



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Ms Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Richard.

Point Of Privilege

MR. RICHARD: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to, for the record, correct a report on CBC this morning. It was reported on CBC, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the motion which was defeated by this Assembly yesterday that I would take the matter to court. I want to state for the record, Mr. Speaker, clearly that I was misquoted. I have no intention whatsoever of taking this matter to court. It is my firm belief that this Assembly must solve its own problems.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Stated privately though.

MR. McCALLUM: Take him, gag him.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, my second point of privilege is the remark made by Mr. Curley just now. I have not said it privately. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Richard, you have two points of privilege: one dealing with the news media; the other one, other than the news media.

Orders of the day for Friday, June 13th.

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

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 33-86(1): Lead And Zinc Prices

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to point out to the House recent announcements regarding lead and zinc prices. Zinc prices have risen steadily over the past month or so and I am pleased to tell you that yesterday it was reported that Cominco raised its price to 56.5 cents a pound. This is up substantially from the 42 cents per pound which prevailed last February. I would also like to report that lead prices have risen and that they are now 30 cents per pound. Again, this is up substantially from the recent low of 24 cents per pound.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note this is an encouraging sign. These prices are favourable for the continued operation of Pine Point, Polaris, and Nanisivik mines if they remain at least at this new level. However, the Canadian prices have changed rapidly in both directions over the last year. This recent shift, while encouraging, does not mean we can turn our attention away from the minerals industry. The mining industry employs 2900 men and women in the Northwest Territories. That is 16 per cent of our work force.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that even with this optimistic news, industry is still in a precarious position and many of our mines are close to closing. It is my intention to bring forward proposals later this year to assist the industry as a whole to maintain its place in our economy. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. McLaughlin.

Minister's Statement 34-86(1): Tuberculosis Outbreak In Rae-Edzo Community

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a brief statement regarding the recently reported tuberculosis outbreak in the Rae-Edzo community. Mr. Speaker, as the Members know, tuberculosis was a serious problem in the Northwest Territories until the early 1970s when the number of cases decreased dramatically. In 1985 there were only nine reported cases in the Northwest Territories. This year we have already had eight cases reported. Six of these are in the Rae-Edzo community.

Health and Welfare Canada have advised me that appropriate action is being taken by medical services in Rae-Edzo. On Wednesday, June 11th, the medical team commenced their work including complete contact tracing, tuberculin testing, chest X rays, provision of treatment for the cases and preventive treatment for some of the contacts where required. The epidemiologist recently hired by the GNWT Department of Health is working closely with medical services in the investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I have brought this information to the Members of the Assembly due to the fact that there were many visitors to the community during the recent celebrations connected with the consecration of the new bishop. If the need arises to follow up on any visitors, the appropriate action will be taken through medical services. There is absolutely no cause for alarm. However, I felt Members would appreciate this information. Further information will be passed on when available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 251-86(1): Effect Of Import Duty On Books In Canada

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. It concerns the recent import duty on American books that was imposed by the federal government. In particular the Minister's colleague, Minister Wilson. This, Mr. Speaker, considered retaliatory measure is having an effect already on the Canadian publishing industry. I raise this matter with the Minister because of concerns brought to my attention by a constituent who is an owner of a book store.

As a result of this hasty and foolish action by the federal government, schools and libraries in this country will no longer be able to afford to buy books in Canadian stores or from Canadian suppliers but will buy directly from American suppliers which will do nothing but benefit the American market rather than penalize it. Ironically, Mr. Speaker, I am told in the last six or seven years there has been a very workable free trade in place in the publishing industry in the United States and Canada.

My question, will the Minister agree that this measure is harmful to the Canadian book publishing industry and so advise or take the matter up with his counterpart, the federal Minister of Finance? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 251-86(1): Effect Of Import Duty On Books In Canada

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to take the matter up with the federal Minister of Finance. With regard to whether or not I agree on the federal action, I think is not really relevant at this time. Officials of our government are participating in discussions with their federal and provincial counterparts to examine the problems associated with this whole incipient trade war and following such discussions, if there is some resolution to be returned to this government, I can apprise the Member of those decisions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 252-86(1): Status Of Investigation Of Illegal Kill Of Bison

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I understand that last fall there was some illegal hunting of the bison in the sanctuary and there was an investigation dealing with that particular kill that was done on the highway. I would like to ask the Minister whether there has been any progress, who has been doing it and whether it is still in the courts so there cannot be too much said at this time or whatever?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Pedersen.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not keep these details in my head at all times. I will undertake to look into it and provide the Member with an answer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 253-86(1): Passing Information To Field Service Officers

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government, concerning the field service officers. The FSO are not informed enough by the Executive within the government in the regions and I would like the regional director to keep the FSO informed of any kind of information that should be available to them. Is the reason why they are not given enough information because their responsibilities are being taken away by the Executive?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to refer this question to the Government Leader. The field service officers or government liaison officers work for the Executive branch of the government and do not come under me whatsoever. Perhaps the Government Leader may wish to take notice, I am not sure. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Sibbeston, do you wish to reply to the question?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of that question and provide the Member with a reply, at the latest, on Tuesday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 254-86(1): Employees' Children Play With Machines

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to my colleague here. I think this government should really look into it so that those officers in the settlements would be more careful. Those employees have kids and I have seen kids fooling around with machines. The Xerox machines have been broken often because their kids are playing with them. From now on I think they should be more careful with those machines and telephones, whatever. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not sure whether that was a question but, Mr. Sibbeston, do you wish to reply?

Return To Question 254-86(1): Employees' Children Play With Machines

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will take that as good advice and I will send a memo or directive to the field service officers, requesting them, as the Member suggested, to be very careful and not permit any misuse of government equipment and supplies.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 255-86(1): Possibility Of Government Assistance For Liability Insurance

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. We have been made aware of the difficulties of municipalities getting liability insurance and tourism related industries as well. Mr. Minister, I have a letter from the president of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, which indicates that many other small businesses are feeling the pinch in this respect as well; finding it difficult to get liability insurance or to get it at costs that are acceptable in maintaining the viability of a small business. Could I ask the Minister whether he has become aware of this problem or a larger problem in the Territories for small businesses and if so whether the government has any plans for possibly addressing the matter and providing assistance if possible to these businesses?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 255-86(1): Possibility Of Government Assistance For Liability Insurance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for giving me notice of this question and also a copy of the letter that he referred to a few moments ago.

I am quite sure that the Member and other Members of this House, including the business community of the Northwest Territories, realize that this is an industry-wide problem. It is not only Northwest Territories businesses or the Northwest Territories tourist associations that are impacted by what is a North American-wide problem. In fact, our government, in seeking liability coverage for our own requirements, has experienced an increase of some 800 per cent over the previous year. Yes, we are aware of the problem and we are aware that it affects businesses and governments. We have been in consultation with our insurance broker to see if there is anything that can be done to alleviate the problems being experienced at various levels of activity in the Northwest Territories. We have, as my colleague Mr. Wray mentioned yesterday, been in contact with the Government of Alberta to see whether there may be some joint solution possible, with co-operation and communication between our two jurisdictions. As yet there is no easy solution to this very difficult matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. McCallum.

