



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

7th Session

10th Assembly

HANSARD
Official Report
DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1986

Pages 1 to 15

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

The Hon. Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1877
Hay River, N.W.T., X0E 0R0
Office (403) 874-2324
Home (403) 874-6560
Office (403) 873-7629 (Yellowknife)
(Hay River)

Angottitauruq, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
Gjoa Haven, N.W.T.
X0E 1J0
Office (403) 360-6600
(Natilikmiot)

Appaqaq, Mr. Moses, M.L.A.
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
X0A 0W0
Home (819) 266-8808
(Hudson Bay)

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.
X0A 0N0
Home (819) 939-2363
(Baffin South)

Ballantyne, The Hon. Michael, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1091
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N8
Office (403) 873-7658
Home (403) 920-2968
(Yellowknife North)
Minister of Justice and Housing

Butters, The Hon. Thomas H., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 908
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N7
Office (403) 873-7128
Home (403) 920-4411 (Yellowknife)
(403) 979-2373 (Inuvik)
(Inuvik)
Minister of Finance and Government
Services

Cournoyey, Ms Nellie J., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 156
Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T.
X0E 1C0
Office (403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)
Home (403) 977-2405
(Nunakput)

Curley, The Hon. Tagak E.C., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 36
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
X0C 0G0
Office (403) 873-7139
Home (819) 645-2951
(Aivilik)
Minister of Economic Development
& Tourism

Erkloo, Mr. Elijah, M.L.A.
Pond Inlet, N.W.T.
X0A 0S0
Office (819) 899-8903
Home (819) 899-8845
(Amittuq)
Deputy Chairman, Committee of the
Whole

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2131
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P6
Office (403) 873-7999
Home (403) 699-3171
(Deh Cho)
Deputy Chairman, Committee of the
Whole

Lawrence, Mrs. Eliza, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2053
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 1W9
Office (403) 920-8052
Home (403) 873-2457
(Tu Nedhe)

MacQuarrie, Mr. Robert, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2895
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2R2
Office (403) 873-7918
Home (403) 873-8857
(Yellowknife Centre)

McCallum, Mr. Arnold, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 454
Fort Smith, N.W.T.
X0E 0P0
Office (403) 872-3224
Home (403) 872-2246
(Slave River)

McLaughlin, The Hon. Bruce, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2637
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P9
Office (403) 873-7113
Home (403) 873-6200 (Yellowknife)
(403) 393-2939 (Pine Point)
(Pine Point)
Minister of Health and Social Services

Nerysoo, Mr. Richard W., M.L.A.
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.
X0E 0J0
Office (403) 979-7112 (Inuvik)
Home (403) 979-2668 (Inuvik)
(Mackenzie Delta)

Paniloo, Mr. Pauloosie, M.L.A.
Clyde River, N.W.T.
X0A 0E0
Office (819) 924-6336
Home (819) 924-6340
(Baffin Central)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 310
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.
X0A 0H0
Office (819) 979-5993 (Frobisher Bay)
(403) 873-7123
Home (819) 979-6618
(Iqaluit)
Minister of Education

Pedersen, The Hon. Red, M.L.A.
Coppermine, N.W.T.
X0E 0E0
Office (403) 873-7959
Home (403) 982-5221
(Kitikmeot West)
Minister of Renewable Resources and
Culture & Communications

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 240
Resolute, N.W.T.
X0A 0V0
Home (819) 252-3719
(High Arctic)

Richard, Mr. Ted, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
Office (403) 873-7920
Home (403) 873-3667
(Yellowknife South)

Sibbeston, The Hon. Nick G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 560
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
X0E 0N0
Office (403) 873-7112
Home (403) 695-2565
(Nahendeh)
Government Leader, Chairman of
Executive Council and Minister
of Personnel

T'Seleie, Mr. John, M.L.A.
Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.
X0E 0H0
Home (403) 598-2325
(Sahtu)

Wah-Shee, Mr. James, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 471
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N4
Office (403) 873-8099
Home (403) 873-8012
(Rae-Lac La Martre)
Deputy Speaker and Chairman,
Committee of the Whole

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.
Baker Lake, N.W.T.
X0C 0A0
Office (403) 873-7962
Home (819) 793-2700
(Kivallivik)
Minister of Local Government and
Public Works & Highways

Officers

Clerk
Mr. David M. Hamilton
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant
Mr. Henry Zoe
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Law Clerk
Mr. Joel Fournier
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard
Mrs. Marie J. Coe
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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Lake Harbour, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Garqan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Hon. Gordon Wray

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Father Boyd, would you please lead us in prayer?

ITEM 1: PRAYER

FATHER LEO BOYD: Blessed are You, Lord God, Maker and Ruler of the universe. You have brought us to the beginning of another year in Your service. Remember Your love for us in Christ Jesus and help us to live for Your honour and glory and for the salvation of all. Lord God look with love on the people of this community and keep them safe in Your service. Guide the Members of this seventh session of the 10th Assembly of the Legislature of the Northwest Territories and help them to work together for the good of all. Bless their plans and deliberations and bring them to success. Father, we ask this grace through Christ our Lord.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Father Boyd. Please be seated. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to address this Assembly?

ITEM 2: COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this seventh session of the 10th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Constitutional Advancement

Since the last sitting of this Assembly in October of 1985, significant constitutional steps have been taken with regard to the leadership and responsibilities of the Executive Council. At a ceremony held in the Executive board room on January 30th, I had the honour and pleasure of turning over the chairmanship of the Executive Council -- the cabinet of the territorial government -- to the Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Government Leader. That act of transfer was the culmination of many years of planning, of step by step political and constitutional advancement, and the progressive assumption of ever-increasing responsibility by elected Members of the Executive Council, and indeed by all of the past and present Members of this House.

