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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erklou, 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): I would like to recognize in the gallery some of the members of the Housing Corporation. Good morning, gentlemen.

---Applause

Orders of the day for Friday, October 18, 1985.

Item 2, Members' replies. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 2-85(3): Replacement Of The Little Buffalo River Bridge

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was a little bit nervous about making this statement because it sounds good and looks bad. However, I am assured by my venerable colleague for Inuvik that no aspersions will be cast by the honourable Members in the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible comment.

---Laughter

HON. GORDON WRAY: As you know in every session since the opening of this Legislature the Member for Tu Nedhe, Mrs. Lawrence, has raised the issue of the Little Buffalo River bridge. I had informed the House that this was one of four items that I felt was an outstanding federal responsibility and that we were in the process of trying to negotiate some type of resolution with the federal government. I am pleased to announce that within the last 48 hours -- I would like to announce to the Members of the Legislature, in particular to the Member for Tu Nedhe, Mrs. Lawrence, that I have been successful in securing funding from the federal government to replace the Little Buffalo River bridge in 1986.

---Applause

AN HON. MEMBER: Thank God. Finally.

HON. GORDON WRAY: After much negotiation and discussion with my officials, federal officials have finally agreed with us on the importance of a new bridge. Thus they have approved the inclusion of a new replacement bridge at the Little Buffalo River in the federal northern roads five year

program and the provision of all funding required. This program includes \$50,000 for this fiscal year for design and \$900,000 in the 1986-87 fiscal year for construction of a new concrete bridge during the summer of 1986. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: If any Minister has a statement like that for Hay River I would be glad to receive it at this time.

---Laughter

Ministers' statements. Mr. Wray.

Ministers' Statement 3-85(3): Developing A Comprehensive Strategy For Housing

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I knew I shouldn't have made that statement. In February 1984, Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly formed a special committee on housing to inquire into current problems and public concern about housing in the NWT. There were good reasons for concern. Public housing starts were slumping far behind needs. The quality of existing houses was rapidly deteriorating because of insufficient maintenance. Opportunities for home-ownership were seriously limited by lack of funding. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation was fighting a losing battle.

Over the next 16 months the committee travelled extensively, listening to concerns and documenting the complaints. In June of 1985 the final report of the committee was completed. The government, in the meantime however, realizing that conditions were bad began moving ahead on a number of issues that had previously been identified as problem areas. The government instructed the Housing Corporation to research and document the shortfall in financial resources transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories with the federal housing program. A Treasury Board submission was prepared and submitted to the federal government and I would just as an aside like to indicate to the House that we have been advised by the federal government that they will not carry this Treasury Board document forward. They do not feel it is sufficiently important enough to attempt to secure extra funding from the federal Treasury Board for housing for the Northwest Territories.

This shortfall, however, has been significantly reduced and increased funding by the Government of the Northwest Territories out of its own funds and funding to eliminate it entirely is now included in the corporation's budget. This action has significantly increased the number of personnel available to local housing associations and has allowed associations to now pay wages and benefits which will enable them to retain high quality employees.

The government also directed the corporation to develop a comprehensive preventive maintenance program to ensure that an adequate level of preventive maintenance is undertaken on every property. This program development is well under way and implementation will begin early in the next fiscal year. Recognizing the high priority of housing, the government took immediate steps to increase the budget of the Housing Corporation to enable them to construct adequate public housing. The capital budget was increased to allow for the construction of over 200 units. The original budget allowed for less than 100.

Most importantly, the government has recognized the benefits of home-ownership and has rapidly increased the availability of programs. When the special committee on housing was formed, the home-ownership assistance program budget was \$1.5 million and was subsequently increased in a very short period of time to \$2.5 million, I think partially as a result of the special committee's formation and its push. Next year we are confident that we will be able to procure federal cost-sharing for the program which will increase the number of HAP units significantly.

Some of the most important recommendations have already been acted upon by the government. Two new HAP designs have already been added to the catalogue, with two more on the way. Block funding for the home-ownership assistance program has been introduced and the corporation has approved block funding arrangements for the senior citizens home repair program. The NWT co-operative housing budget has been approved and start-up funding arranged. The legislation to validate the Condominium Act is in the process of being introduced. The base adjustment for housing has already been addressed through GNWT funding to the corporation. The maintenance management system development is paving the way to a consolidation of residential maintenance between the Department of Public Works and Highways and the NWT Housing Corporation. Rehabbed northern rental units have

been sold to clients under the rural and remote program. A major upgrading program is now under way for the Weber units. A rental credit program has been developed for tenant maintenance. The NWT Housing Corporation is presently negotiating the delivery of the RRAP program from the federal government. The needs survey has been expanded and approved and a global agreement with CMHC is presently being negotiated, and I will hope to sign that agreement sometime in October, subject to Executive Council approval.

Although much has already been done there is still action which should be taken as a result of the special committee's work. To initiate decisive action immediately the government has prepared a document which I will be pleased to table today entitled "A New Era in Housing: Planning Together for the Future". It is a direct response to the recommendations contained in the special committee on housing's final report. A review of the 82 recommendations will indicate that some have already been implemented. Many of those remaining are straightforward and action can be taken immediately. In these cases we have outlined the action required and provided an indicator of when results can be expected.