Question 256-86(1): Status Of Land Freeze In Municipalities

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Local Government. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to the House the status of the land freeze policy in municipalities that is now in effect. I think that the first year is up or is nearing an end. I wonder if the Minister could indicate not only the status, but whether there are any plans to take advantage of the second year of that policy or to extend it. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister considering getting input from various municipalities?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 256-86(1): Status Of Land Freeze In Municipalities

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has received, I guess what you would call an expression of uncertainty from the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities and a number of municipalities on the matter of land selection to and within municipal boundaries. They have also expressed a desire to be involved in the land selection process. Dene/Metis officials have been visiting each community to discuss land identification and selection with their membership in preparation for land selection, and negotiations are scheduled to begin this year. We have had requests from a number of communities for the land freeze to go into place. I do not have that information but I will undertake to provide it for the Member, with the update on which communities have put the land freeze into effect. Our government is also gearing up for negotiations and developing its own criteria for selection. The Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, which really plays a major role in this, and the Department of Local Government are scheduled to meet with officials of the NWT Association of Municipalities on June 21st to discuss municipal concerns and interests in land selection and how the municipalities wish to be involved.

It is anticipated that meetings with municipalities will also occur on an individual basis, prior to the commencement of land selection and negotiations in their respective communities. When actual negotiations begin, these tasks will be away from the main negotiation table at regional or community meetings, where appropriate, and where all negotiators agree, municipal officials will be invited to participate. Both the federal government and the Dene/Metis have said they are willing to involve the municipalities in this matter. However, it is emphasized that the actual process and the criteria for land selection remain to be defined and agreed upon. Once these matters have been agreed upon, an order for a land selection will be established allowing each community notice and time to prepare for the selections.

The Department of Local Government and Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development is defining a negotiation process which includes criteria respecting land selection in and near communities and the involvement of the respective local governments. Our government will consult with the communities before a final position is taken and will ensure that there is time provided for the communities to prepare for any selection meetings that may be required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 257-86(1): Leave For Participation In Sports Events

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for sport and recreation, Mr. Wray. Mr. Speaker, it is concerning a motion that was passed at the recent annual general meeting of the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities in which at this time, they were very positive about the territorial government, in particular its leave policy with respect to employees attending national and international sports competitions, such as the Arctic Winter Games and Canada Games. The association, in this instance, is following the lead of the territorial government in that they adopted a resolution which would encourage the member municipalities to give a similar leave with pay to municipal employees who participate in those kinds of competitions to represent the Northwest Territories. Subsequently, Mr. Speaker, the association wrote to the government. I believe it was addressed to the Government Leader but I understand it found its way to the Department of Local Government. The letter requests the support of the government in promoting this policy by all employers in the public sector in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister indicate to this Assembly whether the government is prepared to do that promotion throughout the public sector sought by the association?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 257-86(1): Leave For Participation In Sports Events

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am most certainly agreeable to lending my moral and political support to that type of initiative. I think it is a good one. As you know though, we cannot direct the hamlets or any municipality to adopt our policies. They must be free to adopt which policies they choose. However, I have no problem in telling municipalities that we support the adoption of such policies but not in a financial way obviously, because it would cost us a lot of money, but I think that we can say that we support it in principle. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 258-86(1): Time Frame For Land Selection

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Local Government and it is a follow-up on the questions that Mr. McCallum raised earlier. Could the Minister indicate that our government is still committed to the time frame of the policy respecting land selection? As I recall it, wherever those going to select lands decided to invoke the freeze they would have up to a year, I believe it was, to make that decision and then there would be a further year from that point once the freeze was invoked. Could the Minister confirm that our government still intends to adhere to that time frame?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.



Return To Question 258-86(1): Time Frame For Land Selection

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that was the policy and at this point in time we see no reason to change that. We are still committed to that timetable, unless of course there was an agreement among all parties concerned that there should be an extension for whatever reason, then obviously we would go along with it. But, no, we are sticking to the original timetable. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. McCallum.

Question 259-86(1): Reconsideration Of Move Re Correctional Centre For Women, Fort Smith

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Social Services who is responsible for corrections. In view of the fact that the government intends to close the NWT Correctional Centre for Women in Fort Smith in October of this year and to then move the inmates, as well as the staff to other places, and since the plans for the construction and design and working drawings of the current expansion and renovations required at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre will not be completed until 1988 or 1989, or ready for occupancy until well into 1988 or possibly even 1989, and since the Yellowknife Correctional Centre is experiencing even greater costs for that expansion and therefore will not be able to get it, can I again ask the Minister if he would reconsider his decision not to move the inmates or the personnel from the NWT Correctional Centre for Women in Fort Smith in October of this year and instead wait until those other facilities are ready and available to handle these people?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 259-86(1): Reconsideration Of Move Re Correctional Centre For Women, Fort Smith

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is the intention of the government to house all of the adult prisoners in the NWT in three facilities as soon as that can possibly be done. If we can move the female prisoners from Fort Smith into the Yellowknife Correctional Centre and not require the bed space in Fort Smith, that is what we are going to do. We also want to move the women prisoners into Yellowknife to accommodate the training of the additional female employees who are being trained to be correctional employees, particularly those in the Baffin, and we will be able to move the female prisoners from the Eastern Arctic over to Frobisher Bay fairly shortly after October. If there is any requirement for a fourth facility we might consider keeping some male offenders at Fort Smith if we have a reason to do so; in other words, if we cannot accommodate all the prisoners in the three larger facilities. It is the intention of the government to only operate three facilities for adult offenders, in October, if we have the bed space to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oral questions, Mr. Erkloo.

Question 260-86(1): Pay Increase For Employees Of Travel Industry Association

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Curley. The BRC met on May 8th, 1986 in Pangnirtung and there was a motion number 18/13 carried. The Baffin Tourism Association's funding has not increased for three years. I wonder if the Minister can tell me what he has done with this to date?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to see the motion before I can do anything about this. I know the Travel Industry Association have always had a lack of funding. They have been informed by my officials but I will have to see the motion before I can answer your question before the end of this session. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. McCallum, supplementary.

Question 261-86(1): Reply To Question 259-86(1)

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I had a supplementary question to the Minister of Social Services. I simply wanted, Mr. Minister, an answer, a simple yes or no answer from the Minister as to whether he would reconsider closing the women's correctional centre in Fort Smith in October of this year

and leaving the personnel, the inmates as well as the correctional officers, there until the facilities were ready in Yellowknife, Frobisher Bay or Hay River. I did not want a pathetic attempt at an intricate answer. A simple yes or no answer would have sufficed. That is all I asked for.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 261-86(1): Reply To Question 259-86(1)

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, no, this government will not consider continuing the operation of the facility in Fort Smith as a female offenders facility but we will possibly keep it open for male offenders if necessary. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 262-86(1): Recreational Facility, Hall Beach

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government, Hon. Gordon Wray. I made a motion for Hall Beach to get a recreation complex. I wonder if the Minister can inform me when Hall Beach will be getting a recreational facility?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 262-86(1): Recreational Facility, Hall Beach

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are looking at completion of design for that facility in fiscal year 1986-87 and construction being started in 1987-88. We are concerned about the lack of a facility there and therefore we have advanced the design and construction of this facility. Hopefully, we can design it in 1986-87 and start construction in 1987-88. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 263-86(1): Government Action On Taxation Of Northern Benefits

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance, and it concerns the issue of the taxation of northern benefits or northern allowances. The Minister and all Members are aware that in February of this year the federal government indicated that it would implement a new regime as of January 1, 1987, following the many, many years of lobbying by northerners on this issue. Although, Mr. Speaker, most northerners who have spoken publicly on the February announcement recognize that the system being proposed is more equitable to all northerners than the current system, there is also widespread agreement that the levels of exemptions in the federal government proposal are seriously inadequate. Can the Minister of Finance indicate to this Assembly whether he or his government has yet communicated any position to the federal government on the February announcement and if not, will the Minister or the government be doing so prior to the new regime being implemented in January? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 263-86(1): Government Action On Taxation Of Northern Benefits