The strong support of former Ministers of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and in particular the support and direction received from the present Minister, the Hon. David Crombie, have been essential in the achievement of the goal of responsible government. On behalf of the Members of this Legislature, I acknowledge with thanks that support and the obvious confidence which Members of the federal cabinet have placed in our government. My predecessor, former Commissioner Stuart Hodgson, was instrumental in substantially advancing the cause of responsible government through his dedicated efforts to establish both governmental and administrative systems at the grass-roots level throughout the Territories, and in drawing Canadian and worldwide attention to the reality of the North.

It is a brief 35 years since elected Members first joined the then-named territorial Council and only 11 years since our Legislature has been composed exclusively of elected Members. Similarly, the composition of the Executive Council has changed rapidly from its formation in 1969 when it consisted of three appointed persons. When the Deputy Commissioner ceased to be an Executive member less than three years ago, the Executive Council achieved fully elected status. Our constitutional time scale for changes of this magnitude has been compressed into a relatively short period. To the great credit of present and former Members of this House, constitutional changes have been sought after and pressed for with great vigour as befits the elected representatives of people who are seeking to manage their own lives within our Canadian parliamentary tradition.

Transfer Of Responsibility For Department Of Personnel

Early in January of this year I transferred effective control and management of the public service to the Government Leader who now fulfils the role of Minister responsible for the Department of Personnel. The final step in this process will occur when this House approves the amendments to the Public Service Act which will be considered during this session. I am confident that the processes for appeal and arbitration which are in place and which indeed will be strengthened, will fully meet the needs of the public service.

Transfer Of Programs To Territorial Government

The process of seeking further devolution of provincial-like authorities from the federal to the territorial government, started by the previous Government Leader and Executive, is continuing. Late in 1985 concerns were raised by aboriginal associations about the speed and manner in which this initiative was progressing. The Inuit organizations, in particular, were concerned about the effect of devolution on their land claims negotiations. As a result of discussions between the Executive Council and aboriginal leaders, their concerns appear to have been met so that the devolution process may continue in certain specific program areas.

Discussions are continuing with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs on the transfer of forestry and fire management programs. While these programs will be monitored by this government during the coming summer, it is planned that the full transfer of these responsibilities will occur in October 1986. It is anticipated that extensive consultation with the public, native organizations, and other interest groups will be undertaken to assist in the development of forest management policies.

As a result of the successful transfer of the Frobisher hospital to the territorial government, negotiations on the transfer of remaining health services in Baffin are continuing. The transfer of Baffin health programs hopefully will be completed by September 1, 1986. The transfer of remaining health care programs in the Northwest Territories is presently planned for April 1, 1987.

The Department of Public Works and Highways continues to negotiate the transfer of inter-territorial road reconstruction from the federal government. The turnover of this program, planned for April 1, 1987 will complete the transfer of all road reconstruction programs. Negotiations will continue during 1986-87 toward the transfer of all highway programs, including new highway and community access road construction.

In November, 1985 the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, together with two of his colleagues from the Government of Yukon, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development providing for the transfer of NCPC to the two territorial governments by March 31, 1987. The Minister is reviewing the federal decision regarding the head office location of the company and is giving very close attention to the financial terms under which this government would assume responsibility for electrical power supply. With the transfer of these functions this government will be better able to provide full provincial-type programs and services to the residents of the NWT.

Aboriginal Claims Negotiations

After a year of relative inactivity, we recently have seen a renewed emphasis in the negotiation of the two outstanding comprehensive aboriginal claims. Negotiators working on the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut claim have initialled two subagreements-in-principle in the past two months on Inuit water rights and impact and benefit agreements. On the Dene/Metis claim, a considerable amount of work has been completed in preparation for a heavy year of negotiations involving land

management and selection. With this renewed activity and the interest the current topics have sparked, the general public has become more anxious to learn more about land claims and how the public interest is being protected at negotiations. Your government is currently preparing a public information strategy to help meet this need and to assure non-beneficiaries that their government is indeed representing their interests as well at these negotiations.

In view of the complexities and importance of the issues of devolution and aboriginal claims and the desire of this government to ensure that these processes are carried out with the participation and support of all aboriginal organizations, a northern leaders summit with representatives from the Executive Council and each of the aboriginal organizations will be held at the end of this month. At this meeting, the relationship between the various constitutional processes such as land claims, devolution and division will be defined and an agreement will be sought on how these processes can be advanced.

Affirmative Action

The Executive Council approved the native employment policy one year ago and during the intervening period the Equal Employment Directorate has become operational. The Government Leader expects to have affirmative action plans for all departments drafted by March of this year. Affirmative action policies for women and the handicapped are being developed and it is expected these policies will be in place early in the new fiscal year.

---Applause

Language And Cultural Programs

This Legislature and your Executive Council have attached particular importance to the growth and expansion of the use of aboriginal languages. The task force on aboriginal languages reporting to the Government Leader will have its report prepared for tabling later in this session and I know Members are anxious to consider the thoughtful recommendations which they will be making. While the report of the task force will provide a basis for the expanded use of aboriginal languages in the coming years, the government is currently taking other steps to facilitate language development. The Government Leader is investigating the possibility of raising aboriginal languages to an official status in the NWT.

With regard to the provision of French language services, resources will be provided by the Secretary of State and several bilingual staff members will join the territorial government to begin work on the provision of basic French language services, as well as those requirements outlined in the Official Languages Act. The government intends to introduce amendments to the NWT Official Languages Act this session which will delay official status for French by three years, thus providing a more realistic time period for the achievement of this goal.