Some of the recommendations relate to more complex issues. We believe these issues require greater attention than simply the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. Issues such as public relations, training and market community programs require reviews that go beyond the symptoms and get to the problems. The government believes we must go further than the special committee report on these issues. We must initiate program reviews, policy changes, or longer-term initiatives to adequately address these issues. We have gathered these issues together and discussed them in a series of issue papers.

In order to address the complex longer-term issues raised in the report, I have directed the corporation to develop a comprehensive corporate plan and strategy. This plan, which will be completed by May of next year, will involve a management review of the corporation's mission, corporate structure, policy framework, programs and operation. Once completed it will provide two immediate benefits. It will create a longer-term policy and planning framework to ensure that the corporation moves ahead on all significant fronts in a comprehensive and co-ordinated manner. And it will ensure continuity for the shorter-term objectives contained in the special committee's report. The corporate plan will identify target areas which the corporation considers a priority, identify the specific results that it wishes to achieve at each target area and develop a work plan to allow the monitoring of progress. The document "A New Era in Housing: Planning Together for the Future" is the first response to the recommendations made by the special committee on housing. It recognizes the value of the recommendations made by the committee and responds to them positively. The NWT Housing Corporation corporate plan will address the recommendations through a comprehensive plan for housing which will outline the actions necessary to create and maintain good housing for NWT residents through the 80's and into the 90's.

As a last statement, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity, as Minister of Housing because it might be my last one, to thank the members of the board of directors of the Housing Corporation and staff, the members of the special committee on housing and, last but not least, the Members of the Executive Council who have made my job somewhat easier than maybe has been done in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 15-85(3): Replacement On Housing Corporation Board Of Directors

MR. GARGAN: (Translation) I direct this to the Minister of Housing. On the home repairs I would like to compliment the Minister for doing such a good job and looking after this. Some time ago around last September, Margaret Thom, who was on the board of directors of housing, resigned. I want to ask the Minister at this time to see if he is thinking of replacing her with somebody else, and if it is possible for us to recommend a name to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 15-85(3): Replacement On Housing Corporation Board Of Directors

HON. GORDON WRAY: I will be speaking to the Member for that constituency, Deh Cho, and will receive their recommendations. In fact a letter will be going to them next week asking them for the recommendations. It is my policy to try and replace people from specific areas upon recommendations of the MLAs. So, yes, he will be consulted.

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

Question 16-85(3): Wildlife Guardian For Hall Beach

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources, the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea. I asked the question last February, regarding a game management officer in Hall Beach, and she replied to me. I will quote the part of it: "It is possible to appoint a wildlife guardian if desired by the hunters and trappers of Hall Beach." Mr. Speaker, I am not sure of the wildlife guardian but I was told that this means a native person will be working in Hall Beach. The hunters and trappers association in Hall Beach still desire to have such a person. I am wondering if the Minister can tell me whether they are getting one or not. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question 16-85(3): Wildlife Guardian For Hall Beach

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the arrangements for a wildlife guardian can be negotiated with the hunters and trappers association of that community and our regional directorate. It is not a complicated issue in getting that in place and I will direct the department to begin to work with the hunters and trappers association in that community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 17-85(3): Individual Application For HAP

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to ask a question directed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. I had a call from Arctic Bay yesterday that they had some concerns about the HAP program. This person was trying to apply to get HAP program assistance. They have not accepted his application. I am just wondering why it never got approved and why he was never told why his application was never approved. He wanted to know as soon as possible. All those people that applied after him were approved, and he was the first person to apply for HAP program assistance. He wants to know why his application was not approved. Thank you.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for advising me of this question last night. However, I directed the corporation officials this morning to contact Frobisher Bay and they have yet to come back to me with an answer. So, I am unable to provide the Member with a reply at this time. However, I should have a reply today or by the latest on Monday for him. So, I will take it under advisement right now and if we get the information I will provide a reply later on in this morning's question period. If not, by Monday at the latest. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 18-85(3): Recreational Facility For Hall Beach

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government. The BRC had a conference meeting in Pond Inlet and I am sure you are aware of this as you were attending this conference. Hall Beach would not be getting their recreation facilities this year, except that during the conference they had a motion made that during the year of 1986-87 they would like to see this recreation facility being built. I am sure that you got the copy of that motion. I just want to know if you are going to go ahead, during February and March, with this plan that they wanted to see for this Hall Beach recreation facility. I am just wondering if you are going to include this for the fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take the question as notice and will give the Member a response on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mrs. Lawrence.

Question 19-85(3): Upgrading Of Road, Tu Nedhe

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak to the Minister of Highways. I am very thankful for the bridge across the Buffalo River. Also I would like to speak about another road. In the springtime and in the fall, the local hunters use this road and it is not very far, it is only seven miles. I would like to know if you have heard of this or if you are going to fix this road. I want to know before in case you are not the Minister in the next term. I would like to know what your thoughts are on this.

Return To Question 19-85(3): Upgrading Of Road, Tu Nedhe

HON. GORDON WRAY: I do not know which road the Member was referring to, but if it is not a main highway, if the Member is referring to a side road or something for people to go into the bush, we are working with the federal government highways department right now to try and come up with a program called the community access resource program, which would be roads that are not highways but roads to gravel sources, roads to tourist areas, roads for hunting, roads around communities which are not usually for major transportation from within the community. What essentially we have told the federal government is that we will develop the program, and you pay for it. So, that is where we have started from and we are negotiating that but I do not expect anything to happen at least for another year because obviously with the federal fiscal restraint program, it is going to be very difficult to get money out of them. I intend, with the Department of Public Works and Highways working with the Department of Economic Development, to identify these various roads in all of the communities to see how large the problem is and how much money we are talking about. So, we are working on it. However there is no money in the program right now. We are still developing the program. Hopefully, I will be able to get money included for the 1986-87 fiscal year but I am not quite sure yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Translation) We are not asking for very much money to get this because it is close to the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTERPRETER: I am not getting any translation.