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the Member's second question is, yes. With regard to the statement by the federal Minister of Finance in the November budget there were and are a number of unanswered questions with regard to the application of the new taxation regime on northern allowances. I think Members are aware that this government is consulted by the federal government and that we have good communication with the officials of the Department of Finance who are responsible for advising their Minister with regard to the regulations that will be implemented in the Territories. The two areas obviously under question and examination are those dealing with housing and travel. Officials of the Government of the Northwest Territories will be consulting with many of the same interest groups that we did prior to our meeting with federal officials, and going over with them the particular proposals and suggestions that we may have and at that time listening to their recommendations. So, between now and the fall session, discussions with various elements of the public will have occurred and a position and strategy will be put together for our approach to the federal officials on our expectation of effecting the regime, which the regulations finally approved by the Minister will put in place.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 264-86(1): Ban On Drinking Exposed Water

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I understand that from May 7th to the 21st, after the Chernobyl nuclear accident on April 25th, there was a ban on drinking rain and snow water and there was some publication done through the media and through Health departments. This was a nation-wide ban. I would like to ask the Minister whether the North was made aware of this particular ban and in what form was this awareness implemented?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 264-86(1): Ban On Drinking Exposed Water

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, there was not a nation-wide ban on the consumption of drinking water. There were some areas in southern Canada where the cloud of radio-activity drifted over Canada, basically went along the US border. There were some areas down there where there was higher than normal radio-activity continuing for a period of time in the water but the radio-activity did not reach levels where occasional drinking of that water would be serious. The levels in Canada which are considered safe are the strictest in the world, or one of the most strict in the world. I believe the figure is that if water was consumed, I believe, at approximately two litres of water a day every day for a year at the level, this would give a person an increase of one in one million chances of developing cancer. At no time was there the opportunity for people in the Northwest Territories to be exposed for any considerable length of time. I believe there was one soil test in Hay River and one or two occasions where there were water levels over the minimum level and Canada's minimum is one of the lowest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 264-86(1): Ban On Drinking Exposed Water

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that anything above 10 Becquerels for one litre is considered dangerous and if you are exposed to this particular radiation for anything over 60 days it could cause cancer. There is a table here that Mr. Pedersen did, an average of a number of communities. Of course, when you do an average you take the lowest amount and that is Whitehorse, Resolute, Yellowknife, Inuvik, Coral Harbour and Hay River. However, if you measure it at 10 Becquerels per litre, in Yellowknife it was 66 Becquerels which is about six and a half times higher than normal level.

So, I believe, Mr. Speaker, there is a deliberate attempt by the Canadian government to not bring to the attention of the public the seriousness of this radiation that is occurring. In large populated areas like Calgary or Toronto, where perhaps maybe there is a higher level of radiation per litre the public has not been informed of that. All they say is, "Refrain from drinking rain or snow water for two periods and that should resolve the whole problem." So, I would like to ask the Minister whether it is true that with the public affairs director in Ottawa there has been a breakdown in communications on testing and levels. Is it higher than the normal level or not? I believe there are communities, for example Yellowknife, which had about six and a half times the normal level of Becquerels per litre. The Minister is treating this as if there is no problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Further Return To Question 264-86(1): Ban On Drinking Exposed Water

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are several areas in the Northwest Territories where once the incident was known to the Canadian government that there had been an accident in Russia and that there was radiation going into the air, the federal Minister of Health and Welfare Canada, the Hon. Jake Epp, requested that instead of weekly air and water samples that they be done daily. Normally they are done weekly. As well, samples were taken in various meats in the Northwest Territories, meat that was taken before the accident, and meat that was taken after the accident, to check the radiation levels in that.

So, every precaution was taken by Health and Welfare Canada who have that responsibility in the country and they reported over the media every day. Mr. Epp was on the media almost every day reporting it to each jurisdiction through the emergency measures operation -- up here, run by my colleague, Mr. Butters. As well, my department and Mr. Pedersen's department were given the various statistics that were relevant whenever there was a higher than normal situation. All those matters were made available to the general public from Mr. Epp and the proper warnings were given out by Health and Welfare Canada to those areas affected, which were primarily in southern Canada along the US border where the cloud drifted during the first few days after the incident in Russia. I will, Mr. Speaker, undertake though, to provide to Members the information that was recorded at the several positions in the Northwest Territories where daily samples were taken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 264-86(1): Ban On Exposed Drinking Water

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, since these daily samples have been taken, what type of measures have been taken by this government if there is a higher than normal level of radiation in the atmosphere here in the North. I understand that the clouds did go through the Canada/US border but certainly a lot of it has been brought up this way too. You cannot just measure it through rain clouds, it is in the atmosphere all over. I would like to ask the Minister whether any type of measurement has been taken up here in the North where we have to concern ourselves with the population in our area, as a government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin.

Further Return To Question 264-86(1): Ban On Exposed Drinking Water

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, the normal situation is to monitor air and water samples on a weekly basis and this was stepped up to daily. I believe, I could be corrected but I am about 99.9 per cent sure that there were no increased levels in the atmosphere in the air samples taken in the Northwest Territories. My colleague, Mr. Butters -- the emergency measures organization was the designated agency -- responded on behalf of the Northwest Territories government to make sure that proper measurements were being taken and that if there were any indications that there was a situation anywhere in the Northwest Territories where people's health was threatened, they were to undertake the necessary action. There was not, from any of the samples taken, a situation where there were serious threats to the people of the Northwest Territories.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions.

Item 5, written questions.

Item 6, returns.

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 9, tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motions. Mr. McCallum.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 32-86(1): Women's Correctional Centre At Fort Smith

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, June 17th, I will move, seconded by the Member for Tu Nedhe, that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that it reconsider the closing of the women's correctional centre in October of this year until the facilities and staff are in place at the designated locations of Yellowknife, Hay River and Frobisher Bay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 12, motions. Item 13, first reading of bills.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie your point of order.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I believe we do not have a quorum and cannot conduct the business of the House, Mr. Speaker, but I do know that inveterate smokers are here.

MR. McCALLUM: Oh yes, ready to go.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sergeant-at-Arms, would you ring the bell for 15 minutes, please? We are under Item 13, first reading of bills. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to have permission to go back to Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Request to go back to Item 11, do we have unanimous consent?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is one nay, we will have to continue with Item 13, first reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I have unanimous consent to go to first reading on Bill 17-86(1)?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member is requesting unanimous consent for first reading of Bill 17-86(1). Since the notice was given yesterday, unanimous consent is requested.

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 13-86(1), Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1985-86; Tabled Document 37-86(1), Constitutional and Political Development in the Northwest Territories; Bill 5-86(1), Jury Act; Bill 7-86(1), Official Languages Act; Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bills and Other Matters; Tabled Document 42-86(1), Report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 7-86(1), OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT; BILL 13-86(1), WRITE-OFF OF ASSETS AND DEBTS ACT, 1985-86

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. Mr. Butters, which bills do you want to deal with?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, if the committee might look at Bill 7-86(1) first and then move to conclude Bill 13-86(1), Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1985-86. I believe that that will conclude the business of the House for today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Does the committee agree then that we will deal with Bill 7-86(1) first and then conclude Bill 13-86(1)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will take a 10 minute coffee break.

MR. PUDLUK: I thought there was not supposed to be a coffee break on Friday morning session.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pudluk, this is not a point of order. There are no rules concerning coffee breaks, so as the chairman I am saying that there is a coffee break of 10 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come back to order.

Bill 7-86(1): Official Languages Act

We are dealing with Bill 7-86(1), An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act. Mr. Sibbeston.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of this bill is to amend the Official Languages Act to extend dates for implementation of the French language provisions by three years. The only real changes are just changing the dates in the act and extending them three years. These are the only changes that are before you.

