venture capital program to encourage investment in new enterprises. Under this program investors can be refunded 30 per cent of their equity invested in areas of low employment. To assist in the Inuit fine art market which has been depressed in recent years, a fund has been established to provide technical and other advice to Inuit artists. Work is also under way toward the development of a Dene arts and crafts strategy similar to that developed by the Inuit fine arts task force. The native entrepreneurial training project which began this summer with 96 business people attending workshops over a period of 26 days in Fort Smith, has proven highly successful.

During this session, the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism will be giving details on the progress of the Northwest Territories Expo pavilion. Although the participation of your government in Expo will increase the North's profile by educating and entertaining visitors, it will also assist in the long-term promotion and marketing of our resources, products and services. To provide a major impetus to the private sector, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is also engaged in a major initiative to determine ways in which several government services could be handed over to the private sector under the privatization program.

The Department of Renewable Resources has provided increased support for the outpost camp program, with the fund going from \$500,000 to \$750,000 annually. Local wildlife committees now receive \$15,000 instead of \$3000 annually. Despite the anti-trapping lobby and its impact on the fur industry, it appears that trapping is making a recovery in the Northwest Territories. More than 1000 trappers will receive incentive cheques this fall for their efforts in the 1984-85 season. Much of the department's effort is being directed toward fur marketing, conservation education, and dialogue with various anti-trapping groups.

In response to the recommendations of the special committee on education of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Education has provided continued funding for 14 aboriginal language projects. Grade 10 has been introduced in Pond Inlet, Coppermine, Igloolik and Cape Dorset. To meet public demands that students be expected to meet objective standards, the department will have examinations ready for all grade nine core subject areas by spring of 1986. In order to continue with improved public awareness about education and training programs, the department will introduce a public information system this fall. The Department of Education's training programs have been highly successful. This year, 76 tradesmen have obtained their journeyman papers in 22 trades. In addition, the department has co-operated with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the Department of Local Government in business management programs and recreation leadership programs, respectively, which could lead to employment for 44 people over the next four years.

While your Executive Council has been preoccupied with the further devolution of government and the economic growth of the Northwest Territories, the general well-being of our residents in the communities must always remain the first priority of your government.

Improved Service To Residents

To meet the special needs of several groups of people within the Northwest Territories requiring improved government service, your government has taken the following initiatives: From October 25 to 28, a territorial youth forum will be held in Yellowknife. Two young people from each constituency in the NWT have been chosen by MLAs to attend this meeting. The forum is being organized by the Department of Social Services and it will provide MLAs with a unique opportunity to hear about the problems of youth from young people themselves.

Under the direction of the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, the five year action plan for the equality of women and the work of the task force on spousal assault were completed. The Minister tabled the action plan at the end of the Decade of Women Conference in Nairobi in June, where it was praised for its breadth and depth. The honourable Mr. Patterson was also instrumental in drafting the resolution on the needs of indigenous women and their families which will go to the General Assembly of the United Nations this fall.

A major concern of this Assembly has been the need to make the Public Service representative of the public it serves. I am pleased to report today that the equal employment directorate has been staffed and made operational. Recruitment is under way to fill the equal employment officer positions in the five regions.

A task force on aboriginal languages, established by the Government Leader is now fully staffed and has set up shop in Yellowknife. The task force, consisting of three Dene and three Inuit members, assisted by an administrative assistant and four researchers, will prepare a report on the enhancement of aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. Members have already done extensive historical research and they have travelled to a number of communities. The task force is totally independent of the government and it reports directly to the Government Leader.

For improved health care, the Minister is in the process of establishing health positions in the regions. A board of management has been established in Inuvik to administer the chronic care facility. To provide improved service to the elderly and handicapped in the Dogrib area, a senior citizens' personal care facility with the capacity for 22 people will be opened in Rae-Edzo in December. To assist the residents of the Baffin Region to handle people who are in conflict with the law, and in keeping with your government's plan to provide facilities closer to home, the new Baffin Region Correctional Centre was officially opened on October 5th. The facility has a capacity for 48 inmates and three of the staff at the centre are recent graduates of the corrections officer trainee program. A multipurpose group home in the hamlet of Coppermine is also under construction to accommodate people with a broad range of special needs.

During this session of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Local Government will be providing details of the new recreational leadership program recently approved by the Executive Council. Members will be pleased to hear that plans for Lac la Martre, Sachs Harbour and Fort McPherson to assume more responsibility through local government agreements are progressing well and, if completed to the satisfaction of the Minister of Local Government and the Executive Council, will provide those communities with municipal status. The communities in the South Slave area are also progressing well in developing a proposal for the eventual incorporation of the South Slave Regional Council.

In September, the Executive Council responded to a request from the Dene/Metis to halt the sale of lands in communities until land claims have been settled, and agreed to implement a "lease only" policy for a period of one year in communities where requested by the local band, Metis local or municipal council. The policy will not affect any land development or sales already under consideration or negotiation. The approach being taken gives the Dene and Metis a breathing period in which to complete land selection without causing excessive uncertainty for other concerned parties.

I am happy to report to the House that measures to lower the cost of automotive gasoline, naphtha, heating and aviation fuel in Cambridge Bay have been approved by the Executive Council. As a result of this and other actions taken by your government, a commitment has been given by the air lines operating in the region to lower freight and transportation costs to Kitikmeot communities.

Award To Mr. Henry Zoe

For leadership in local government I would like to commend Mr. Henry Zoe, the newly appointed Clerk Assistant of the Legislative Assembly and previously the secretary manager of Rae-Edzo. He recently received the award of the NWT Association of Municipal Administrators as the outstanding municipal administrator in the NWT for 1985.