MR. GARGAN: Do you want me to speak in English? My second language? Okay, I will.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: You speak it much better than we speak yours.

Question 20-85(3): Settlement Status For Kakisa Lake

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Local Government. I believe it was a year and a half ago that there was a petition presented to the Minister requesting that the community of Kakisa get settlement status. I have not received any kind of response. I believe there was some work done in that area but I would like to ask the Minister what is the status of that situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) I will answer in Slavey.

INTERPRETER: We are having a problem here again.

Return To Question 20-85(3): Settlement Status For Kakisa Lake

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) I will try again. Last year the Kakisa people presented me with a petition. Since then the Local Government people from Fort Simpson have been working with the Kakisa people. At the time that you presented me with the petition, they had been helping the people of Kakisa with trying to form some kind of council, and had been helping them with housing. Just recently the settlement of Kakisa has received a vehicle. As far as I am concerned my officials have been helping the settlement of Kakisa and they can remain as a settlement council for the next two or three years. Until then my officials will be helping them. As far as I am concerned since you presented me with the petition things have been improving in Kakisa Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: Translation should be available for all Members. I apologize to Mr. Gargan that it was not available. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 21-85(3): Effect Of DIAND Announcement Of Job Cutting

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader and it concerns the recent announcement some time ago by David Crombie, the Minister of Northern Affairs, that the federal government would be cutting 1500 jobs from the Department of Indian Affairs. I would like to ask the Government Leader whether or not the Executive has done an assessment of whether or not this decision will affect the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 21-85(3): Effect Of DIAND Announcement Of Job Cutting

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, the government has not yet done an assessment as to whether or not that particular announcement would affect the North. We will be looking at that announcement and reviewing it in light of the kinds of decisions we are making with regard to devolution because the decisions being made may affect the person years that are involved, the dollars, the financial resources that are involved in any responsibilities that we intend to transfer to the Government of the Northwest Territories -- or at least developing strategies of transferring to the Northwest Territories -- but that certainly will have an effect on any decision we make in the future with regard to those negotiations.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Will Members please remember to turn down their receivers when their mikes are open because we are getting quite a bit of feedback? I am doing it too. It is easy. Mr. T'Seleie.

Supplementary To Question 21-85(3): Effect Of DIAND Announcement Of Job Cutting

MR. T'SELEIE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Government Leader further whether or not he is in a position at this time to give us any further details on that announcement by Mr. Crombie.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice and provide a detailed reply because there are many other specifics and details that are required in a response of that particular nature. I will provide a reply on Monday if I am still the Government Leader.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 22-85(3): Status Of Investigation On Kill Of Wood Buffalo

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. It is illegal to kill bison in the bison sanctuary and I believe this was done approximately three weeks ago when two bison were killed and only their hind legs were taken and the rest of the carcass was left on the road. I would like to know if there is any information on whether there is going to be prosecution. I believe there was an investigation done and I would like to find out what the Minister's findings were on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 22-85(3): Status Of Investigation On Kill Of Wood Buffalo

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am learning a lot about buffalo. One of the things in relationship to the buffalo, despite maybe some negative feelings about what is being done about it, is that it is very imperative, Mr. Speaker, that all the parties who are involved in the utilization of that herd be brought together. As I said yesterday, we had difficulty in getting all those people together and I do not believe these incidents will go away until there is a management program for that herd, with all the people co-operating in that endeavour. I do not believe that the Department of Renewable Resources can have only certain groups involved. Everyone has to be involved. As for the circumstances surrounding the illegal kills, these are under investigation. Because it has not been concluded and the prosecutions have not been brought forward at this time, I cannot make statements about that but it is a concern. The people who are involved are still in the state of being in an inquiry or an investigation process and I cannot at this time talk about it as Minister for Renewable Resources.

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

Supplementary To Question 22-85(3): Status Of Investigation On Kill Of Wood Buffalo

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I know that we do have wildlife officers but I am just wondering whether my colleague from Fort Smith would express the same concern, that maybe there is not that much patrolling done in those areas where patrols should be done. I am just wondering whether the Minister has considered an alternative to patrols in these areas when the season of hunting starts so that this does not occur. I am looking at maybe more wildlife rangers or something like that.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question 22-85(3): Status Of Investigation On Kill Of Wood Buffalo

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes, there have been increased patrols to look into that particular concern and I believe that we have made an endeavour to try to police those areas. As we go along I hope that we, in getting the co-operation of all the user groups -- really what we must do is get that co-operation and have the people who are involved realize the need for proper management. I believe that is the way we would prefer to go and we are doing our best to provide the extra policing for that area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Oral questions. Do we have any written questions for today? Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received a reply to Mr. Pudluk's question now, if you would allow me to make it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. McKay filed an...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray, we have a place here in a few moments where you can do it quite legally without having to have a special ruling.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

MR. SPEAKER: I just disagreed with you, Mr. Pudluk. Item 5, written questions. Are there any written questions? Mr. Paniloo.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 23-85(3): Reimbursement For Broughton Island Dock