Mr. Chairman, these changes are the result of negotiations with the federal government, particularly Mr. Benoit Bouchard, who is the Minister of State responsible for matters such as this. He has agreed to our government delaying the implementation of French as an official language in the North for three years. When Mr. Bouchard was here in the winter, Members will recall, he signed the agreement providing \$16 million to our government for aboriginal languages. So, the money has been confirmed and is not threatened in any way. Since the wintertime, we have made some progress with respect to some of the French language services that we, as a government, said we would concentrate on. I can detail these if Members want unless Members are satisfied and trust us again.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Comments From Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister noted, the purpose of this bill is to amend the act to extend the dates for implementation of the French language provisions by three years, generally. At the committee meetings the Government Leader explained that this action was taken because the Government of the Northwest Territories was simply not capable of meeting the deadlines prescribed in the Official Languages Act for providing the French translation of official proceedings such as Hansard by the end of the time that was required in the existing legislation.

We were told that, in meeting with the federal Minister responsible for these matters, the Government Leader was assured that the implementation deadline could be moved back for three years and meanwhile also assured that the \$16 million promised to implement the Official Languages Act, particularly in support of aboriginal languages, would be immediately forthcoming or at least instalments on that amount would be immediately forthcoming.

The Government Leader assured Members of the committee that although there was to be a delay in the full implementation of the provisions of the act that three positions were identified and would soon be filled to assist the implementation of French as an official language and that a consultant had been hired to develop over the next couple of months, a long-range plan for the introduction of French as an official language of the Northwest Territories.

At one point a committee Member had requested clarification from the Government Leader with regard to the holding of various public meetings once the provisions were put into effect. The question essentially was, whenever there are public meetings around the Territories would French translators be required? The Government Leader's response implied that the answer to that specific question was, no, they would not be, but he did state that all official proceedings of government including legislation, journals and publications will have to be translated, printed and published in French by 1989. At one point, as chairman, I noted that the decision to seek a delay in the implementation of French as an official language was contrary to the will of the Legislative Assembly which had voted for the implementation...

MR. RICHARD: Shame!

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...of the Official Languages Act. Therefore, it was a serious matter. The Government Leader however indicated that because of the government's inability to meet the deadline that he had taken it upon himself to make the decision, along with the approval of the Executive Council, to delay the implementation of the Official Languages Act and in doing that he felt that he had the support of most Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Leader assured the committee though that once the long-range plan for the implementation of French as an official language was completed and approved by the Executive Council, it would be made available to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public. Perhaps I might ask the Government Leader to tell the House a little bit about what is happening in that regard, the consultant's report, and when might we begin to see the implementation of some services in French? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Sibbeston.

Recent Developments Toward Implementation Of Act.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, since last winter there has been a number of developments. I will just refer to them in turn. With regard to the consultant with respect to the long-range plan for the implementation of English and French bilingualism in the Territories, Mr. Michel Bastarache has been contracted to do this work and he is being paid for this work by the Secretary of State and I am aware that he has been in the North and has begun the work. My understanding is that his report will be completed in the next couple of months and when his work is completed and we have dealt with it we will undoubtedly publicize either the report itself or the general provisions of the report.

With respect to the work in the area of Justice and interpretation or translation of laws, the officials of the Secretary of State have reached agreement with our Department of Justice on the process involved in the translation of back-logged legislation and regulations. This work will be handled under contract to the Secretary of State and is scheduled to be put out to tenders in the very near future. With respect to a person to work with the Department of Culture and Communications, the federal Secretary of State has identified a candidate to serve on a secondment as a French-English project officer working within our government. Discussions are now taking place in respect to accommodation and office space requirements. It is expected that this position will be established by the end of July.

With respect to a French interpreter-translator position, agreement has been reached for the provision of the necessary funds to establish a French interpreter-translator position within the Department of Culture and Communications. This position will be brought on as soon as the necessary office space requirements can be made. Those are the developments that have occurred in this area since we last dealt with the subject in the winter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. The committee would like to recognize in the gallery Mr. Randy Rivers' grade eight class from St. Pat's school.

---Applause

Are there any general comments on Bill 7-86(1)? Mr. Richard.

Leader's Actions Contrary To Consensus Government

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the comment I would like to make is concerning the process under which the will of the Legislature was reversed or subverted. In late 1985, the media reported that the Government Leader had travelled to Ottawa and it was announced that this legislation would be put back three years. I was contacted by members of the Francophone community who were upset that the Government Leader would do so without consultation with the representatives of the Francophone community. Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, as a Member of this Assembly I was equally or more upset that I had not been consulted. This Assembly met in 1984, I believe it was, admittedly prior to my entrance into the Assembly, but the elected representatives of the people met and passed a law which had deadlines in it and we still have, some say, consensus government in these Territories. Consensus government means that we are all consulted, we all participate in decisions and the independent action of the Government Leader, I expect with the support of his eight colleagues on the Executive Council, was contrary to the wishes of the

Legislative Assembly expressed in an act passed in 1984. I happen to have a number of Francophones resident in my constituency. It is not an academic matter. I should have been consulted as to whether or not I wanted the Leader of our government to go to Ottawa and espouse things contrary to the will of the Legislative Assembly. I am appalled that that would happen without consultation.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: What is your alternative?

MR. RICHARD: Party politics, Mr. Curley, is my alternative.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: You cannot have it now.

MR. RICHARD: A little more logic to it, but so long as we have consensus government, Mr. Chairman, I expect the Leader of the consensus government to adhere to the principles of consensus government and follow the dictates of the majority of the Assembly.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

MR. McCALLUM: Amen.

MR. RICHARD: I can appreciate with the explanation now given of the inability of the government to meet the deadlines in the legislation -- probably brought on by the inaction of the government in carrying out the will of the Assembly two years ago -- we are now at a stage where I can see that, practically speaking, it is necessary to put back some of these deadlines. But, Mr. Chairman, I would ask for an explanation from the Government Leader as to why last year he not only not consulted with the Francophone community before travelling to Ottawa, he said in an introductory remark that this is as a result of negotiations with the Government of Canada. My understanding, sir, is that the Government Leader travelled to Ottawa and announced to Ottawa that his government was not going to follow the deadlines set out in the act passed by the Assembly. I would ask for an explanation from the Government Leader for that conduct. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I will just say with respect to the matter of consultation that I think it is a matter of interpretation whether there was a consultation or not. I did meet with who I thought were representatives of the French Cultural Association. I had a meeting in my office with members of the French Cultural Association and I learned afterwards that they held the view that this was not really official consultation because it was after hours and because I did not have any of my officials there with me. That is the word that I got back as to that meeting. So, I really did feel that I consulted with the French Cultural Association in advance of my trip to Ottawa.

With respect to what the Member said as to subverting the actions of the Assembly in having passed legislation a number of years ago, all I can say to that is that there were some changes in the government and in the leadership of the government last fall and one can expect with changes that there, perhaps, are different approaches, different...

MR. RICHARD: We did not change the act last fall, just the Leader.

#### Legislation Passed Under Pressure

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I appreciate that but the matter of this whole language act, as you know, is a matter that came upon us a number of years ago. We were under a great deal of pressure from the federal government to pass this legislation. We were, I think anyway, pressured very heavily by the federal government to do this because their threat was that if we did not do it they were going to do it in Ottawa for us. So, the government at the time was under great pressure to pass the act that we did then. The Members who dealt with the legislation then felt that inasmuch as the provisions in it, particularly the fact that the aboriginal languages were not made as official as French, the fact that French and English were given much more prominence than the aboriginal languages, Members felt that this could be a first step. Whereas many Members indicated at that time that they were not happy with many of the provisions, they could accept it on an interim basis and that would serve as a first step toward the whole matter of eventually recognizing aboriginal languages as official in the North and the scheduling at the time seemed reasonable to the people. Two or three years ahead does seem as enough time but through time and under the action of the then government, not much was done with respect to the implementation and getting ready for the things that had to be done to bring French in as an official language.