Since the last session amalgamation of all government cultural programs in the Department of Culture and Communications has been finalized. These changes reflect the high priority that the Executive Council and Legislative Assembly placed on the protection and enhancement of our cultural heritage. Responsibility to co-ordinate, develop and monitor the Canada/NWT contribution agreement for aboriginal languages has been placed with this department under the direction of the Hon. Red Pedersen. The Secretary of State, the Hon. Benoit Bouchard, will be in Yellowknife later this session to sign this agreement.

The Department of Education has started the process to establish a number of language centres in locations central to the various language groups across the NWT. These will initially undertake local language curriculum work and serve as centres for the field-based component of the teacher education program. The two responsibilities of curriculum development and teacher training are crucial for the effective establishment of sound aboriginal language programs in which culturally and linguistically related programs can be presented by well qualified teachers and language instructors. Later in this session the Minister of Education will present the department's first comprehensive report card to this Assembly.

The Minister of Justice will advance legislation at this session to make it possible for an aboriginal person to sit as a juror even though he or she does not speak English or French. This provision will allow a far greater number of residents to participate in the justice system. As well, there will be much stronger emphasis on the provision of better interpretation services for the courts.

Strengthening Of Business And Employment Opportunities

Experience has shown that modern economics do not naturally provide acceptable levels of employment and that specific government action is required. We know governments alone cannot create the necessary employment, and that if employment options are to be made available there must be undertakings by the government in conjunction with the private section. Although our economic performance has compared very favourably to the national economy so far this decade, we are none the less facing some difficult challenges. Unemployment, particularly among young people, and in the smaller communities, remains at an unacceptably high level and continues to be a stubborn problem which declining world petroleum and mineral prices threaten to make worse. In an effort to seek out ideas for future economic prospects, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has planned a series of economic development conferences in each region, to be followed by a final territorial-wide conference this summer.

Despite the negative publicity problems plaguing the fur industry in recent years, international prices for many furs from the Northwest Territories have been rising at encouraging rates. Credit for this change is due in part to the activities of native groups, the Fur Institute of Canada, Indigenous Survival International, and your Minister of Renewable Resources and his predecessor, Nellie Cournoyea. In order that territorial trappers take full advantage of these more favourable market conditions, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism will be sponsoring a fur symposium in March. Just prior to this a country food fair will be held.

In order to further strengthen business and employment opportunities, under the direction of the Minister, the Department of Economic Development is leading negotiations with the federal government on a three year extension of the economic development agreement. This EDA will include six subsidiary agreements on business development, tourism, arts and crafts, renewable resource development, mining, and economic planning. Consultation will take place with all affected sectors of our economy in order to develop programs under these agreements. These new agreements are scheduled to be in place this summer.

Several specific economic initiatives give rise to cautious optimism for the future. In the Fort Good Hope area, the community, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government have agreed to a temporary lifting of the freeze on the granting of new exploration permits for oil exploration in the Mackenzie Valley. With a competitive call for proposals, the selection of the successful company will be based on consideration of the proposed exploration program and on the local and regional benefits associated with the project. The call for proposals will close at the end of February and it is planned that the work will commence next winter. As there is new federal legislation to regulate oil exploration programs, this procedure will not be repeated. However any further release of lands will continue to require extensive consultation and support from the affected communities.

Gulf's announcement of a major oil find at its Amauligak drilling site indicates the Beaufort Sea has the potential to become one of Canada's main oil producing regions. By the spring of 1987 the Amauligak consortium should have the needed reservoir information to make development decisions.

NWT Participation In Expo '86

As we enter the new year, the count down begins toward May 2nd and the official opening of the Northwest Territories pavilion at Expo '86. Millions of visitors will have the opportunity of experiencing the most comprehensive and exciting picture of the North ever presented to a southern audience. Under the leadership of your Expo '86 Minister, the Hon. Tagak Curley, the project has developed a high profile in both the North and the South. Northern companies have provided corporate support and over \$1.6 million worth of northern arts and crafts have been purchased for sale in the pavilion. Approximately 120 northern employees will be hired to begin work in April.

The Executive Council has approved support to enable over 300 students from 20 schools to visit Expo '86. In addition, through the co-ordination of the Department of Education, PWA will provide up to 130 students and their parent or guardian with a free flight to visit Expo '86. Students competed for seats through submissions of works of art and essays.

In order to demonstrate the government's commitment to northern employment in its own operations, under the direction of the Hon. Gordon Wray, the Department of Public Works and Highways awarded 1048 construction contracts to northern firms. This represents an increase of 46 per cent over the previous fiscal year and it is expected that this growth will continue in 1986-87.

Passing Of Distinguished NWT Residents

At this time I would ask this House to observe with regret the passing of some distinguished residents of the Northwest Territories. The wisdom, dedication and service to the North of these elders are remembered with gratitude.

Mrs. Martha Porter passed away quietly in Gjoa Haven on January 20th. Mrs. Porter was in her early seventies. She was active in traditional pursuits and was the widow of the late George Porter, Senior.

Dick Turner, a resident of the Fort Simpson area, bush pilot, prospector, trapper and author of three northern books, died just before Christmas at the age of 74. Well-known in the area, he came north as a trapper in 1930.

James Akavak of Lake Harbour served as a special constable with the RCMP from 1939 to 1965. Two of his sons and one grandson are currently serving with the force. Mr. Akavak passed away in late October.

A well-known hunter and trapper in Fort McPherson, William Vittrekwa passed away on November 16th. He led a very active life and served as an Anglican Church warden for many years, helping with services for people living in bush camps. In 1970 at the age of 77, he guided an RCMP patrol travelling by dog team from Fort McPherson to Dawson City.