---Applause

Passing Of Distinguished Northerners

It is appropriate, following remarks about service to our residents, that I ask the House to note the passing of distinguished northerners who have done much to enrich the fabric of life in our northern society. John Anderson-Thomson had already built a substantial career as a geologist, engineer, mine superintendent and military instructor when he arrived in Yellowknife in 1944. Over the years he carried out many projects, among them the laying out of the route for the Mackenzie Highway between Yellowknife and Hay River, the route for the Great Slave Lake Railway to Hay River and Pine Point, surveying of the power line from Discovery Mine to Blue Fish Hydro, the surveying of DEWline airports, and underground surveying at Polaris Mine. At the age of 79, he ran the survey for the pipeline from Norman Wells to Zama, Alberta, a distance of 800 miles. On November 15, 1983, he was awarded the gold medal of the Canadian Association of Professional Engineers, the highest award given by the profession. As well, together with his wife Janet, he received the Commissioner's Award for Public Service in 1975. Mr. Anderson-Thomson was 85 when he passed away peacefully on September 15th.

Annie Jamieson was also 85 when she passed away this summer. She lived at a fish camp four miles from Aklavik. She is remembered as an active, independent person who cared for herself, chopped her own wood, and walked into Aklavik regularly on her own. She is survived by four children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

On October 8th the people of Fort Providence were saddened to hear of the loss of one of the oldest residents, Vital Bonnetrouge, who died at the age of 88. Mr. Bonnetrouge was born September 14, 1897. He was a trapper most of his life and in his younger days he worked for the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Good Hope and later as a pilot on the Yellowknife Transport barge. Mr. Bonnetrouge took a keen and active part in the development of the community of Fort Providence. From 1960 to 1970 he was the chief at Fort Providence and served on the community council from 1970 to 1976. Since that time he was a familiar figure at every local meeting and watched the development of his community very closely.

Many Beaufort Sea communities mourn the passing this summer of Father Robert LeMeur. Since his arrival in Paulatuk in 1946 Father LeMeur saw service in Holman Island, Coppermine, Fort Resolution, Stanton and Tuktoyaktuk. For the past 26 years he served as the head of the Roman Catholic Mission and won the respect of all who knew him as a man who wanted no luxuries. He helped establish the local radio station and helped in the teaching of Inuvialuktun. In 1982 an icebreaker was named after him, and in 1983 he was named to the Order of Canada. He was buried at Tuktoyaktuk on July 19th.

In honouring these northerners for adding so much to the quality of our lives, I pay particular tribute to our elders and the direction they have given to our society. I am sure all Members will want to join me in a particular tribute to the former chief of Fort McPherson, Johnny Charlie. After 15 years as a councillor and 10 years as chief, he retired this summer. In retirement I know his advice will often be sought and it will be willingly given.

---Applause

I am pleased to announce that the Commissioner's Award for Bravery at the highest level is to be presented to Mr. Pat Bobinski of Hay River. On the night of May 7th in Hay River, when the West Channel of Vale Island was flooded, Mr. Bobinski, realizing that a number of people would be forced onto their roofs, paddled his canoe in the darkness through turbulent, dangerous water with large ice floes. Mr. Bobinski, who is an expert canoeist, successfully managed to rescue a number of people from the roofs of their homes and return them to safety. To accomplish this, he returned a number of times to the flooded area to carry people to safety. It is in recognition of these deeds that the Award for Bravery will be given to Mr. Bobinski.

Construction Projects

Several construction projects were completed this summer. During the first week of October, the Minister of Local Government opened a new community gym in Arctic Bay and a new community hall and above-ground pool in Igloolik. New facilities such as these, as well as the current construction of recreation complexes in Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake and the completed community hall in Gjoa Haven are examples of the growing capability of community councils to take on more active roles in the planning and construction of capital facilities in co-operation with the GNWT.

The Minister of Local Government was also on hand to turn the sod for the Pangnirtung water reservoir project. This is the largest single municipal works contract ever awarded by the Department of Public Works, and will provide significant benefits to the northern economy. The involvement of the Department of Education in training and hiring residents, the work of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in helping to establish a local heavy equipment leasing company in Pangnirtung, is a perfect example of a co-ordinated effort among Ministers to ensure that the maximum benefits from government expenditures will accrue to northern residents.

The opening of this session also finds the NWT Housing Corporation involved in construction projects to substantially improve the quality of life for northerners, while at the same time providing much-needed economic opportunities. New housing is being provided to over 300 families. Renovations will be made to another 200 houses. Members will be pleased to hear, I am sure, that 90 per cent of these contracts have been let to northern companies.

Before I draw your attention to the legislative program of this Assembly, I would like to commend the Minister of Finance and the financial management team of your government. For the second year in a row, the GNWT has won an award for outstanding budget preparation and presentation. The award is made annually by the Government Finance Officers' Association of Canada and the United States, representing over 4000 governments across North America.

---Applause

Proposed Legislation

I would now like to draw to your attention the legislative program of this Assembly. The Executive Council has completed its review of the proposed Local Authorities Elections Act and will be tabling it at this session. Work is continuing on the proposed local government legislation to replace the Municipal Act. During this session 12 bills will be introduced for your consideration. Amendments to the following will be advanced: Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 1985; Statute Law (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms) Amendment Act; Liquor Act; Education Act; Business Licence Act; Labour Standards Act; Legal Services Act; Petroleum Products Act; Regulations Act. New legislation consists of the Coroners Act, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1984-85, and Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1985-86. I recommend the passage of each of these pieces of legislation.

I now commend to you, for your earnest consideration and wise judgment, the business of this House as I officially declare open the sixth session of the 10th Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Fellow Members, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to welcome you to the sixth session of the 10th Assembly of the NWT. You will have noticed the new robe that I am wearing today, which was made from materials from across the NWT. The robe was designed for me by Christine Allen and made for me by members of the Native Arts and Crafts. To these people, thank you and thank you for the direction of the House.