So, when I became involved as Leader then, I was apprized of the situation and did feel that the time left -- which was just really to the end of this year -- was not really sufficient time to do all that was necessary to implement French in the North. So, that is the reason that we decided, as an Executive, for me to go to Ottawa and approach the federal government about the possibility of delaying the implementation for three years. I must say that in dealing with the Conservative government we found them very liberal and very helpful. So, the result is that the federal government did agree to the changes and I am aware, and I do believe, that the actions we took have the support of most of the Members of the Assembly.

AN HON. MEMBER: All the Liberals.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: All the good Liberals.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Could we have some order in the House? General comments. Mr. Richard.

Consultation With Francophone Community

MR. RICHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, in all seriousness I do not accept the Leader's explanation for taking steps contrary to the wishes of this Assembly. However, on the narrower issue of consultation with the Francophone community, with all due respect, sir, I would like to quote the first paragraph of the Government Leader's letter to the president of the French Cultural Association, dated January 10th of this year on the issue of prior consultation. The Leader is saying today that he met with them. I beg to differ. The letter commences: "Dear Mr. Denault, I would like to clarify the government's position on the introduction of French as an official language in the Northwest Territories. It is unfortunate that we were unable to meet prior to my trip to Ottawa but, as you recall, I was forced to cancel our initial meeting on December 9th and you were unable to come to the rescheduled meeting the following day. I was pleased to finally meet with you on December 19th to keep you informed of the government's intentions." That was after the fact. So, there was not prior consultation, Mr. Chairman, and I wish to record my disagreement with the Government Leader's conduct in that regard last December.

The other matter, Mr. Chairman, that the Government Leader referred to is that it became impractical to adhere to the date set out in the 1984 legislation. As Mr. Sibbeston stated in his letter to Mr. Denault, "The time limits placed on the government to provide translation of legislation and other Legislative Assembly documents have proved to be impractical."

Mr. Chairman, that begs the question: Following the passing of the legislation in 1984 what steps did the government take, if any, to implement that legislation? Was the government, in other words, from May of 1984 to December of 1986 ignoring the will of the Legislative Assembly by its inactivity and inaction? I would ask the Leader for a response to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the first thing I must do is I must apologize. The Member has indicated and referred to a letter that I had written -- that is the correct version of the events that occurred, particularly with respect to the meeting. So, I apologize for not recalling specifically when we met.

I must have been thinking about the fact that there was an attempt to have a meeting with the French Cultural Association and that attempt failed and I eventually did meet with them but it was done at night and I recall there being some comments made about that, that that was really not an official meeting because it was at night and I really did not have any officials with me. So, I apologize for that and the Member is correct in the chronology of the meetings that were held.

With respect to the actions, I guess non-actions, that were taken by the government immediately after the passing of the legislation, I find it difficult to comment on that because I was not responsible for dealing with the language issue then. The Leader, Mr. Nerysoo, was responsible and in his absence, not being fully apprized of how he had handled the matter in this regard, I am not able to comment.

MR. RICHARD: You were on the Executive Council all that time.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, I was on the Executive Council and I was generally aware of matters but I do not have specific knowledge as to what actions were taken and if you feel they have not been taken, why they have not been taken. I guess I can comment and provide my own personal view of things but I prefer not to. I really think it is a matter that Mr. Nerysoo would best be able to answer. Unfortunately he is not here today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Richard.

#### Failure To Implement Previous Legislation

MR. RICHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, this is one of the dilemmas of this form of government we have; that Mr. Sibbeston is able to point over to an empty chair across the way and say it was not me, but him. That was only a few months ago. I would ask if the Government Leader -- I am prepared to listen to his personal view as to why that did not happen. I suspect the reason that it did not happen is that the Executive Council took a positive decision that they would not implement the decision of this Assembly in May 1984. That is my suspicion and I would ask that it be confirmed or denied by the Government Leader who was on the Executive Council at the time; the Government Leader who throughout that time was very concerned about aboriginal languages and language issues in these Territories. Mr. Chairman, if it takes another day for him to consult with his former colleague on the Executive Council, the former Government Leader, to get a combined official response to that, then I would like a response at some subsequent date next week, as to why this government did not take any steps to implement legislation passed by this Assembly in May of 1984.

I have a concern and I am taking up my time and other Members' time this week -- John T'Seleie's time -- on other legislation and I have to wonder, if we pass this act or another act, are the Executive Council going to carry out the will of this Assembly? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Sibbeston, would you like to respond?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: The Member suggests that we spend some time to go back over history and find out why things happened the way they did. As I said, I find it difficult to do so because I was not in charge of the implementation of the language up to October. The Member suggests that there was a conscious decision made to not implement the details of the legislation. I can tell you that I am not aware of there ever being any active resistance to implementation that is required. But in cases where a certain Minister is responsible for a matter, the initiative must come from that Minister. As I said, Mr. Nerysoo is the person that ought to answer why things did not advance as you think they should have. So I am in your hands as to whether you want to take more time and hope that Mr. Nerysoo does come into the Assembly in the next few days and perhaps he can explain his point of view in this matter.

I just urge the Members to not spend too much time on this matter and that we proceed with dealing clause by clause and deal with the matter to its conclusion today. The things that Mr. Richard is raising are history, it is the past and we are coming forward as a government and saying that we can do these things, we have started some things. All of these things that were mentioned today have started since I became the Leader and responsible for this matter. So I have indicated to Members what we are doing, we are beginning, we will soon be providing some services in the French language on various fronts and a long-term study has been started. So there is some action that has started. I am very hopeful that we can deal with these amendments today and get it concluded and get on with other business.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. MacQuarrie.

#### Commitment To Meet New Deadlines

MR. MacQUARRIE: To deal with the future then and with a matter that the present Government Leader can answer for. We have representatives of the French Cultural Association in the gallery. Would the Minister indicate, for their benefit, a firm commitment to adhering to the new dates that we are including in this legislation and that he has resolved to ensure that when the final date noted in the present bill arrives, the provision of services and the status of the language that we are enacting here, in his opinion, will be fully implemented?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: My answer is, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mahsi cho. (Translation) We are now talking about languages. They really do not care about our feelings and they seem to be thinking a lot more about the French language than the aboriginal languages. It is not only now that they have done things like this to us. The federal government seems to think that they can come to our land at any time and tell us what we have to do or what they want us to do. Sometimes we do not like what they do to us and they really do not consider our feelings on things like this. We are sitting in the House here and talking about this one issue for so long and they have been talking about making French an official language. There are not that many French people and just because they have come here from other parts they seem to think that they should make the French language official before the aboriginal languages. I have travelled in the South, I have travelled in the French part of Canada and there are a lot of places where there is not even English spoken. I am sure the native people cannot just go into the French country and say "We want to make our language the official language." I am sure they would try to get rid of us so fast.

The native people who do not speak English cannot really relate to the other English-speaking people because they do not understand. People coming from the South try to spoil things for us over here. They are not going to be on this land forever. A lot of times people have done that to us in our country. They sit here and us native people who are sitting here have to support each other, we have to think of ourselves and our children and our grandchildren yet to come. We have to all support one another. The French people if they do not like it, they should return to wherever it was that they came from. We have to do what is best for our people. They have come to our land and exploited our land. We have to do the best for us and our native people. I think there is too much talk about making French the official language. Now they want it right away, but if it is going to be delayed for three years, there really is not much we can do about it now. I am not the only one sitting here, not the only native person here. I think we should all support each other and that is all I want to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Mr. Sibbeston, would you like to respond?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I really did not see that there was any question. It was simply a statement. But it is nice to hear some words of encouragement and support for the actions that we are taking as a government.