A hunter and trapper in the Fort McPherson area, George Robert served as a guide, as well, on the 1970 RCMP patrol. He passed away in a tragic incident on December 21st. He will be remembered for sharing his musical gift by playing at community gatherings and celebrations.

An active member of his community, Maurice Cotchilly served as chief of the Fort Good Hope Dene Band in the 1950s and 1960s. He was regarded as an excellent example for the community's youth and was well-known and respected in the surrounding communities. He passed away in November at the age of 77.

Fort Smith elder, Magloire Beaver, passed away January 21st. He is survived by his wife Agnes and many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Though never involved in politics himself, two of his sons have served as chiefs of the Fitz-Smith Dene Band.

The passing of each of these elders will leave a void in their home communities. To their families we extend our sympathies.

Commissioner's Award For Bravery

In October at Chesterfield Inlet, a four year old child fell through the thin ice into four or five feet of water. His older brother, Don Mimialik, aged eight, entered the pond, held his head above water, and attempted to rescue him. Subsequently Paul Autut, age 24, assisted by Kevin Issaluk, aged 17, rescued the four year old from the ice-cold water. Their courage and disregard for personal safety are excellent examples of youthful concern for other members of the community. In recognition of their courageous acts, the Commissioner's Award for bravery at the second level is being awarded to young Don Mimialik, and a letter of commendation will be given to Paul Autut and Kevin Issaluk for their role in the rescue.

Social And Health Programs

I wish to draw to your attention some current and new government programs which will assist communities in gaining increased control of social programs. The Department of Social Services is completing a comprehensive assessment of the aged and handicapped as a start in looking at their special health needs. A senior citizens personal care facility will be opened in Rae in the early spring of 1986. The involvement of the community and elders in the design and construction of the facility was extensive and highlighted the culture and lifestyles of the community.

Increased emphasis is being placed by the Department of Health on public awareness with respect to lifestyle illnesses and promotion of such things as non-smoking, health nutrition, and family life education. In the current year the federal and territorial governments have supported 38 community-run alcohol and drug projects throughout the Territories. These projects have as their

mandate the provision of needed preventive services at the local level. The emphasis on drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation throughout the North at all levels of our society has been strengthened.

Child abuse, along with other types of family violence, is becoming an increasing social concern in the Northwest Territories. The Department of Education is developing policies and procedures for teachers to follow in cases of suspected child abuse. The school health program addresses this topic in several curriculum units. This instruction will increase the child's awareness of how to deal with potentially dangerous situations.

Following recommendations from this government's task force on spousal assault, you will be asked during this session to approve a three year plan of action to address the problem. Contribution funding through the Status of Women Secretariat is being utilized to sponsor community initiated research projects to identify the extent of the problem and local needs. Workshops to enhance public awareness of this type of social problem and assist communities in identifying solutions have also been funded.

Current Programs Regarding Housing

The opening of this session finds the NWT Housing Corporation, under the direction of the Hon. Mike Ballantyne, undertaking a thorough review of its programs and operations. The report of the special committee on housing tabled in June 1985 and "A New Era in Housing" tabled in October, provide the framework for this examination.

The concept of home-ownership is becoming widely accepted across the Territories. In recognition of this, the corporation's federal funding partner, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, has agreed to share the cost of the home-ownership assistance program. As a result, in addition to the 195 public housing units planned for construction, the corporation will be able to deliver 175 HAP homes in 1986.

Activities In Department Of Justice

There has been much discussion recently regarding the treatment and rights of victims of crime. In view of this the Justice department will be taking major initiatives in this area to ensure that substantial improvement is made in recognizing the rights of victims of crime. As part of these initiatives, greater emphasis will be placed on the criminal injuries compensation program. As part of the law reform initiative, family law legislation will be revised to make it concur with current society standards.

It will be a priority of the Department of Justice to revitalize the mine safety function to reach its fullest potential. There will be much greater emphasis placed on educational aspects of mine safety and the enhancement of training of personnel in the mine safety division so that they can better deal with the task of ensuring a safe working environment. The mining industry is of vital importance to the NWT. It is therefore incumbent on us to ensure that the industry is regulated and protected in the best manner possible and that management and workers are encouraged to work together in addressing safety issues.

The Minister of Justice recognizes the demand from the communities for additional police detachments or increased police personnel. If we are to meet these needs, additional financial resources not currently available will be required. It is the desire of this government that to the fullest extent possible future recruitment for the NWT will be for native persons either as constables or special constables.

The civil emergency planning program has been transferred to the Department of Government Services. All damage claims for last spring's flood in Hay River have now been dealt with and the final disaster assistance payments made.

Government At The Community Level

The foundation for political development and government has been and continues to be local government at the community level. The settlements of Lac la Martre and Sachs Harbour will be achieving hamlet status on April 1, 1986. As well, the hamlet of Norman Wells will be acquiring local taxing authority with the attainment of village status at the same time. This will bring to 31 the total number of hamlets and Norman Wells will join Fort Simpson as one of the two villages in the NWT.

Regional councils have continued to develop. There are currently six incorporated regional and tribal councils in the NWT. As well, communities south of Great Slave Lake have organized into the South Slave Regional Council and are working toward incorporation. The Minister of Local Government attended a successful joint meeting of the executives of the Deh Cho Regional Council, South Slave Regional Council and Dogrib Tribal Council at Hay River. The Minister also attended the meeting of the Mackenzie Delta regional council and observed its deliberations with great interest. During 1986 the government will be holding further consultations with representatives of regional councils to assess their current organizational state and hear their proposals for continued development.