---Applause

I am pleased to recognize at the table, Mr. Henry Zoe, who has been introduced already today by the Commissioner. Mr. Henry Zoe was appointed the Clerk Assistant in late September. I am also pleased to acknowledge Mr. David Sanguet who will be acting as Sergeant-at-Arms for this session. Members will also note seated at the Clerk's table as a guest Clerk, Mrs. Gay Jackson. Mrs. Jackson comes from an Assembly very similar to the size of ours, but with 12 elected and three official members and the Governor. The legislature of the Cayman Islands has a majority of native islanders with no political parties and thus works on consensus government similar to our own. Mrs. Jackson is here to study our Hansard operation and I would like at this time to welcome Mrs. Jackson to the table today.

---Applause

I would like to acknowledge in the gallery Mr. Ron Courtoreille, His Worship the Mayor of Hay River. Mr. Courtoreille.

---Applause

Orders of the day. Item 3, Members' replies. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. McLaughlin's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to be able to move appreciation for the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner acknowledged the Year of the Youth in the previous session and I would like to thank you and your staff for providing the Legislative Assembly facilities for the NWT youth forum which begins October 25th and ends with a joint session of MLAs and youth on the morning of Monday the 28th. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to advise Members that the Hon. Andree Champagne, Minister of State for Youth, will be attending and participating in the forum and I would like to invite MLAs, the media and the general public to observe the weekend of committee meetings. It is very important that the youth of the Northwest Territories have this opportunity to participate in a process which will give them input into their government's programs and I thank you again, Mr. Speaker, for your co-operation including the hiring of the youngest Sergeant-at-Arms in Canada.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I now move appreciation of the Commissioner's Address.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. I understand that this is by way of formal opening remarks and that you will have a right to speak to the Commissioner's Address at a later date. Members' replies. Are there any further Members' replies today? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation Seconded

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I have agreed to second the motion of appreciation with regard to the Commissioner's Address but in stating that, I would like to reserve the opportunity to make more substantial remarks because I know that Members from Yellowknife and from the West will want to hear from me again.

---Laughter

So, today I think I would just like to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is a pleasure because it is a very important session. The fact that the general public will be given an opportunity to see that they are served by the new government and that many of us will be facing our colleagues here, 24 of us, to try and see whether or not we should remain as the Members of the Executive Council or whether or not there will be any volunteers to join this side of the House to run the Government. And I know that many of the Members from that side, particularly this corner...

---Laughter

...are very interested in ensuring that we do voluntarily release our responsibility so that we will have an opportunity to get back. But it is an interesting exercise, Mr. Speaker. I want to say that because unlike the many other provinces who normally have a much more rigorous exercise in calling for a mandate from the public, we do have a sort of gentleman's agreement here when we decided two years ago that we would voluntarily resign so that an opportunity can be given to the ordinary MLAs to give them a chance to see whether or not they are satisfied with our performance. It is an honour for me to take part, because I volunteered at that time. This should be a good way of asking the public -- an opportunity, through their Members in the Assembly. I think the day will eventually arrive when, in my view, we will have a system acceptable to the public whereby a Member or a group of Members, whether it be a political party or not -- if we can get around the parliamentary system, I would certainly like to see a broader involvement of the public in choosing elected leaders or cabinet to run the government because we should really be accountable to the public.

But I think with this narrow system that we have, we try to ensure that we at least volunteer to resign so that an opportunity can be given to others and we are going to be doing that shortly and I think there will be a proper statement made about this shortly and I am looking forward to taking part.

Mr. Speaker, I will now reserve my more substantive comments with respect to my constituency for a later date. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley, if that was a short formal reply we wait with bated breath for your actual reply.

---Laughter

Are there any further Members' replies for today? That would appear to conclude Members' replies. Item 4, Ministers' statements. At this time we will adjourn for 15 minutes for coffee. House stands adjourned for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

Item 4, Ministers' statements, has been called. Are there any Ministers' statements for today? Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 4: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 1-85(3): Recreation Leadership Training Program

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to say something about community recreation leadership training program. I am pleased to announce the establishment of community recreation leadership program. (Translation ends)

This program will accept its first students in January and will produce 40 trained recreational directors for northern communities over the next seven years. The program is a two year course including both classroom and on-the-job training. It will initially be offered at the Thebacha campus of the Arctic College in Fort Smith. In order to be accepted into the course, a student must be sponsored by the local community council, which must agree to pay a training allowance, supervise the students' on-the-job training and employ students upon graduation.

My department will provide substantial assistance with the cost of training allowances and in addition I expect to be able to provide financial assistance to communities to help them hire graduates from the program. Details of these subsidy programs will be announced in the future.

Over the last few years the government has been providing communities with many and improved excellent recreational facilities and we are getting to the point now where communities need recreation leaders and people who can manage these facilities and run programs. So this is the basic reason that our government is sponsoring the program.