I think too often we tend to be sidetracked and certainly the news reports in the North tend to concentrate on statements made by one or two persons which give the general impression that all of government action is being challenged and that we as a government are making wrong decisions, as a result of statements made by one or two people. So it is encouraging to hear that obviously at least one other person supports the action that we are taking here...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MR. RICHARD: I would have liked to have had support yesterday.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Negative.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say that this is not the first time that the federal government imposed any of these programs on us. As far as I am concerned I am wasting my time as well. I have to go into my constituency this afternoon and if we put the deadline on this and we are not able to meet it, then okay. I would rather see that we take our time and do a good job of it and put the deadline for further ahead. I do not see where we have to waste any more time on this. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Mr. MacQuarrie.

#### Commitment To Agreement Made With Canada

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It should be clear that although the federal government indicated an intention at one point to pass an act with respect to making French an official language in the NWT, that did not occur. Rather we are dealing with a measure and a commitment

that was freely undertaken by the Legislative Assembly of the NWT. And if we are dealing with the French portion of the commitment today, that certainly does not mean that we are dealing with it to the exclusion or to the detriment of furthering aboriginal languages in the NWT. There is a major paper right now before this House dealing with aboriginal languages, which we intend to deal with fully and thoroughly when it arises. If it has not arisen before this bill, that is not the fault of us Members. The government has determined the order of its business and I believe we will be dealing with it early next week.

I would like to remind Members that the task force report on aboriginal languages was funded by money which resulted from this freely negotiated agreement between our government and the Government of Canada, because our Assembly had indicated that it was willing to make French an official language in the NWT. Because of that, the federal government agreed to provide a handsome sum of \$16 million to help in the furtherance of the development and use of aboriginal languages in the NWT. In fact the federal government has begun already to deliver on that commitment to the funds that were used in order to establish a task force on aboriginal languages.

So what I am saying is we have a commitment of honour to implement the French language in the NWT and to implement it sincerely. So hopefully, without any further aggravation or dissent, we should sincerely follow up on that commitment because this is the bill that is before us now, and do the same when we return to the matter of aboriginal languages in the coming week.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. General comments. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I find that this is very important to me. I am one of the aboriginal people and I find this is very important. Mr. MacQuarrie was saying that we should not defer this any more. I think the French language is not the only language in the NWT. There are native languages too. I think it would be better if we implement this bill without any more delays. If one language has to be delayed, I think they should all come at the same time. We have been saying that we would like the language and our old traditional culture to be taught to our young people and we have agreed that we would recognize the aboriginal language. If we are going to defer this, I do not think it would help our people. I just wanted to mention that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to refer to the Government Leader's remarks about not getting enough support for proposals or propositions that the government puts forward. That is the issue that I think is being raised. It is not the issue of the language. The issue is whether the government's decisions are good decisions. I am not here to agree with everything that government does or proposes, what it proposes, when it proposes, and when the propositions are to take effect. Members opposite, to a person, took a similar situation when they sat in this House. When government does well you will get the kudos. When I, and others, have a different feeling or opinion about what government does, then obviously I will take you, or others will take you, to task. That is what it is about. We, as an Assembly, made a decision based on what you asked us to do as a government. Nothing was done in the interim. That is the issue that I see.

Just because we ask questions on decisions of the government, on policy and/or the law, does not mean that we are against them. What we are doing is trying to get the best government in the arena that we have. I appreciate that under our system we are given the opportunity -- not like other governments or jurisdictions -- to look at legislation, to propose changes before it comes into the House, to look at the financial bills of this government before they come into the House. But to say that we do not always give you the proper applause or appreciation of what you are doing, is not right. On numerous occasions we have. Because there are two or three of us who want to ask questions at different times, that is no different from what the Government Leader and his cohort to his right did when they were on this side. No different from any one of the Members that are now on the Executive, when they were taking up a different role. That is the particular role that we have.

#### Language Is Not The Issue In Dispute

I have no difficulty with what the government is proposing. I want to know why, and why there was no action in between. That is the issue. We are not against the aboriginal languages or anything else, but it is the business of the government not looking at where government is going as a whole. They have all kinds of examples of that occurring. And that is the difficulty that we

have. Not with what is in here. You proposed something to us and then we would come back and you ask us to support it. That is the only comment that I would want to make, Mr. Chairman, on this whole issue. It is not the issue of the language, it is the issue of the coming into effect of legislation when government asks us to approve that implementation date and then we do. There are going to be instances where you want us to go back retroactively and we will question why again. To me that is what the issue is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to what Pauloosie Paniloo just mentioned, I just want him to be clear about the aboriginal languages. The government proposal is going to go ahead, and it will be supported. The official language report is going to be talked about next week. It has to be supported and there has to be more funding. The money that the government just mentioned -- the money was given by the Canadian government and I just want to clarify for you that the French language -- if it was implemented -- if the French language was going to be used in all the government documents, we found out later on, we did not have enough time to transfer the French interpreters from Ottawa. So that is why we had to defer it for three years. While we are waiting for the French employees, we have to defer implementation of this bill for three years because we would have had to use the French language in the Assembly. If we are going to start this next year, it would be a little bit too early. We have to defer it for three years in order to plan. The Inuit and Dene languages will be an ongoing thing although this has been deferred. (Translation ends)

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to get involved with the way in which the government handled the issue. Any language issue is a very emotional issue and I think that if I were to try to justify whether or not the government made the right decision, I am really taking part in compounding the problem -- taking part in trying to ensure that the various minority groups and the French community in the Northwest Territories are really trying to co-operate.

The Executive Council had a tough decision to make on this and my colleague, Mr. Dennis Patterson, who has the largest number of members of the Francophone community, expressed eloquently the concerns of his constituency. He did not try to compound the fact that -- he did not use it just to be pleasing in the public eye. He did bring the concerns of the people in his community and he assured the government that he did communicate with them about their concerns. But what I want to do is to state this: Sure, we were faced with this problem. I was not in favour when Mr. Munro came, and as you will recall -- my friend, Nick Sibbeston, will always remember it -- he came in one Sunday afternoon and imposed upon us that the official languages in the Northwest Territories were now to be English and French. That was a very difficult situation at that time.

#### Efforts To Accommodate Minority Languages

Since then, I think the federal government has been very wise in trying to accommodate that the minority language, the Inuit language or the Dene language, be given the same opportunity that the French language has been given by Canadian society in developing and giving support. We may be 100 years behind in developing our language but we are getting there. I am satisfied that there was a broad public involvement with the Inuit language and Dene language being discussed publicly to allow comments and contributions from the public and I thought it was a very useful exercise and welcomed by many members of the population of the Northwest Territories.

I just want to caution some Members. If we try to indicate to the government that what we are doing is wrong and that we have not done a decent job or that we have been insensitive in the way in which we handled the issue, I would disagree totally because if I attempt to make it a political issue what we are going to experience in my view, is a situation like what is happening in Manitoba. That is one thing I think we should agree that we are going to try and avoid. From now on we will communicate, we will meet with the Francophone community, the Inuit and Dene people, to try and ensure that we at least agree to the timetable. I think the North does not require any other divisive issue. We have practical ones and I do not want to contribute any further. So I would want to ensure now that all the Members of the House support this proposed amendment. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Curley. The Chair would like to recognize a representative of the Inuvialuit Development Corporation, Roger Gruben and the vice-president, Leslie Carpenter.