Sport And Recreation

In the field of sport and recreation, the highlights of the year were the development of the recreation leaders training course and the establishment of the Sports Hall of Fame. The Minister will provide further details on each of these achievements later in the session.

In January 1100 athletes from across the Territories participated in tryouts for the Arctic Winter Games and a high level of sportsmanship and ability was demonstrated by all participants. Increased participation and skills in a number of areas illustrated that the construction of new recreation facilities is having a positive effect across the NWT.

Capital Expenditures On Basic Services In Communities

The improvement and provision of basic services continues to be a major program for the government. In community planning and development, capital expenditures on municipal infrastructure exceeded \$23 million in 1985-86. Over 50 per cent of that was spent on improving water and sanitation systems across the NWT. Projects were undertaken in 46 communities this year. In addition, major initiatives in land development were undertaken in response to the government's increased priority for housing. The development of sufficient residential land will continue to be a major activity in the coming years.

Sessional Legislation

I now wish to draw to your attention the legislative program of this Assembly. During this session 16 bills will be introduced for your consideration. Amendments to the following acts will be advanced: Income Tax; Institute of Chartered Accountants; Insurance; Jury; Official Languages; Petroleum Products Tax; Public Service; Public Trustee; Society of Management Accountants; Taxation. New legislation consists of the Appropriation Act, 1986-87; Loan Authorization Act, 1986-87; Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1985-86; Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1986-87; Write Off of Assets and Debts Act, 1985-86; and Revolving Funds Act, 1986-87. 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 seventh session of the 10th Legislative Assembly of the NWT.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Item 3, Members' replies. Mr. T'Seleie.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Motion Of Appreciation

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to move the motion of appreciation for the Commissioner's Address.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. It is understood that the Members at this time moving and seconding the Commissioner's Address will have an opportunity at a later date to give their reply in full. Is there a seconder? Mr. Patterson.

Mr. Patterson's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation Seconded

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to second the motion of thanks for the Commissioner's Address. I will not be quite as brief as my friend, Mr. T'Seleie, because in doing so I would like to congratulate Commissioner Parker and our Government Leader and indeed all Members of this Assembly for the recent significant and historic event which occurred a few weeks ago whereby the Government Leader assumed chairmanship of the Executive Council after having taken over responsibility for the Department of Personnel. This now means, Mr. Speaker, that elected Members of this Assembly who have been entrusted by Members of this Assembly with Executive responsibilities will now be directly accountable to this House for all actions and decisions of this government respecting all departments and all areas of our jurisdiction.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: Responsible government becomes irresponsible government.

---Laughter

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: That's progress. Elected Members may well make occasional mistakes, Mr. Speaker, very rarely I hope, but at least now for every decision and every action we will be fully and publicly accountable to the people of the Northwest Territories through this Assembly. I think this is an enormous step toward responsible government and one with which I am sure all Members are pleased and proud.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that this has been a goal of Commissioner Parker and all Members of the Executive Council I have had the privilege to work with over the past five years. So it gives me particular pleasure to be able to second this motion of appreciation to Commissioner Parker who has never hesitated to promote this step. That has been acknowledged many times in this House. I would also like to acknowledge that without the Hon. David Crombie's concurrence, this historic step would not have been possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would also just like to take a moment to say a few words about Elise Attagutaluk, a mother, an adult educator and a community leader well-known in Baffin, who recently met her death in another regrettable tragedy of family violence. Elise was an inspiration to all of us who knew her and I am comforted by the knowledge that I am certain her death will not have been in vain; that we will work together to prevent such terrible losses again.

I would like to mention I have recently had the privilege of attending conferences on this important subject which unfortunately seems to touch all of us in one way or another and I was very struck by the dedication of those who attended and their determination to do something together to prevent family violence and the resultant threat to human life and dignity.

Respect For Aspirations For Self-Government

Mr. Speaker, I do have important matters respecting my constituency which I wish to discuss in further reply to the Commissioner's Address. The need for recreation facilities, the problem of low-tide access to the beach at Iqaluit, the need for a territorial judge to serve the Eastern Arctic, improved access to justice, enhancing the renewable resource economy, but I will seek another opportunity than today to do so. But I would like to briefly talk on this important day about the need for us all to have renewed hope that we can, by working together in this Assembly, by showing respect for the rights of others, particularly the right of self-determination which is cherished by my constituents, together lay the groundwork for the establishment of new and improved forms of government in the East and the West.

Mr. Speaker, I have been disturbed to hear recently that some honourable Members are getting tired of waiting for this issue to be resolved. Well, so am I. But what distresses me is that they seem to be now wishing that division would go away. Now that may be seen to be the easiest way but that is not an honourable solution, Mr. Speaker. And in my view, it shows no respect for the aspirations of my constituents for self-government. I hope that when I address this issue at more length another day in this session, I will be able to persuade my friends, Mr. Butters, Mrs. Lawrence and perhaps others, not to give up, to respect the strong aspirations of my constituents.

This is the very time to profit from your concerns and mine, that this issue must be resolved and that we can deal with it in a statesmanlike way. We were not able to do so in this House a year ago but I know we have all learned from that. Rancour and confrontation have got us nowhere.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: So let us resolve to work together. Let us resolve not to resort to a majority using its numbers to squelch the rights of a minority to plan a new order where we would shape our destiny and our future, ourselves. And with all respect, we are not going to meet everyone's need, to do that. Well, we should be satisfied with having recently obtained a greater measure of self-government in Yellowknife. Let us not forget the strong aspirations of the people of Iqaluit and Nunavut for self-government on terms meaningful to us as well.