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for DPW and Highways. The hamlet of Broughton Island built a dock this spring and summer, using their own funds. I have enclosed a copy of how much money was used to build the dock. If they could get a refund, they would be able to complete the dock. My question is: Would the hamlet of Broughton Island be able to get a refund for the money they used?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Any further written questions? Item 6, returns. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 17-85(3): Individual Application For HAP

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand it was Mr. Pudluk that agreed to it. Mr. McKay filed an application for home-ownership in August of 1984. He was advised by the district office in December, 1984, that his application had been reviewed and he was considered an eligible client. However, that does not mean he was approved for a unit. He was just told that he was eligible to get one. He was further advised that sufficient units were not available in 1985-86 but that he had been placed on the district's priority list for receipt of a unit in the summer of 1986. In July 1985, a letter was sent to Mr. McKay to advise him to obtain land tenure by September of this year in preparation for final selection of 1986 clients. It is anticipated that Mr. McKay's application will receive final approval by November, 1985, subject to consultation with the MLA and the local housing association. Clients will be advised that their units will arrive on sealift in the summer of 1986. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Pudluk on returns. Do you have a supplementary? Oh, you do not have a supplementary on returns.

---Laughter

MR. PUDLUK: A point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. PUDLUK: I asked an oral question -- maybe I can have a supplementary on that?

MR. SPEAKER: What you are asking for then is to go back to oral questions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays to return to oral questions? All right, Mr. Pudluk, we are back on oral questions.

REVERT TO ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Supplementary To Question 17-85(3): Individual Application For HAP

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you. If the Minister would like to tell me now, he is getting it in the summertime of 1986. Is that correct?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 17-85(3): Individual Application For HAP

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, subject to final approval and as you know the approval process is that the MLA and the housing association are consulted before the final decision is made. So subject to that meeting, yes, it will be approved. It was just felt at the time that while Mr. McKay had applied for one and was one of the first to apply, there were others of higher priority and that is why he did not receive one last year or this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 17-85(3): Individual Application For HAP

MR. PUDLUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. You are not making me happy at all. Who were the first priorities before him? Those are the people that applied after him that get a house. Could you give me a clue why his application was not a priority?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 17-85(3): Individual Application For HAP

HON. GORDON WRAY: I do not know the exact reasoning for this application but I can indicate to the Member that even though you apply first, it does not mean that you are going to get a house. If there are other people who have applied who have larger families or who are living in public housing or have a lesser income, then they would receive priority. That is the way we prioritize it.

The housing association in the community determines the priority. In other words it is not the Housing Corporation who makes this decision. It is the housing association who reviews the applications and then they will tell us who they consider to be the priority in the community. As I say they usually use factors like large families, income, public housing, where they live right now. So that is how the system works. So obviously in this case between the association and the district office it was felt that there were other families in Arctic Bay who were of a higher priority than Mr. McKay.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, inasmuch as the Member has asked for specific reasons, would you take this question as notice and then find out the exact reason for him and give it to him on a personal basis so that he can have that. You will undertake that? Will that satisfy you, Mr. Pudluk?

MR. PUDLUK: I love it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is nice for you to love one thing this morning, Mr. Pudluk. We are still on oral questions. No further oral questions.

We were working on returns. Are there any further returns? Mr. Patterson.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 7-85(3): New Schools For Pangnirtung And Broughton Island

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Mr. Paniloo's oral Question 7-85(3) asked yesterday concerning schools in Broughton Island and Pangnirtung.

A new school is planned for Broughton Island. It will have eight classrooms, a resource centre, industrial arts, home economics, administration and related support areas such as a mechanical room, storage and janitor space. A community gymnasium is not required as this facility already exists in the community complex there. The plan is to have site investigation done in 1987-88; design in 1988-89 fiscal year; construction in the fiscal year 1989-90. Occupancy of the new school would be for September, 1990, at the latest.

In Pangnirtung, a school addition is planned. It would be a four or five classroom addition. It would be designed in 1988-89 fiscal year and built in the 1989-90 fiscal year. There are no plans to completely replace the existing school. However, the Ministry will request regional Public Works and Highways to assess the present structure and ensure that appropriate measures are taken so that the facilities are maintained. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further returns?

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 8-85(3), A New Era in Housing: Planning Together for the Future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude tabling of documents for today. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 1-85(3): Establishment Of Special Committee On Economic And Social Development

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, October 22, 1985, I shall move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that in accordance with Rule 87(1), a special committee of this Assembly be established to be named the special committee on economic and social development; and further, that the terms of reference of the committee be established by this House with a view to providing the committee with a clear mandate to review all aspects of economic development in the NWT in relation to the needs and wishes of the NWT communities; and further, that the committee report to this House with recommendations for future economic and social development in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Notice Of Motion 2-85(3): Tabled Document 8-85(3) To Committee Of The Whole

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 21st 1985, I will move that Tabled Document 8-85(3), I think it is, be moved into committee of the whole.

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

Notice Of Motion 3-85(3): Position On The Anti-Trapping Movement

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, October 22, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that it voice its concern and support for the hunting and trapping activities of the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories and that the Executive Council make recommendations for action in support of the hunting and trapping community at the winter session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Notices of motion. Last call, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. There are no bills to proceed any further with today.

Item 12, motions. We have no motions in the book. Item 13, first reading of bills.