---Applause

Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Government Leader, since the Executive Council and the Government Leader seem to be in control of this, whether what the ordinary Members are saying is effective regarding this language issue. It seems to be controlled by the Government Leader. I would like to ask, could you clarify for me what the problem is concerning the language issue because I have heard that the government had to prepare for the move. I want to ask the Government Leader what the problem of the delay is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I inherited the matter of dealing with the languages in my new job as Government Leader and began dealing with the matter in a real true way. For one, if we did make the changes by the end of 1986, French and English would become official and we would have to begin printing all the papers, even our Assembly reports, in the French language by one year after that, in early 1987. It became obvious to me that we could not meet that deadline. There was a lot of work to be done and we simply could not do it. We did not have anybody on staff to do the work.

When I realized that, I began working on it. Maybe it was my mistake in my enthusiasm to do the work and not consult the Members of the Assembly. As an Executive Council we decided that we would ask Ottawa to delay the implementation of the French for three years to give us more time. So, I went to Ottawa and met with the federal Ministers and they agreed. After that, in the winter session, I announced this and gave more information about it and we met the Minister, Benoit Bouchard, who signed the agreement for the \$16 million and generally agreed with us that we could move French back three years. So that is what I did and I did it knowing that what I did would likely get the support of the majority of the Legislative Assembly Members. So, I apologize for not keeping Members more informed but I did really believe that I was doing the right thing and to this day I do believe that I did the right thing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, just as a final comment, Mr. Chairman. I should have made clear that after discussion in the standing committee on legislation, the committee agreed to support this bill and recommend it to committee of the whole as it is without amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. General comments. Are there any further general comments? The committee agrees then that we go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Bill 7-86(1), clause 1, status of previous legislation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2, idem. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4, coming into force. Agreed? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, on clause 4, coming into force, is it going to be December 31st, 1989?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is the date when the provisions in the act where French and English become official languages of the North will come into effect in 1989, December 31st, 1989. Until that time French is not recognized as an official language in the North but on that date French and English will be the official languages of the North.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: I have a little confusion with Tabled Document 42-86(1), Report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages. Are we looking at the French language first, then aboriginal languages?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sibbeston.

Official Status To Be Requested For Aboriginal Languages

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am glad he has raised that point. At the moment in our legislation aboriginal languages are not official languages, they are not recognized on the same basis as French and English and I have proposed, I have said publicly that during the life of this Assembly I would like to come back to the Assembly to change our act so that the aboriginal languages are also official, just like French and English. What I am saying is that we would like this much change for the time being, putting French back three years, and in the next year and a half I will come back to the Assembly, particularly after we have passed and dealt with the task force report on aboriginal languages. Once we have done that we would like, as a government, to come to you to recognize aboriginal languages as official languages like French and English and also the ways that that can be implemented. I do feel as yet there is a shortcoming in the act the way it is now but we will come back and before we are finished in the next year and a half, hopefully we can have an official languages act that recognizes aboriginal languages as official languages of the North on the same status and basis as French and English.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Yes, this is for the record. It seems to me that the Government of Canada is pushing us too much. They cannot even recognize aboriginal languages, which are our official languages in our Government of the Northwest Territories and should also be recognized by the federal government. I think we have been treated as a second class of human beings in Canada. I just want to say that for the record. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Clause 4, coming into force. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 7-86(1) is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 13-86(1), Write-Off Of Assets And Debts Act, 1985-86

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will now go to Bill 13-86(1). I believe there were some questions that were directed to Mr. Butters concerning Bill 13-86(1) and the schedule. Mr. Butters, do you have the information required for this bill?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I believe material has been presented to Members of the standing committee on finance relative to these six items for write-off. However, if there are additional questions relative to that information possibly we could answer them at this time, Mr. Curley and myself, since the six items relate to departments for which we have responsibility. While I have the microphone I would just like to respond to a question raised by Mr. Richard when this item came up some three days ago with regard to the responsibility for the oversight in not requesting a rebate of the Quebec sales tax on petroleum products purchased some time ago. I had indicated that this purchase had occurred before the Department of Government Services had been formed and therefore the records of that date are very sketchy. However, the item I think has been on the books almost eight years or a considerable amount of time and both of the individuals who were responsible for petroleum products of that day and age are no longer with the government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. I understand that the information was provided to the finance committee. However, I believe the committee here in this House has requested that information too. I think that is where it is at right now. Can you provide the information for the committee?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I thought that it had been circulated but you are saying it is not in Members' hands, then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I understand that the information is in the hands of the committee. Thanks. Do we have any questions on Bill 13-86(1)? We are on the schedule of debts written off. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, just with the information that the Minister has provided us with and dealing with the \$38,000, the third item. It indicates in the last sentence that the write-off would bring the Government of the NWT account down from about \$125,000 to \$87,000 and that matches the co-op records. Could the Minister indicate to me, is this \$87,000 in arrears and if so, when will it be paid or will it be paid?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: My understanding is that it does reflect an obligation owing this government. When it will be paid, or how it will be paid, I do not have the information but I might be able to have that available before we conclude discussion of this particular item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Richard.

Write-Off Of Loan To Blanchette And Hughes

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I had a question I would ask of the Minister or the other Minister of loans, Mr. Curley. The third item on the schedule, the write-off of a loan to Blanchette and Hughes.

There is some information that is circulated about this loan, but I would require more explanation. It appears that it dates back to a loan in 1973, that the terms of repayment were changed in 1980, but that still does not explain to me why the Department of Economic Development is recommending that this loan be forgiven at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Minister.



HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Apparently the loan board at that time had made certain commitments and decisions with respect to that loan. I do not know what amount of information you have with you, but as far as my information is concerned, the business was established in 1974 and in March of 1980, the loan board recommended, because of the loan difficulties at that time, because it was in such a state and because of the amount of interest and principal that had been accumulated, that Mr. Blanchette be allowed to repay \$325 a month, from March, 1980, through August, 1984. These were the conditions of the loan board at that time, stipulated through the loan, which is independent from my exercise to cover the interest that had been accumulated. And they agreed, apparently, at that time, that if he can meet these obligations up to 1984, the board then would be prepared to forgive the remainder of the principal. So that is what we are faced with now, implementing what was recommended in 1980, long before I ever got involved with the government. The loan board at that time was structured pretty much differently. It is a legal obligation that the loan board at that time committed itself to for that particular account. Therefore I believe we are charged with the remainder of the \$23,385 as an item that should be written off by the government. I do not know what information you have. I have a few items with me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Pudluk.

Canadian Arctic Producers Debt.