Mr. Speaker, (Translation) I would like to mention my wife and family are here with us. I am very happy about that. Up to now, they have helped me a great deal.

MR. SPEAKER: ... relinquish the right to the floor. I think you have gone beyond the hour of a formal seconding motion. I am accepting this as your reply to the Commissioner's Address so you have the floor to continue your address. I cannot allow people to have two replies and you took far too long to just do the formality that was expected. I have to accept that as your reply. Before you conclude I give you the opportunity to continue. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly respect your ruling although I had hoped perhaps I might get credit for some of Mr. T'Seleie's unused time.

---Laughter

If this is my only chance, then I do have some more words of wisdom and I am prepared to speak now or wait until after coffee.

MR. SPEAKER: I understand from the Clerk that the coffee is ready so we will break for coffee and you will then have the floor on our return, Mr. Patterson. Before we break for coffee officially, I would like everyone to remain in the gallery. We have a presentation today being made by the Northwest Territories Metis Association and I would like to call Mr. Larry Tourangeau to the witness table at the far end. We will then recess for coffee for 15 minutes. Mr. Tourangeau.

Presentation By Metis Association Of The Northwest Territories

MR. TOURANGEAU: First of all I would just like to thank this Assembly and Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to make this presentation. On behalf of the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories we would like to present this artwork that has been done by local artist John Lemouel, son of well-known Joe Lemouel of Yellowknife. This print reflects the old and the new and I guess at this time reflects the surroundings of the changes that we have to face today. I think this Assembly has shown the willingness to meet these challenges that are before them and I hope that you will accept this token on behalf of the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, very much, Mr. Tourangeau and to the Metis Association. This will be placed with the rest of the gifts that we have received from across the country and be given an honoured position. We will now recess.

---SHORT RECESS

Item 3, Members' replies. Mr. Patterson, you have the floor.

Mr. Patterson's Reply Continued

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I simply would like to pursue a little further my thoughts presented earlier on the right of self-determination which Canada has recognized in the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about remarks that have recently been attributed to elected leaders that we should put division on the back burner, that we would be

better off if this issue went away. I might cite a report, January 17th on the radio, quoting Mayor John Hill of Inuvik stating in an interview that there was no tension evident at a recent Delta/Beaufort meeting he attended and that ergo, according to the gratuitous comments of the CBC reporter, Doug Earl, this is therefore another argument against division.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, I was also concerned to have heard a woman that I greatly respect, Mrs. Bertha Allen, make the incredible statement that she was concerned families were going to break up over division. I expect that that is not the reason my colleague, the Hon. Tom Butters, has recently made some public statements of his reservations about division. He is not known to be a man who wants to be out of the kitchen when it gets hot. I am sure that my honourable colleague, Mr. Butters, realizes as well as anyone else that if political differences cause family break-up then there are plenty of other issues around in the Delta in addition to division. Perhaps even such things as who wins an election have probably led to family stresses, both for the successful and the unsuccessful candidate. But I must say I am hopeful that there has to be a better reason, if there is a better reason, than that because I am sure that Mr. Butters knew when he spoke in favour of division some years ago -- in fact when this Assembly sat in his constituency -- that it would not necessarily be an easy path. I am sure Members from the West did not think it would be so easy that everyone in Nunavut would say "Fine, we accept the north/south line regardless of what the people of the communities involved think."

Mr. Speaker, we believe enough in the dream of Nunavut that we are certainly willing to put up with a little more strife. We are looking forward to creating a new society for ourselves. This movement represents our aspirations for self-determination and it represents our pride.

I suppose, Mr. Speaker, one might say Nunavut is an ethnic state, if you consider a state whose population like my constituency contains a majority of people of one linguistic and cultural background -- by a significant percentage too, by the way. On these terms then Quebec, too, is an ethnic government and Denendeh I hope will be structured so as to preserve the character of the Dene and respect the character of the Dene within that new government.

Mr. Speaker, I am optimistic that within the next few months there will be a coming together of the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, elected Members of this Assembly and leaders of native organizations to find a way based on respect for the aspirations of the Inuvialuit which will be discussed and resolved publicly at a forthcoming annual general meeting of the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, and that we will find a way of compromising in order to resolve the deadlock that has, I regret to say, in many ways paralysed political and constitutional development in the NWT. I am very concerned that this issue be resolved in the interests of advancing land claims and in the interests of seeing devolution of powers held by Ottawa to northern governments -- to this government and to future governments.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am making these remarks in a note of optimism and I would, as I said earlier, hope that as these matters are discussed at the leaders summit announced by the Commissioner in his Address today, at the next meeting of the Constitutional Alliance and in deliberations of this Assembly, that there will be a spirit of mutual respect and a spirit of compromise so that we can get on with the exciting business of designing forms of government from the grass roots that are going to better represent the needs of all peoples in the North.

Health Services Commended

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to briefly refer to some constituency matters. I would like to mention that I am very pleased that the progress of the Baffin Regional Hospital was acknowledged by the Commissioner in his Address. I would like to note in reply that I am very proud that the hospital in Baffin as well as the Fort Smith and Hay River hospitals were recently professionally reviewed by the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation and that they have all been awarded three years accreditation which is the highest standard possible for hospitals.

I would like to congratulate all those boards and particularly the Baffin Regional Hospital board which is only a couple of years old. I think this speaks well of the positive effects of handing responsibility over to representatives of the people served. I would like to note that the Baffin board has, with the co-operation of the Minister of Health, recently opened up a much improved facility for dealing with transient patients in Montreal and we are looking forward to the next stage in turning over responsibility for nursing stations in Baffin to that board. A good quality health service can only be made better through these moves.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention that I had an opportunity, more by chance than by anything else, to recently attend a day of the health conference in the Keewatin Region and I was very impressed there and also in speaking with the MLAs for Keewatin that urgent attention needs to be given to the important issue of the need for better control over health services in Keewatin by the people for whom those services exist to serve. I know my colleagues will be discussing that issue before this Assembly and they have my full support.