In addition to the training program and subsidies for full-time recreation directors, I am pleased to tell you that more money will also be available for training volunteers, skilled volunteers, on the basis of any good community recreation program and enhanced funding will allow us to expand our existing courses as well as introduce new ones. So that is the essence of the announcements today. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. We will move then to Item 5, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 5: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 1-85(3): Business Licence Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 18, 1985, I shall move that Bill 1-85(3), An Act to Amend the Business Licence Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 4-85(3): Labour Standards Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 18, 1985, I shall move that Bill 4-85(3), An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 3-85(3): Education Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Monday, October 21st, I shall move that Bill 3-85(3), An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices of motion for first reading of bills? Mr. Nerysoo.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 2-85(3): Coroners Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 18, 1985, I shall move that Bill 2-85(3), An Act to Amend the Coroners Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices of motion for first reading of bills? Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will remain standing. I believe I have another four bills to give notice of first reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed, Mr. Minister. Proceed.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 5-85(3): Legal Services Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 18, 1985, I shall move that Bill 5-85(3), An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 6-85(3): Liquor Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 18, 1985, I shall move that Bill 6-85(3), An Act to Amend the Liquor Act, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 7-85(3): Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 1985

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 18, 1985, I shall move that Bill 7-85(3), An Act to Amend the Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 1985, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 8-85(3): Petroleum Products Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 18, 1985, I shall move that Bill 8-85(3), An Act to Repeal the Petroleum Products Act, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 9-85(3): Regulations Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 18, 1985, I shall move that Bill 9-85(3), An Act to Amend the Regulations Act, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 10-85(3): Statute Law (Canadian Charter Of Rights And Freedoms) Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 18, 1985, I shall move that Bill 10-85(3), An Act to Amend the Statute Law (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms) Amendment Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices of motion for first reading of bills? Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 11-85(3): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1984-85

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 21, 1985, I shall move that Bill 11-85(3), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the 1984-85 Financial Year, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 12-85(3): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1985-86

And while I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would give notice that on Monday, October 21, 1985, I shall also move that Bill 12-85(3), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the 1985-86 Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. That appears to conclude the notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 6, tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 1-85(3), Submission of the Government of the Northwest Territories to the Comprehensive Claims Policy Review Task Force, in English with a summary in Inuktitut. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Tabling of documents. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 2-85(3), Ambulance Services in the Northwest Territories, the final report of the air and ground ambulance policy advisory committee. Mr. Speaker, a summary is also provided in Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 3-85(3), Annual Report of the Business Loans and Guarantees Fund for the Fiscal Year 1984-85. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude tabling of documents.

Item 7, oral questions. There do not appear to be any oral questions today. We would like to make special note in our records that there are no oral questions. This is nothing short of the second miracle.

AN HON. MEMBER: Wait for it.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, I will wait for it.

Item 8, written questions. Are there any written questions for today? No written questions.

Item 9, returns. Are there any returns?

Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Reports of standing and special committees, Mr. McCallum.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of Standing Committee On Public Accounts

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to report on the standing committee on public accounts. The standing committee has concluded its review of public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 1983-84 fiscal year. I am sure Members will be relieved that I do not intend to read the full text of the committee's written report at this time.

---Applause

The second report of the public accounts committee and the transcript of our proceedings will be tabled tomorrow for distribution to all Members of the Assembly. In particular, Mr. Speaker, our report is directed to Members of the Executive Council and senior officials with whom responsibility for the administration of government rests.

The public accounts committee's second report focusses on problems and deficiencies in financial administration which took place some two years ago in 1983-84. Matters which are of, if you like, a past nature. We are now well into the 1985-86 fiscal year and preparing for the 1986-87 fiscal year. There is a temptation therefore, Mr. Speaker, to regard the proceedings, scrutiny, and recommendations of the public accounts committee as being outdated or lacking in relevance to current circumstances. It is true that during our review in May, the committee found a number of areas where the government had taken swift corrective actions to address shortcomings and we have noted these efforts in our report. Equally, however, we have identified several areas where actions have not been taken or where government action has not gone far enough to remedy problems or to establish adequate safeguards. In respect to these matters the committee has framed its concerns in the form of recommendations. The second report of the public accounts committee contains therefore a total of 12 recommendations as follows.

Recommendations Of Committee

Under the Department of Economic Development and Tourism on the subject of the business loans and guarantees fund, it is recommended that the department establish a procedure to require disclosure of all individuals or principal shareholders of business entities who have been involved in past transactions which have resulted in a write-off of accounts, prior to consideration of new loan applications from these persons.

Under the NWT Housing Corporation, it is recommended that the Auditor General of Canada conduct a comprehensive audit of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and that the report of the Auditor General in respect of the comprehensive audit be referred to the standing committee on public accounts for public review. I should note here, Mr. Speaker, that the first two recommendations arise from the committee's follow-up on issues from the 1982-83 fiscal year which were addressed in the report to the Assembly in 1983-84.

Under the Department of Finance on the subject of regulations, it is recommended that the Commissioner enact appropriate regulations in respect of account verification and payment requisition, cheque issue, receipt and deposit moneys and accountable advances.

Under the Department of Justice and Public Services, it is recommended that the Auditor General's office be consulted on legislation, including regulations which result from recommendations of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly.

Under the Department of Education, on the subject of student financial assistance supplementary grants, it is recommended that the department review its present record-keeping practices in respect of living allowance payments to eliminate unnecessary duplication. On the student loan fund, it is recommended that the regulations pursuant to the Student Financial Assistance Act be revised and redrafted to clearly set out the government's intent with respect to the provision of student financial assistance, including eligibility requirements. On the subject of a policies and procedures manual, student financial assistance, it is recommended that a policy and procedures manual be prepared by April 1st, 1986 to interpret the regulations and to establish procedures to ensure consistent application and adequacy of audit trails.

In respect to the catering contract at Thebacha College, it is recommended that all decisions of the GNWT to award contracts to other than the lowest bidder be supported by sufficient and appropriate documentation detailing the reasons for the decisions. It is recommended that the practice of using 30 day termination clauses in GNWT contracts be eliminated, with the proviso that where a termination clause is warranted, the notice period be of sufficient length to enable the government to retender the contract without disruption to the provision of the goods or services.

On the subject of grants and contributions, it is recommended that the Department of Education develop and implement agreements with school boards to identify the terms and conditions governing payments and accountability. It is recommended that the Department of Education develop and implement a standard form letter of agreement with recipients for capital contributions.