ITEM 13: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Are you going to proceed with first reading of Bill 2-85(3), Mr. Nerysoo? You gave notice of it for today, Bill 2-85(3). Mr. Patterson, Bill 3-85(3)?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might seek unanimous consent to give first reading of Bill 3-85(3).

MR. SPEAKER: You gave notice of it for today, Mr. Patterson. You can proceed. Go within your prerogative.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 3-85(3), An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 3-85(3) has had first reading.

We have notice on Bill 7-85(3). Mr. Nerysoo, do you wish to proceed with your reading today? No. These are all the bills then that could have first reading today.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Mr. Patterson, did you want to try second reading today? Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, perhaps I will, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 3-85(3).

MR. SPEAKER: Consent is being requested to proceed with second reading of Bill 3-85(3). Are there any nays? Are there any other nays? Two nays are sufficient to prohibit the procedure to be completed. Well, you missed on that one today, Mr. Patterson.

---Laughter

Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Report of the standing committee on legislation on the Northwest Territories Elections Act, Bill 1-85(3), Bill 4-85(3), Bill 5-85(3), Bill 8-85(3) and Bill 9-85(3), shall be moved into the committee of the whole 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 REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION ON THE NWT ELECTIONS ACT

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with the report of the standing committee on legislation on NWT Elections Act. We will take a 10 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

We are dealing with the report on the NWT Elections Act. We are dealing with recommendation 23. The motion was moved. To the motion.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 23 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Carried

Question has been called. All those in favour? For recommendation 23. Once again, all those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 24 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Carried

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 24. I move 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.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: It is well-known that our method of enumeration and, as I said, we did evaluate that and felt even though it has flaws it is still the best method of doing it for a variety of reasons, but it is well-known that from time to time somebody who obviously should be on the voters' list is not enumerated and since they have lived there for a long time, they expect they are on the voters' list. They wind up at the poll on voting day and discover they are not on the list and the present legislation has a complicated rigmarole then for getting on the list on election day. We are saying it should be simplified. It should be simply a matter of someone willing to sign a sworn statement that in fact, even though they were not on the list, they are eligible to vote and we feel that is sufficient safeguard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 25 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: Recommendation 25. I move that it be made an offence to make a false statement in order to cast a vote.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Your motion is in order. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the motion.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. The honourable Member for Pine Point wondered whether my last statement applied to candidates. I did not say it was an offence to make a false statement in order to be elected. I said in order to cast a vote.

---Laughter

At any rate, the reason for this of course is trying to make it easier for people to get onto the voters' list and we are enabling them to make a sworn statement and so we just want it included as a provision that if they should deliberately falsify that statement it is an offence and they should recognize that it is a serious matter to do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 26 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: Recommendation 26. I move that a system of tax credits for campaign contributions be introduced for NWT elections.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The motion is in order. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: The problem that arises in the Northwest Territories is that we do not operate on a party system. In every other jurisdiction in Canada, provincial or territorial elections, people are entitled if they make campaign contributions to receive a limited tax credit for doing that, presumably on the theory that the expenditures are in the public interest by participating in the electoral process. Since that was not enabled here, Members of the committee, but a majority of Members -- again there was not a unanimous recommendation -- but a majority of the Members of the committee felt that a credit system should be introduced in the Northwest Territories. Hence that recommendation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, just to say that I do not want to support this recommendation because it introduces the idea that people that contribute the most to a person's campaign would in the end, I think, whether or not we say it, have the most influence on the politician. In those terms I have problems supporting this recommendation. I think the Northwest Territories is a different place and we should not always have to go by what other places do. We are continually doing that and in a lot of cases I do not really see that it is necessarily benefiting us to always copy other places. I also think that in terms of contributing to a campaign, those people who are committed enough to contribute to someone's campaign should. My feeling is that there is not a ground swell of people wanting tax credits for contributing to someone's campaign. That is not what they are saying and therefore I see this recommendation as just a recommendation that is meant to copy what goes on in the South. I wanted to point those out as my concerns on this recommendation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 27 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: Recommendation 27. I move 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.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. MacQuarrie.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 28 Of Report On NWT Elections Act

MR. MacQUARRIE: Recommendation 28. I move 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.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The motion is in order. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: A little background. As I said, there appeared to be some confusion and thus a bit of a problem about surplus funds at the last election and Members generally felt that certainly when funds are contributed for a territorial election campaign that they should not be used for any other purpose and that certainly a candidate or an official agent should not profit in any way from them even by virtue, I suppose, of being able to use them to make a charitable contribution of some kind; that in fact there was a specific purpose and that is what they should be used for. But Members also felt that they should not immediately be put into public revenue and that if the candidate were to run again in a territorial, general or by-election, they should have a further opportunity to use the funds for that purpose, and then if they are not used at that time that they would revert to the public purse. We were told that in federal elections, for example, that is precisely what happens to surplus funds of independent candidates, whereas the surplus funds of party candidates apparently go back to the party.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Order, please. To the motion, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, through you I would like to ask the committee chairman, is this a big problem? I mean, don't most candidates spend all the money that is contributed?

---Laughter

I am wondering just to what extent this is a problem and how many candidates, if they know, had a surplus? I had a small surplus but we used it for a party.

---Laughter

I guess my initial reaction is that it seems an awfully complicated procedure. Maybe I am overreacting but it seems like a lot of trouble for someone -- putting this money in trust funds. I am just wondering how much would be involved. Thank you.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: The honourable Member used the word "big" in asking -- whether it was a big problem. It appears not a widespread problem but...