Mr. Speaker, I would also simply like to note once again that I have been trying to make some progress in improving the access to the beach at low tide in Frobisher Bay. This concern in my constituency has been a long-standing one and one that I am certainly hoping can be resolved as early as next summer. Recently the hunters and trappers association have applied to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for assistance and we are hoping that some assistance will be provided in order to dredge a trench which could be used as a passage for small vessels at low tide, both for convenience in cases of bad weather and also in cases of emergency. I am hoping, Mr. Speaker, that if assistance can be provided through the federal government that there might be some way in which our government, perhaps through the good offices of the Minister of Public Works and his staff, might provide some necessary support and assistance in order to ensure that the job can be done this summer.

Recreational Needs Study, Frobisher Bay

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that thanks to assistance provided by the previous Minister of Local Government, Mr. Sibbeston, a study on recreation needs in Frobisher Bay has been completed and presented and reviewed by the town council. It shows that there are certain recreational needs still to be met which I would hope could be assisted by our government, particularly the curling rink which has been supported by the strong efforts of a very enthusiastic group of volunteers using a fire-damaged Butler building which has finally run out of life. It is recommended that a new curling rink be constructed as an addition to the existing arena complex in Frobisher Bay. It is also recommended that there be additional small-scale community facilities provided to meet the growing needs of our population, including outdoor facilities. We also need some assistance in upgrading the present arena and ensuring that artificial ice can work and be established in that facility.

I will be discussing the recreation plan and the council's views of the priorities in that plan, with the Minister of Local Government and just as our communities have received significant support from this government for recreation facilities, recognizing how important this is to the health of a community, I am confident that some assistance can be provided to Iqaluit as well in this regard.

Court Facilities In Frobisher Bay

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on previous occasions about the need for court facilities in Frobisher Bay and I cannot stress again the urgency of this matter. It is now critical to the economic development of the community in that we are very anxious that should a court facility be approved by the Minister of Justice, I think all the figures on case load in Baffin and the Eastern Arctic point to the advantages and the economies of locating a territorial judge in the courthouse in Frobisher Bay. I am also hoping, and so is the Frobisher Bay Chamber of Commerce and indeed the Baffin business community, that this new facility could also include a registry which would permit the registration of documents and the service of writs without having to go through the incredible delays of time and money caused by having to transmit documents back and forth to Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, there is a courthouse in Frobisher Bay. There is room for modest facilities for a court clerk and a registry office. We are not asking for a new building or a courthouse building, we are simply saying, instead of continuing to send judges back and forth at great expense, let us look at the option, perhaps even on a pilot basis, of establishing a resident judge in our community who would serve the Eastern Arctic with much more immediate and efficient service.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of high priority with my constituents and the registry is particularly critical at a time when the community and indeed the region is developing. It is growing. The construction industry is alive and well. More and more people are building their own private homes, including government employees, and our government incentives to encourage people to do so and to become long-term residents of the North are working and are to be applauded. But there certainly is a real obstacle to the efficient conducting of business in our community by the inordinate distance and time and trouble that it requires to have to register corporate documents,

land documents and legal documents personally in Yellowknife. Many of my business constituents go to great expense and trouble to do so personally. They actually travel here at great expense in order to see that critical registrations for payment of mortgages and advances are in fact expedited. This is not fair and it is not efficient. I am hoping, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Justice will take the initiative to take a step which I think is recommended from many vantages.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the business of this session. I am confident that we can get on with the job and do our work expeditiously. I am looking forward to getting back to my constituency before Easter and I am also looking forward to presenting the budget of the Department of Education. I might say that there are some measures in that budget with respect to the expansion of colleges in all regions of the NWT which will affect the level of educational services provided in my constituency and I am very pleased about that. I would have been calling for that whether I had been Minister of Education or not. So those matters of providing improved educational services to my constituents and some further alternatives to having to travel far away for post-secondary educational services are also welcomed.

Spousal Assault And Family Violence

I spoke briefly as well about the conferences I had attended on the matter of spousal assault and family violence. I would like to thank the Hon. Red Pedersen and the Hon. Bruce McLaughlin for having taken the time and trouble to come and attend the regional conference held recently in Frobisher Bay on that subject. As I mentioned earlier it was a very worth-while conference. I was extremely impressed with the obvious dedication of the people involved and their determination that these difficult problems cannot be solved by government alone. The government does have a role to play and can help in the provision of facilities and public information, public education and also in making sure that its employees are given the proper training whether they work in Social Services or Health or Education or through the police or the courts, to deal with these problems in a humane and consistent way. But I was impressed that the community representatives including the Aqvik Society in Frobisher Bay know that the real work has to be done by themselves. And I think this is a very good climate for tackling this difficult problem and I am very much looking forward to hearing the Minister for Status of Women and the Minister of Social Services describe ways in which our government, through the budget that we will be presenting at this session, might be able to help those community people to tackle and beat, if you will pardon the pun, beat this problem.