On the issue of the government's use of special warrants, it is recommended that the Auditor General of Canada audit the schedule of special warrants to the territorial accounts in the course of the regular audit of the accounts and financial transactions of the Government of the Northwest Territories to ensure that special warrants have been issued in accordance with established legal authority.

In making these recommendations, Mr. Speaker, the committee has attempted to be pragmatic and forward-looking; to make recommendations which will have a constructive future effect on financial practices in the Government of the Northwest Territories. Finally, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the committee I would like to extend our thanks to the witnesses who appeared before us for their co-operation and assistance. In particular, I would like to thank Mr. Raymond Dubois, Mr. Harold Hayes, Mr. Don Young and Mr. Gerry Kimmel from the office of the Auditor General of Canada for their advice and expertise, and of course the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Gordon Aumond, Mr. Jim Nelson and Mrs. Elaine Vandale for co-ordinating the departmental responses and arranging for the appearances of witnesses. I would like to thank, as well, the committee staff, the Clerk, Mr. Hamilton, Ms Eileen Olivier and Ms Toni Wells. We would also like to thank the Hansard staff for their work on the transcript of our proceedings.

Motion To Receive Second Report Of Standing Committee On Public Accounts, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that the second report of the standing committee on public accounts be received by the Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. I have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Report Of Standing Committee On Legislation On The NWT Elections Act

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The standing committee on legislation is pleased to present its report on its review of the NWT Elections Act. The standing committee, by order of reference dated Wednesday, June 27th, 1984, was by motion ordered to carry out a review of that act. The standing committee met in Frobisher Bay, August 20th to 23rd, 1985, to carry out the review of the chief electoral officer's report and the Elections Act. The committee was assisted in its review by representatives of the chief electoral officer of Canada's staff from Ottawa.

Administration Of Elections

Administration of elections. Elections in the Northwest Territories have been administered both physically and financially under an agreement between the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and the chief electoral officer for Canada, since January 1979. Members of the committee discussed the principle of the Northwest Territories administering its own Elections Act and taking over full responsibility from Ottawa. The committee agreed with the principle that where possible the NWT should continue to take further responsibility for running its own affairs. In addition, the committee noted the financial implications of running elections, however also noted the financial agreement with Ottawa that provided base funding for new programs taken over by the Government of the NWT from the federal jurisdiction. Considering all this, the committee has agreed to recommend the taking over of the elections in the Northwest Territories.

Recommendation 1. That the Northwest Territories take over administration of elections in the Northwest Territories.

The standing committee, while recommending the NWT take over the administration, felt that this process should be developed in an orderly manner. It was felt that the valuable assistance of the chief electoral officer for Canada should be utilized during the transition period.

Recommendation 2. That the Management and Services Board engage a chief electoral officer for the Northwest Territories and that the chief electoral officer develop a framework for running of elections in the Northwest Territories.

Recommendation 3. That the chief electoral officer receive training in Ottawa, and that the next general election be run by the chief electoral officer for the Northwest Territories with support and advice from the chief electoral officer for Canada.

The election period in the NWT is 60 days from the date of the issue of the writ until polling day. This period has been in place since 1978 and the issue of a reduction in this time frame has been discussed after each general election. Over the years, communications, transportation and administration have greatly improved. If the recommendation that returning officers be appointed on a continuing basis is approved, and that is a further recommendation that will come up later, this would cut down on training requirements and supplies would already be available in each constituency. Reduction in the days could safely occur at the beginning of the process as these days now are used for information tasks. It is the committee's opinion that the election period could be reduced.

Recommendation 4. That the election period in the Northwest Territories be reduced to 45 days.

Returning Officers

Returning officers. The present act provides for returning officers to be appointed at least 180 days before the expiration of the four year term of each Legislative Assembly. Over the years, the problem has been that returning officers have lacked adequate training prior to an election. Some constituencies have lost returning officers and new ones have not been appointed until just before a general election or by-election.

Recommendation 5. That the appointment of returning officers be on a continuing basis.

Recommendation 6. That in the case of a vacancy in a returning officer's position, that the Commissioner shall appoint a new returning officer forthwith if an election is imminent or within 60 days of the vacancy.

The section in the act dealing with removal from office of returning officers does not establish an authority to remove an officer who simply refuses to carry out duties or instructions given.

Recommendation 7. That section 6 be amended to make it clear that if a returning officer is not carrying out the duties or instructions of the chief electoral officer, that the Commissioner may remove the returning officer.

Qualifications Of Electors

Qualifications of electors. The standing committee discussed the issue of residency requirements for persons being qualified to vote. Members discussed a longer residency requirement and reviewed the challenges to residency in Saskatchewan and the Yukon. Members noted that the Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory, Ontario and Quebec are the only jurisdictions that have a 12 month residency clause; all other provinces have six months. After much discussion, including the implications of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the standing committee is not recommending any changes to the residency requirements.

Disqualification Of Electors

Disqualification of electors. The act presently prohibits supreme court judges from voting in territorial elections. Members felt that this may be an unnecessary restriction. The committee also discussed the issue of whether prisoners undergoing punishment as inmates should be entitled to vote. So, putting judges and prisoners in the same breath, that issue was discussed, whether the vote should be denied. Quebec is the only jurisdiction in Canada that permits prisoners serving less than two years in provincial institutions to vote. The committee understands that this matter is presently before the privileges and elections committee of the House of Commons. They are considering the charter implications. The standing committee of this Legislature could not reconcile this matter during its deliberations, but would like to see these matters reviewed again following the report of the federal committee.

Recommendation 8. That the issue of whether judges and inmates should receive a vote should be discussed by the Legislature after the report of the federal privileges and elections committee has been tabled in Ottawa.