---Laughter

Most do not have surplus campaign funds. Some of us run a little short as a matter of fact. Nevertheless, whenever it did arise it appeared to be a problem. The problem was brought to our attention by Elections Canada officials because when people found themselves in that circumstance, it was unclear to them as to what they ought to do with that money. The legislation did not make it clear as well. So in trying to address what was perceived to be that kind of problem -- not a widespread one but one that existed nevertheless, this was what was suggested. It appears to me if something like this were implemented it would not be particularly complex in one sense. I think that many candidates then would attempt to make sure that they did not have surplus funds, that in fact they utilized all the funds that they had. That is all I can say. I leave it at that as to whether it is a desirable recommendation or not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask a question. In the event that either party politics or some sort of party was introduced in the North, would this provision still be a practice, that surplus funds be turned over to the consolidated revenue fund? Or would they eventually be a party matter?

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: To the best of my ability I cannot answer that with great certainty but it would appear to me that if this recommendation were accepted and the legislation were changed, then in fact even if there were party politics, this would still apply unless people at that time said, "Well, now there is a different situation, let's begin to do the same thing that is done elsewhere" and they introduced a further legislative amendment at that time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not go along with this. I see the problem with this is that even though it happens seldom -- I know in my last campaign I had \$200 or \$300 and I gave it to a charity -- if anybody thought for a moment that their donation at some point would end up in the consolidated revenue fund of the GNWT, I think they would have some problems. I would rather see that if there are any surplus funds they have to go to some registered charity, and not ultimately to the GNWT.

Motion To Amend Recommendation 28 Of Report On NWT Elections Act

So I cannot agree with this particular wording but I would propose an amendment to it, and then everything could be in order. If the candidate does not run again, the surplus funds would revert or would be given to a registered charity of the candidate's choice.

MR. RICHARD: Including political parties?

MR. BALLANTYNE: No. Charity. And only one party that I know of is a charity case. I won't say which one.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Ballantyne, if you could inform the committee as to where you are inserting your amendment, we would appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. BALLANTYNE: After "the surplus funds", delete from "would" to "the Northwest Territories" and insert "would be given to a registered charitable organization of the candidate's choice".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Do Members know where the insertion is taking place? Okay. The amendment is in order. To the amendment. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I just have a question regarding the amendment. Ultimately, if surplus funds are donated to the charitable organization, that charitable organization would then have to issue a taxable receipt. Therefore, who is going to be the beneficiary of the taxable receipt? Is it the individual or the campaign committee? Thank you.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Actually that is a good point. The spirit of the amendment I think is operative. Maybe probably we could have our legal people just look at that and come up with some solution. You are right. You could end up with a smaller sum and have the same problem all over again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Order, please. To the amendment. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the amendment to the motion. If it is going to be put toward a charitable organization -- if there is a surplus I do not think it should go back to the candidate. I think it should just go directly to the charitable organization.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the amendment. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we can have a copy of that amendment and also a translation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will recess until we can get this amendment translated. Mr. MacQuarrie. Point of order.

Motion To Amend Recommendation 28 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Deferred

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, is it possible that we could proceed with other recommendations while it is being translated and come back to that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We will return to recommendation 28, once the translation is done. Point of order. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I wonder, does the Clerk actually have the wording? Or do I have to write it out? You know it? Okay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Now we will continue on to recommendation 29. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 29 Of Report On NWT Elections Act

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 29. I move that sections 59 and 60 dealing with election expenses be referred to Elections Canada for simplification to include accounting of cash contributions only.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: We felt that this was an area that made the whole procedure very complex and needlessly so, in trying to assign values to services that are given and that sort of thing. There was no jeopardy to the public interest in dealing with cash contributions only and making sure there was an accounting of those. So that is the basis of the recommendation, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the chairman of the committee could indicate to us -- I think we all understand that the cash donations that people make to campaigns are listed and made public and there is a reason for that. I believe one of the reasons is to find out whose pocket, or pockets, a successful candidate was in, in order to be elected. I think there is a reason for that and the same reason applies if people could be given contributions to help them in

their campaign. For example, he could get a free helicopter for two or three days or something like that, and that would be a substantial contribution to a campaign, which then would not show up. I think there is a reason for listing who gave money to which candidate. For the same reason, I think there is a reason for listing who gave major contributions of goods and services to a candidate. So I don't think I could support this as it looks right now, but maybe the chairman of the committee could explain to me if they debated that or discussed that when they considered this.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Well, as someone who did not have a helicopter donated to him during the last campaign, I didn't really think of that problem. But I recognize that there was at least one, so...

---Laughter

...yes, more it was thought in the nature of someone who painted a sign for you, if he was a professional sign painter, or that type of thing and not of these larger types. But I think at the committee meeting it was recognized that there could be some of significant size and yet Members, I got the impression, felt that in general this was not a serious concern in the Northwest Territories and that in the interest of simplifying things for potential candidates as much as possible, if we went to the cash contributions accounting only that that would be effected. But the Member makes a good point when he points out the reason for this kind of listing and I leave it to this committee to decide how important in fact that is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Ms Cournoyea.