North Pole Expedition

Mr. Speaker, I have been quite gratified at the number of Ministers of this government who have visited my constituency recently -- Mr. Curley and Mr. Wray, who was a little bit frustrated by our weather but had the right intention and I know will be back and will be welcome, and the Commissioner who sponsored a banquet to honour the North Pole expedition which is now mounting in Frobisher Bay ready for the first unsupported assault on the pole this spring. I would like to particularly, Mr. Speaker, acknowledge Mr. Brent Boody who is one of my constituents who will be part of the expedition and has been selected because of his experience with the outdoors and with dog teams and having operated a successful outfitting business in Frobisher Bay which has attracted a lot of tourists and assisted this growing area of economic development in our community. I would like to note as well that there are Canadian dogs being used on this expedition -- Igloodik dogs. Dogs that were donated and provided to the expedition by my constituents. I am also very pleased that they have been welcomed in Frobisher Bay and that they have chosen Frobisher Bay as a suitable training location in preparation for this very important and historic expedition. We are really pleased that this is happening because having the expedition training in Frobisher Bay and having the world media attention on this expedition will, I am confident, persuade many more people of the benefits of taking a visit to Baffin and seeing the beautiful people and the beautiful country there. So I would like to pay particular tribute to the Canadian member of the expedition from my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I have some concerns that I will probably raise in the main estimates through some questions or comments. We are having a real problem in my constituency with delays in getting land leases approved. Sometimes these are very critical when it comes to financing and I am going to be respectfully suggesting that perhaps some improvements might be effected which would speed up the attention given to land lease applications in my constituency. It may be that we should now be once again looking at the possibility of the town of Frobisher Bay taking a much greater role in land administration. I know the Minister of Local Government will be receptive to that.

Secondly, I would like to express some concerns about the difficulties that some of my constituents have had in going through the hoops with respect to Special ARDA and I will save my comments for that at the appropriate time when the main estimates are considered. I know the Minister has taken some efforts to eliminate the red tape but I am still concerned that somehow this important fund is not always benefiting the people who deserve it most.

I would also like to briefly mention that I am going to have a few constructively critical comments about the Department of Public Works. I am concerned generally that in recent years the amount of authority and responsibility that is given to regions to manage public works projects has been eroding and diminishing in favour of Yellowknife. I will have a few comments on that subject when the Public Works estimates come forward.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to thank you for the surprising opportunity to reply...

---Laughter

...at more length than I had anticipated this afternoon. I certainly have great respect for your office and I therefore am pleased to have had an opportunity to speak at a little more length than I had originally planned. I would like to note that I disagree entirely with the suggestion being entertained by the special committee on rules, procedures and privileges that replies to the Commissioner's Address should be limited either to the first eight days or even worse...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...even more frightening, limited to a mere 20 minutes. I feel that especially for Ministers who for obvious reasons lack the same kind of freedom to speak and debate in this Assembly as other Members, this is a very serious erosion of our freedom of speech and, although I know the committee is going to welcome submissions on that subject, I must state here at this time while I am concluding my own reply to the Commissioner's Address which this session is going to be unusually short -- for better or for worse -- I must state my reservations about this particular rule change, although there are other suggestions that I think are positive. So thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to participating in the expeditious resolution of the important business ahead.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. You may have been surprised but you surprised me first so two surprises in one day. I hope that we will avoid this in the future and keep the thing on track. Are there any further Members' replies for today?

I would like to recognize Gerry Antoine, chief of the Fort Simpson Band, in the gallery.

---Applause

And we have with us today the parents of one of our Ministers, Mr. and Mrs: Otto Pedersen from Toronto. Parents of our friend, Red.

---Applause

Item 4, Ministers' statements. Item 5, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 5: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 1-86(1): Appropriation Act, 1986-87

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 14, 1986, I shall move that Bill 1-86(1), An Act Respecting Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1987 be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I would like at this time to recognize the services of Mr. Mickey Akavak who is acting as our Sergeant-at-Arms for this session. Mr. Akavak comes from Lake Harbour which is Mr. Arlooktoo's home community. He has attended school in Frobisher Bay, Pangnirtung and Ottawa and has just completed grade 12 in Yellowknife. I welcome Mr. Akavak as our Sergeant-at-Arms.

---Applause

Item 6, tabling of documents. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 1-86(1), 1985 Annual Report of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 1-86(1): Honorarium For Mayor, Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government. In November the hamlet of Lake Harbour wanted to amend their by-law regarding honorariums for members. They wanted to be able to give an honorarium to their mayor or pay their mayor -- to treat the mayor as an employee of the hamlet and to pay him a salary. We have not heard anything since. I would like to get information on this from the Minister of Local Government as to how they are treating this. We have been waiting for this for quite a long time. The thing that they were trying to get was only directed to the Lake Harbour residents not to any other community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the by-law. In fact it is on my desk in my office. I must admit to having some fairly serious reservations about this. The request is that the community of Lake Harbour pay the mayor a substantial amount of money per year. I think it is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$20,000. This is outside of usual practice. We have communities seven, eight and nine times larger than Lake Harbour that do not do this practice and I question as to whether or not you can justify spending public money on a position where I really have a hard time trying to figure out what they would do for eight hours a day.

I am inclined to give approval to the by-law but only on condition that the money be found within the existing hamlet budget. However, we are reviewing all the present options and I will be advising the community shortly on what our decision is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking the question as notice then and will be giving a further reply. Are there any further oral questions?

Item 8, written questions.

Item 9, returns. No old returnskicking around from the past?

Item 10, petitions.

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, motions.

Item 14, first reading of bills.

Item 15, second reading of bills.

Item 16, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. We have nothing to go into the committee of the whole today.

Item 17, report of committee of the whole. We have not been in committee. Item 18, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m.

ITEM 18: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, February 13th.

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
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 13th.

---ADJOURNMENT

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Publications Clerk, Department of Information,
Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.
\$1.00 per day; \$30.00 for 1st session, \$20.00 for 2nd and 3rd session; or \$50.00 per year
Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Northwest Territories