Section 12(1) of the act deals with the disqualification of persons in receipt of pay. The intent of this section is not clear, but it appears to cover the practice of buying votes, and I would invite Members to read that section, and you will see the kind of confusion that exists, a practice that seems to be covered elsewhere, that is. Members felt that this section could be more simply put by stating that bribery of votes is a corrupt practice and the committee felt the section on bribery of votes, not as it is now, but clarified, should be placed in the offence section of the act.

Recommendation 9. Dealing with that, that section 12(1) concerning "persons in receipt of pay disqualified", be deleted.

The committee was made aware of a situation that occurred during the last election where a large number of students attending short-term educational courses were allowed to vote in a constituency which was not their home constituency, that is, the constituency to which they obviously intended to return. It was observed that this problem could occur more frequently in the future, given the increase in the number of campuses across the NWT, and that election results could be influenced and perhaps even be determined, by a relatively small number of non-resident voters.

The committee felt it should not consider a time limit for residency outside a voter's home constituency. It was observed, as well, that every qualified voter is entitled to one residence: where he has been residing, even if he is temporarily away from it; or alternatively, where he has moved to, from the moment he moves, if his move is intended to be permanent; or if he knows that his residency there may be short, but that a further move is impending. Further, it was observed that the committee is also recommending that the right to vote by proxy be wide open, and we will get to that recommendation later on, and that the process for proxy voting be made simpler, thus facilitating the opportunity to vote, for those who will be away from their homes during an election.

In view of all of this, the committee felt that the concept of temporary residency may be invalid and unnecessary and that introducing it makes the act, and the process, more complex than necessary.

Recommendation 10. That section 15 be rewritten to look at the concern of temporary residence and if this concept is not necessary, to delete all sections dealing with temporary residence.

Persons Ineligible As Candidates

Persons ineligible as candidates. This section deals extensively and confusingly with the reasons why individuals are ineligible to run as candidates. The section also lists exceptions to the rules. This section is a copy of sections in the Canada Elections Act. Members felt that this section is too restrictive in light of the small population in the Northwest Territories. It was felt that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms might automatically make certain segments of that section invalid. The committee was cognizant of the fact that this section should include ineligibility where there is a clear danger to the public interest.

Recommendation 11. That section 19 concerning persons ineligible as candidates be given to a lawyer to be rewritten to make it less restrictive and in line with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The section should, however, include ineligibility where there is a clear danger to the public interest.

Committee Members discussed the implications of easing restrictions in this section. The committee felt that opening up eligibility for candidacy should be balanced by more attention to the conflict of interest provision of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Members felt that these provisions should be reviewed and strengthened. The question of disclosure of financial interests of Executive Council Members should be examined.

Recommendation 12. That the conflict of interest section of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act be reviewed by the Management and Services Board to ensure that the public interest is safeguarded.

Nomination Of Candidates

Nomination of candidates. The standing committee discussed the whole area of nomination of candidates. The principle that the committee felt should be observed, was that the system should allow for potential candidates to be nominated as easily as possible.

Recommendation 13. That the section on nomination of candidates be referred to Elections Canada to be cleaned up so as to make the process as fair and easily accomplished as possible, while still safeguarding the candidate's candidacy.

The committee discussed the number of nominating signatures required on nomination papers. The present act requires 10 or more persons to sign the nominating form. Members had differing opinions on the number of persons required. In the end the majority of Members felt that more initial support should be required.

Recommendation 14. That section 21(1) be amended to increase from 10 to 25 the number of persons required to nominate a candidate.

To accomplish the principle of as fair and open a system as possible, the committee recommends a number of specific amendments. The committee felt that the system should allow for a candidate to be able to file his nomination papers in any community in the constituency. The present system requires nominations to be filed with the returning officer in his home community.

Recommendation 15. That the section include a provision for candidates to be able to file nomination papers in any community.

Recommendation 16. That section 21(1) be amended to delete the requirement to include the occupation of those persons nominating a candidate.

Recommendation 17. That section 21(1)(h) be amended to make Hudson's Bay and Co-op drafts legal tender for nomination fees.

Recommendation 18. That the section include a provision to allow for the option of individual witnesses, or for the official agent to serve as witness for all nominators.

Proxy Voting

Proxy voting. Despite an amendment expanding the categories of electors who may avail themselves of proxy voting, this provision was not widely used in the 1983 general election. The committee received information from Members and returning officers. It was generally felt that the system was far too complicated, hence its seeming unpopularity. Members of the committee felt that a system of proxy voting more suited to the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories should be implemented.

Recommendation 19. That proxy voting be opened up to permit any elector who will not be in his constituency on polling day, or one of the advance polling days, to be allowed to vote by proxy.

Recommendation 20. That the method of voting by proxy be as simple as possible, concluding with a simple declaration before the deputy returning officer at the poll, concerning one's eligibility to vote by proxy for another voter.

Recommendation 21. That there be a provision that persons voting by proxy must come from the constituency, but not necessarily from the same polling division, as the voter conferring the proxy.

Recommendation 22. That there continue to be only one proxy per elector allowed.

During the committee review, Members expressed concern that there was not sufficient information available to electors on proxy voting. It was explained that it is not the duty of returning officers to advertise proxy voting but to provide information and the necessary forms if requested by an elector, but it was also explained that candidates are at liberty to make known the option of proxy voting.

Recommendation 23. That a provision be included that it is an offence to solicit proxy votes, but not an offence for candidates to provide information on the opportunity and the method of proxy voting.