Contributions Involving Transportation

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I do not know who was on the committee, but if you take into consideration that in some of the communities that do not have roads, the major contributions that you do get are free air line passes or charters, and it is very significant. I realize that perhaps in certain areas it is not really relevant. But certainly in relation to the work I do in the Beaufort Sea area, not one of my communities has a roadway, so I get very few cash contributions to any campaign that I run or organize for someone else. The major contributions are in charter air line contributions. Actually it is much more beneficial to take that type of contribution because it means much more than what a person would give in cash. I am not saying that you should change the recommendation here, but I think that we should be aware that in places where there are no roadways, the major contributions are air line charters and transportation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, in response to that, certainly there were many Members on the committee who come from more outlying areas and who would have been aware of that problem and yet the recommendation was made. But if it is so significant, perhaps this recommendation does not deserve to pass. I would like to hear more discussion on the matter myself.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a little confused with some of the wording of these recommendations. Mr. McLaughlin spoke on recommendation 29. I understood the recommendation simply to refer some sections to Elections Canada for simplification, not necessarily meaning that contributions in kind would not be disclosed. If that is what the recommendation means, I am in agreement with Mr. McLaughlin. I believe contributions in kind as well as cash contributions must be disclosed. I am not sure about our legislation but I believe in the federal legislation there is a limit, that contributions of cash or kind above, say \$100, must be disclosed and I believe we should retain that. But I notice the next recommendation, number 30, and the sentences that precede it seem to imply that the committee is recommending that the requirement for disclosure be deleted. I would be opposed to that. I would like to hear why the committee would make such a recommendation because I think it is very important these days to require disclosure of the amounts and identity of those who are supporting political candidates. I am not sure why the committee

would recommend that we revert to the old days because in previous years very few jurisdictions required disclosure. So, if recommendation 29 means what Mr. McLaughlin interprets it to mean, I too am opposed and if recommendation 30 means what I think it means, I am opposed to that one as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: To clarify for Mr. Richard, as I understood it the intention of the recommendation was to effect what Mr. McLaughlin was concerned about -- in other words, to deal with the accounting of cash contributions only, not services in kind and that sort of thing. So, that is the issue. If Members were to pass this, it would mean that an accounting of the other types of services would not be included any more. It would only be cash contributions.

The other is a separate issue and I think you can wait till we get to recommendation 30, and I will comment more on that. But indeed, you understand it correctly. I understand it the way Mr. McLaughlin understood it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

Motion To Amend Recommendation 29 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Carried

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, then in that case I would request that in the wording after "cash", that we should say "to include accounting of cash and service-in-kind contributions".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): As I understand it, the amendment is being inserted right after "cash" and to read "and service-in-kind contributions only". Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I presume if this passed it would mean if you had a friend who happened to be a sign painter and he painted a sign for you that that would have to be included. I just want that clarified so that if the amendment passes then whoever is writing it up would have to take that into consideration and it was that kind of small contribution of service in kind, I think, that Members were trying to get rid of but it seems that it would be very hard to discriminate between smaller ones and larger ones. If it is included it would have to include everything and that leaves it pretty complex, so that is for Members to decide and it just suggested to me that maybe the amendment should have said of "goods and services", "accounting of cash and goods and services-in-kind". I do not know. A Member might wish to consider that because sometimes goods are contributed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I assume, Mr. MacQuarrie, you are recommending this to the mover of the amendment, to make that change in the amendment. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I am in agreement with the particular rewording.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Members are aware of the change, to insert "and goods" right after "cash". To the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion as amended.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 29 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Carried As Amended

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion as amended is carried.

---Carried

Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 30 Of Report On NWT Elections Act

MR. MacQUARRIE: Recommendation 30. I move that section 60(2)(d) be deleted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. MacQuarrie, your motion is in order. Please proceed.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I think again Members on the committee, the majority that is, felt that this was not an important thing in the Northwest Territories whereas they could see that it may very well be in other jurisdictions; that in general the amounts spent on campaigns are relatively small and that it was another matter that made the whole process more complicated and therefore recommended that that matter be deleted. If I could just take off my chairman's hat again and just speak as the Member for Yellowknife Centre, I would say that I did have a concern about this recommendation as well, that I did feel it is important for the public to know who are significant contributors to campaigns.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think I also have the same concern that Mr. MacQuarrie just stated, so I have some problem with this particular clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a Member of this committee and I believe that the recommendation 30 was recommended as a result of recommendation 29, that it would not make sense to list the names of contributors if you were going to list cash contributions only. I think that in view of the amendment to recommendation 29 that has been passed that recommendation 30 probably should be removed from the report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion on recommendation 30. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Just a matter of clarification on the previous comment. Is it being said that the reason that recommendation 30 recommended this be deleted was because recommendation 29 had gone to cash only and now that we have changed recommendation 29, number 30 has to fall into place or we have to defeat the suggested motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The motion would have to be defeated, recommendation 30. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just one comment. Just to make sure I have this clear now. The way I understand it, if for instance, in some constituency, a major corporation donated \$25,000, if this recommendation is passed, no one would know who that company or corporation was. Am I correct?