Enumeration

Enumeration. In the last election, enumeration was carried out in most areas without serious problems. However, in some electoral districts a larger than normal number of electors were sworn in at the polls. Enumeration across the Northwest Territories is a difficult task and requires trained enumerators who have to work under difficult conditions. The standing committee discussed methods used in other jurisdictions including permanent lists, annual enumeration and registration. Committee Members agreed that to get on the voters' list should be as simple as possible. In the end, it was agreed that the present system of enumeration should be continued in that it is reasonably effective, relatively cost-effective when compared to other methods, and it has the advantage of heightening the awareness of an impending election. Nevertheless, it was also agreed that someone who is not enumerated should be able to get onto the electoral roll on polling day if he is willing to swear an oath concerning his eligibility.

Recommendation 24. That the method of getting on the voters' list on election day be as simple as possible and, in particular, that a provision be included whereby an elector at the poll, who is not on the list, can sign a sworn statement before a witness and be placed on the list.

Recommendation 25. That it be made an offence to make a false statement in order to cast a vote.

Election Expenses

Election expenses. That is the next heading. At present, campaign contributions are not tax-deductible in the Northwest Territories. This means individuals making contributions to a candidate's campaign cannot, as in other jurisdictions, receive a tax credit. Members of the committee were advised that if the principle of allowing tax credits for contributions was implemented, it would require amendments to the Elections Act, the Income Tax Act and the letter of agreement between the NWT and Revenue Canada. A majority of Members felt that tax credits for contributions in NWT elections should be introduced...

--Laughter

...but that there should be an upper limit on the amount of the credit allowed, regardless of the size of the contribution.

Recommendation 26. That a system of tax credits for campaign contributions be introduced for NWT elections.

The committee desired that a system be developed for further review prior to adoption of any amendments.

Recommendation 27. That the Law Clerk prepare a brief that would illustrate a workable tax credit plan similar to those in effect in other jurisdictions and would outline consequential changes to various acts and agreements required to implement a tax credit system.

The issue of the disposal of surplus campaign funds had been raised by candidates after the last election. At present, the act is silent on the matter but Members agreed the matter should be resolved. The committee was informed that in the federal act surplus contributions go to the political party and for independent candidates the funds go to the Receiver General. In the case of the independent candidate it goes to the Treasury to offset tax credits awarded contributors. The committee agreed that a candidate or an official agent should not profit personally from campaign funds. However, it also felt that some further opportunity should be available to use the funds for the purpose they were intended, but that if such use is not exercised in a reasonable time, then the funds should revert to the public purse.

Recommendation 28. That surplus campaign funds be placed in a Government of the Northwest Territories trust fund but that they be returned to the candidate if the candidate runs at the next territorial general election, or a by-election prior to the next general election, and further, that if the candidate does not then run again, the surplus funds would revert to the consolidated revenue fund of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Reporting of election expenses has caused problems for candidates and official agents. The present system is lengthy and complicated. Members felt that the reporting of the value of goods and services was unnecessary, as in most cases it was very hard to put an amount on the services. Members agreed that there should continue to be accounts for receipts and disbursements for cash contributions.

Recommendation 29. That section 59 and 60 dealing with election expenses be referred to Elections Canada for simplification to include accounting of cash contributions only.

The committee reviewed the need for the reporting forms to indicate the name of every person contributing to a candidate, and concluded that this subsection was not required.

Recommendation 30. That section 60(2)(d) be deleted.

Another area that has caused problems in previous elections is the cumbersome number of forms that have to be used to report election expenses. The committee felt, with simplification of the system, the amount of forms required could be reduced.

Recommendation 31. That the forms required by section 60(2) be consolidated into one form.

The act presently provides for restrictions in the publication of results in one electoral district when polls are still open in other districts. This means results cannot be announced in the eastern standard time zone, Baffin Region, until all the polls are closed in the mountain standard time zone, Western Arctic. Members agreed that this was too restrictive as the outcome of a constituency in the East would have no effect on a constituency in the West. At some future date, I guess it was felt that if there were party politics, that might change, but under the present circumstances there is no impact whatsoever.

Recommendation 32. That section 101 dealing with premature publication of election results be deleted.

Language

Language. The committee's attention was drawn to the fact that by December, 1986, the GNWT will be required to provide legislation and documents in French. The extent of the requirement for translation of election forms was not clear. The committee observed that aboriginal languages are well-addressed in the present act.

Recommendation 33. That the Assembly seek a legal opinion on the extent of French language required in the administration of the Elections Act.

Administrative Amendments

Administrative amendments. Contained in the chief electoral officer's report were a number of small amendments suggested to update terminology and procedures. During the review, Members also suggested small administrative amendments to the Elections Act. The following are these recommendations.

Recommendation 34. That section 10(2) the words "stereotype blocks" be replaced by "offset reproduction".

Recommendation 35. That the marginal note in section 15(9) be changed from "summer" to the words "seasonal residents".

Recommendation 36. That section 16, rule (19) be amended to require that each candidate be given a copy of the statement of changes and additions.

Recommendation 37. That section 26(2)(c) be amended to allow for maps outlining polling divisions to be posted as an option to the posting of polling division boundary descriptions.

Recommendation 38. That section 30(1) be amended to substitute the words "returning officer" with the words "chief electoral officer".

Recommendation 39. That the word "law" be changed to "Act" in section 103(1).

Recommendation 40. That the reference to "three days" be changed to "two days" in section 91(3) and (5) and that the reference to "second and third" be changed to "first and second".

Recommendation 41. That an equitable system reflecting the amount of work required be developed for the tariff of fees regarding the payment of returning officers and election clerks.

Recommendation 42. That the act be amended to include the procedure for setting the tariff of fees for NWT election officials.

Recommendation 43. That section 69 be amended to delete the reference to "printer".

Forms

Forms. Problem with the proliferation and complication of the numerous forms used in an election was discussed. Members felt that forms were necessary but a simplified format should be used.