MR. RICHARD: Except the tax department.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Except for the tax department. My fear is that in the North, we really have not got into the big league with major amounts of money being spent but I can see some time in the future where, if there is major development in the Northwest Territories that it might be in some corporation's interest to support certain candidates and distort everything and I think it is very important that everybody knows if that happens, why it is happening and who is doing it. So, I cannot agree with this recommendation. I think it is dangerous.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 30 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Motion To Amend Recommendation 28 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Reintroduced

We will now return to recommendation 28. You all have copies of the translation of the amendment that is being proposed. To the amendment to recommendation 28. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the attempt to fix up this particular clause that we are dealing with, in providing for surplus funds to be given to registered charitable organizations, but that is only if the candidate does not run. I am of the view that it should be immediately after an election, if there are surplus funds, that the surplus funds should automatically just go to charitable organizations. Other persons have said that, and that is the approach that I support. I think this amendment here improves the provisions proposed but it does not go far enough in my view.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Ballantyne, to the amendment.

MR. BALLANTYNE: If Mr. Sibbeston is proposing that as an amendment, I would agree with it and maybe Mr. Sibbeston would consider putting a time limit, within 60 days or 90 days after. I think that is a valid amendment and I would support the amendment to the amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Gargan, to the amendment.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say that I do agree with the amendment but in order to get a donation or contribution you have to be a charitable organization. When a candidate is accepting a donation, does not that make him a charitable person too then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Sibbeston, to the amendment.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I just want to be sure that Mr. Gargan understands what all this is about. Maybe he does and is just making fun of the situation but we are not dealing here with donations that are given to a candidate. We are dealing with any moneys that may be left over after the election. After he has spent some of the donations given, there are some left over and we are saying that the best way is to simply give that surplus to a charitable organization of a candidate's choice presumably and I just feel that we do not need to get into this formality of giving \$10 that is left over or \$1500 that is left over to the government to keep in a trust fund. It will get lost somewhere in the millions of dollars that the government has and it is really not worth it to go through that process and hang on to it to see if the Member runs again.

The other point is that I initially do not agree with the concept of a Member being able to use funds that were given at a previous election because things may change and the person who had originally given a donation may not be supporting the candidate the second time around and so for all those reasons I would suggest we simply defeat the motion or else have it withdrawn and then deal with it as many of us are proposing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the amendment. Mr. Gargan, to the amendment.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I was just reading whether it is a candidate or Member -- I guess that means that everybody who runs regardless of whether they win or lose still have to give their donations to charitable organizations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the amendment. Are you ready for the question? Mr. MacQuarrie, do you want to hear the amendment again? Mr. Clerk, would you read the amendment, please?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): The amendment would be in line five to delete the words "revert to the consolidated revenue fund of the Government of the Northwest Territories" and substitute the following "would be given to a registered charitable organization of the candidate's choice".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Curley, to the amendment.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, just to seek some clarification from the mover of the amendment. The way it is presently worded these funds could not be given to any charitable organization or registered charitable group until either the candidate's term has expired or he had made a decision to run again. The first part of the motion indicates that the candidate would have to decide whether or not after the term is over he should run again. Only then would the funds be able to be given or donated to a charitable organization. So, I wonder if the mover of the amendment is satisfied with the present preamble to the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the amendment. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think Mr. Curley has a good point. I thought that either I had agreed to withdraw it and insert Mr. Sibbeston's new words so that it would actually be in the body of the recommendation that within some time -- that Mr. Sibbeston or the group would agree to that. It would have to happen within 90 days or so after an election and then Mr. Curley is right that a lot of that preamble has to be reworded to incorporate that into the body. Was that Mr. Sibbeston's question through you, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Ballantyne, as I understand it, there is no agreement in regard to the amendment. Now, if you wish to withdraw your amendment, you can indicate so, and then Mr. Sibbeston can take it from there but you cannot have it both ways. Mr. Ballantyne.

Motion To Amend Recommendation 28 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Withdrawn

MR. BALLANTYNE: I know that all too well, so I will withdraw my amendment and turn it over to Mr. Sibbeston to come up with a new amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I understand you are withdrawing your amendment. Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion To Amend Recommendation 28 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Carried

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would propose the following amendment and it would read as follows: "that surplus campaign funds be given to a registered charitable organization within a limited time period".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I will ask the Clerk to read the amendment that is being proposed.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): The amendment is to delete all the words after "that surplus campaign funds" and add the following: "be given to a registered charitable organization of the candidate's choice within a limited time period".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The amendment is in order. To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The amendment is carried by one vote.

---Carried

To the motion as amended.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Accept Recommendation 28 Of Report On NWT Elections Act, Carried As Amended

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Question has been called. All those in favour? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I would just like to reiterate the problem that arose earlier. We did discuss this very thing at the committee meeting and one of the reasons we did not go with it was because we noted that in the matter of the tax receipt going to the candidate then in a sense he is profiting from it. Mr. Ballantyne earlier suggested that our legal people look at that problem as they would see that the intent is that we do not wish a candidate to benefit from that type of thing and if that is kept in mind then certainly the motion as it stands would be, I think, very acceptable to the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion as amended.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion as amended is carried.

---Carried

To recommendation 31. A motion is being made to report progress, which is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We will now report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION ON THE NWT ELECTIONS ACT

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering the report of the standing committee on legislation on the Northwest Territories Elections Act and wishes to report progress. In the course of its deliberations your committee adopted eight motions.

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 very much. I would like at this time to recognize in the gallery, Mr. Boyer, a town councillor from Pine Point.

---Applause

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 this afternoon at 2:30 p.m. The meeting of the standing committee on finance on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m.

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, October 21st, 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: Motion 2-85(3); Motion 3-85(3)
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 NWT 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. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday at 1:00 p.m., October 21st.

---ADJOURNMENT

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