Recommendation 44. That all forms used in territorial elections be reviewed by Elections Canada and simplified where possible.

Elections Act Rewritten

Elections Act rewritten. Throughout the review of the act all Members expressed their frustration with the complexity of the wording of the whole act. The committee felt that it should be rewritten so as to produce an easily readable and understandable act. Members were made aware of the successful efforts in Quebec in this regard. And so what we are saying is that certain sections need to be rewritten from a substantive point of view and after that is done then we ought to rewrite the whole thing from the point of view of simplicity.

Recommendation 45. That the Elections Act be completely rewritten in simpler language.

Motion That Report Of Standing Committee On Legislation On The NWT Elections Act Be Received And Moved Into Committee Of The Whole, Carried

This concludes the report of the standing committee on legislation of its review of the NWT Elections Act, Mr. Speaker, and I will move that this report be received and moved into committee of the whole for discussion. It is seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, would you see that the item is moved to the orders of the day? Reports of standing and special committees. That appears to conclude this item.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, motions. Item 14, first reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 14: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 1-85(3).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo, are you going to try for first reading for all of your bills? Do you want to group them?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, first reading of Bill 1-85(3), Bill 4-85(3), Bill 5-85(3), Bill 8-85(3) and Bill 9-85(3).

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested to proceed with first reading of Bill 1-85(3), Bill 4-85(3), Bill 5-85(3), Bill 8-85(3) and Bill 9-85(3). Are there any nays? You have unanimous consent.

---Agreed

First Reading Of Bill 1-85(3): Business Licence Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 1-85(3), An Act to Amend the Business Licence Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion on the floor. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 1-85(3) has had first reading. Mr. Nerysoo.

First Reading Of Bill 4-85(3): Labour Standards Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 4-85(3), An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: We have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 4-85(3) has had first reading. Proceed, Mr. Nerysoo.

First Reading Of Bill 5-85(3): Legal Services Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 5-85(3), An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 5-85(3) has had first reading. Mr. Nerysoo.

First Reading Of Bill 8-85(3): Petroleum Products Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 8-85(3), An Act to Repeal the Petroleum Products Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion on the floor. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 8-85(3) has had first reading. Mr. Nerysoo.

First Reading Of Bill 9-85(3): Regulations Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 9-85(3), An Act to Amend the Regulations Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion on the floor. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 9-85(3) has had first reading. First reading of bills. Does anybody else wish to give first reading of bills today? It appears then that Item 14 has been concluded. Item 15, second reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 15: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 1-85(3), Bill 4-85(3), Bill 5-85(3), Bill 8-85(3) and Bill 9-85(3).

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested to proceed with second reading of Bill 1-85(3), Bill 4-85(3), Bill 5-85(3), Bill 8-85(3) and Bill 9-85(3). Are there any dissenters? All those in favour? Proceed, Mr. Nerysoo.

---Agreed

Second Reading Of Bill 1-85(3): Business Licence Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 1-85(3), An Act to Amend the Business Licence Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to establish the businesses to which the Business Licence Act applies.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I have a motion on the floor. To the motion. To the principle of the bill. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 1-85(3) has had second reading. Bill 4-85(3).

Second Reading Of Bill 4-85(3): Labour Standards Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 4-85(3), An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide that the standard hours of work for seismic workers are no longer than eight hours a day or 44 hours a week; to increase the minimum wage from \$4.25 to five dollars; to amend section 13 to provide for only one minimum wage; and to eliminate any difference in the minimum wage based on age.

MR. SPEAKER: To the principle of the bill. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Bill 4-85(3), all those in favour of second reading? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 4-85(3) has had second reading. Mr. Nerysoo.

Second Reading Of Bill 5-85(3): Legal Services Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 5-85(3), An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Legal Services Act in order to allow the tariff of fees for legal services to be established retroactively by regulation, after consultation with the Legal Services Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. To the principle of Bill 5-85(3).

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 5-85(3) has had second reading. Mr. Nerysoo.

Second Reading Of Bill 8-85(3): Petroleum Products Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 8-85(3), An Act to Repeal the Petroleum Products Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to repeal the Petroleum Products Act since petroleum products are now regulated by the Fire Prevention Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of Bill 8-85(3).

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 8-85(3) has had second reading. Mr. Nerysoo.

Second Reading Of Bill 9-85(3): Regulations Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 9-85(3), An Act to Amend the Regulations Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to allow a regulation to come into force on a day earlier than the day on which it is registered but only where the act, pursuant to which the regulation is made, authorizes the regulation to come into force on an earlier day.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 9-85(3), to the principle.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 9-85(3) has had second reading. Mr. Clerk, Bills 1-85(3), 4-85(3), 5-85(3), 8-85(3) and 9-85(3) are now in order to be added to the orders of the day for consideration in committee of the whole. This would then appear to conclude second reading of bills.

We have no Item 16 on the orders of the day for today.

I have some announcements. I would remind you that there is a caucus immediately following the adjournment for today. I am reminded by the committee of the caucus. Secondly, I am reminded that for all of the baseball fans, there will be television sets available at the banquet of the Commissioner, so you cannot use that as an excuse.

---Applause

So I expect everybody to be present. Mr. Clerk, would you give us the orders of the day for Thursday, October 17th?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on legislation at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

ITEM 18: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 17th 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: Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on the Elections Act; Bills 1-85(3), 4-85(3), 5-85(3), 8-85(3), 9-85(3)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. MacQUARRIE: If I could, Mr. Speaker, I would just like it noted, the time change for tomorrow's committee meeting. We had originally said 9:30 a.m. but for Members' benefit, and the government, it is 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning rather than 9:30. Thank you. Is that permissible, Mr. Speaker? If not, I will withdraw the words that I said.

---Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie, I did not hear a word. The House will stand adjourned until Thursday, October 17th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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