MR. PUDLUK: On item one, Canadian Arctic Producers Limited. What are they? What do they do to help the people of the North?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again another whole lot of series of arts and crafts in the past. I think everyone is aware of how Canadian Arctic Producers used to operate, buying products from co-operatives and communities. In some cases these items were sent to Canadian Arctic Producers on consignment and if they did sell it, the co-ops were to receive a certain amount of a percentage. In some cases it worked. But as far as the government enterprises are concerned, there were a number of craft shops that the government operated, for instance Pangnirtung, Pelly Bay, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake and some other places, and over the years that the government shipped products to them, the government was never paid for these products and CAP has not been able to sell these inventories. So what we are faced with again is quite a large inventory which has never been dealt with. So that is the information that I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What percentage of marketing are we looking at from Pangnirtung and the other places?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer that question. This \$103,000 in outstanding accounts receivable is something that the government has used to purchase these items from producers. They bought them from ordinary people and Canadian Arctic Producers were to try and sell them away back in 1973. So these are not new products at all. These were there long ago but the government was never paid by CAP but they are still in the books. As far as the percentage from each community, it is a concern I cannot reply to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: It seems to me that is the first time I got that information. I do not think we should write off these debts from the government if we are not going to get the information about the percentage. Earlier he said that it has been bought by CAP from the co-op and now he is saying they bought them from ordinary people. Are we buying from the co-op or the people themselves?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Items Bought By Government Not Sold

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, these items were bought by the government. For instance Frobisher Bay is one of the enterprises that was buying products from producers, Inuit people. The Inuit people have been paid for their work by the government. When we operate a craft shop, which we used to -- there used to be piles of them throughout the North -- we would buy the product from the producers, Inuit people, and then the government enterprises would ship all of these to Ottawa and hope that the Canadian Arctic Producers would sell these artifacts for us. But that has not been the case. These are really old collections from away back that CAP just is not going to sell. They are what you probably could call junk. But they have always been on the books of the government. In some cases the records or transactions are not clear. So it is not my fault the quality of crafts is not good enough, these are all of our constituents' problems. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is their problem. Not ours. I think all of those products came from Baker Lake, 100 per cent from Baker Lake. I think the management was poor and they should not have bought them in the first place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. I do not know if that is a question or not. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, concerning Canadian Arctic Producers, I understand that the government purchased some items which were unsold, wall hangings. The government has indicated that they are to write off \$103,000. What happened to the inventory that was actually unsold? Where are they now? If there is going to be a write-off because certainly a credit note does not really work now. Especially if you have to go back to straighten out your books for three or four years. What happened to the invoices of the all the arts and crafts that were actually not sold, to the tune of \$110,000, I believe?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not all that clear what the question was but I think at the moment what happened is Canadian Arctic Producers, when they existed at that time -- I am not sure what has happened to these products. Now they are still in our books. As far as our books are concerned, \$103,000 is still in the government books as receivables for these items that the government had sold from various arts and crafts shops in the North. As far as these products are concerned, they may be in Winnipeg now, with Arctic Co-ops Limited, because they have now amalgamated. Canadian Arctic Producers has pretty much closed down since then. So, our reports are that some of the records as to which items have been sold are hard to get at but the government has never been paid for the items that it sold to Canadian Arctic Producers. I cannot comment really. I do not have the present knowledge exactly as to what is the state of these crafts. If they are still there in the warehouse in Winnipeg, I do not think their value is very much any more. I cannot really satisfy you with my answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Richard.

Blanchette And Hughes Repayment Schedule Changed

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I still do not have a satisfactory explanation of item three. The Minister has indicated that the board that existed back in 1980 sat down and changed the agreed repayment schedule. Mr. Blanchette and Mr. Hughes were to pay so many dollars per month, from 1980 to 1984, and then the balance outstanding at that time was to be forgiven by the government, or by the loan board. I want to know why. If the man borrowed the money -- do the minutes of the board back in 1980 not show why they would forgive a loan? The only other information the Minister has given us is that even that repayment schedule was not followed up on. That begs the question why. Why wasn't it?

Essentially, from the beginning why did someone from the board decide that Mr. Blanchette and Mr. Hughes were not to repay their loan? I think we are entitled to that explanation. This write-off is not like others. The government tells us all the time when we do these write-offs that it does not mean that the debtor is not liable to the government but in this case the note to the briefing note says that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism are recommending that we forgive this loan and I would like to know why. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to be able to tell the Member exactly what the situation at that time was all about but I was not there in 1980 and I was not their Minister. I was not the Minister responsible for Economic Development. The bureaucrats can tell us the loan board made a legal obligation as a board and those legal obligations were then signed by the Minister. The minutes are normally signed by the Minister and in turn, passed to the Commissioner for approval, who at that time, under the Financial Administration Act and so on, had the final authority to rubber stamp and make it signed, sealed and delivered. And that was done. The refinancing proposal was presented to them because of the fact that the man would have gone bankrupt. The loan board, rather than incurring complete loss, made an arrangement to arrange a repayment schedule. They agreed that this gentleman was only able to carry \$325 a month for two and a half years and the loan board let him stick to the commitment. They recommended that the balance be written off. It was an obligation and therefore the terms and conditions of the loan board set out in 1980 have been met. As a result, we are faced with executing that decision up to 1984 and at that time he was able to complete it. What is happening is that the gentleman, I believe, is still in business but could not expand because of the situation and unless we deal with it he is not going to be able to expand his business, which is the case. As to the decision that was made at that time by the board, that is something that I have only been able to deal with through my colleagues on the FMB, who dealt with the matter. As you know it is a legal obligation and I am sure you face these every day, with your clients, and I am sure he was legally represented as to what his obligations were. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Richard.

Motion To Defer Consideration Of Bill 13-86(1)

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I, in no disrespect to the Minister, I know some Ministers are sensitive to criticism -- I am not criticizing the Minister but I cannot accept, even with changes in Ministers, that the minutes of the board meetings from as recently as 1980 do not document why a loan is being forgiven and until that information is available I, for one, cannot in conscience vote on whether we should write off this debt or not. I do not know why we are being asked to write this off and I move, Mr. Chairman, if my motion is in order, that we defer consideration of this bill until further information is provided.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Your motion is in order. Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, prior to the vote being taken -- whatever it is, I can provide the Member with all the legal information but, again, we are going to have to deal with the issue that is before us, which is whether or not you want all the written legal decisions as they were made. If you want to abide by the law of the Business Loans and Guarantees Act that is guiding the department and the loan board, you are not going to be able to get all the information because there is a provision that says that you cannot; except with the consent of the participants, certain information cannot be released. We will do anything possible to try to rectify that but I want you to be fair, not only with me but with the business arrangement that was there at that time. Mr. Blanchette had a partner early when he started the company which was a bakery, I believe. His partner since then, Mr. Hughes, prior to 1980 disappeared from Frobisher Bay. So, he has not been able to convince his partner to assume his share of responsibility and that was the one factor that the loan board was faced with. They have not been able to locate him. The department searched everywhere to try to locate the man because he had had a legal obligation with the government and the loan board. I cannot provide you with that information at this time. I am going to have to refer to my colleague, Mr. Butters, who is the expert on the House business, whether or not your request can be met by the government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Defer Consideration Of Bill 13-86(1), Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion raise your hands. Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We will defer this Bill 13-86(1). Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I realize this question has been asked on a couple of occasions but I would like a reclarification that when any of the write-offs, which occur periodically in the territorial government accounts, I would like a confirmation that in writing off these debts that the people who are responsible do not -- it is their legal obligation to pay -- that the rules of the government do not exonerate them from that debt, that that debt is still on the books and they are still legally obliged to pay. I just wanted a reclarification of that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. There was a motion to defer the bill. What is the wish of the committee now? I am sorry we cannot discuss this particular bill right now. We have already deferred it. Can we have order please? What is the wish of the committee now?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, if the committee permits I could answer Ms Cournoyea's question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Even though, sir, write-off action is agreed to by...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We dealt with the motion and the motion was voted on. The only way we can go back to that is if we get unanimous consent.

MR. RICHARD: Back to what?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Go back to what Ms Cournoyea was asking. Do I have unanimous consent then?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: In response to Ms Cournoyea's...

MR. PUDLUK: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Point of order, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Does that mean we are going to deal with that Bill 13-86(1) again, after that motion? It seems to me that when we come back to that question and answer, we will go all over again and to hell with that motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, responding to Ms Cournoyea's question, even though the Assembly gives the government permission to write off a particular account that obligation remains on the government's books and collection action will proceed if the opportunity presents itself to further such action.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): What is the wish of the committee now?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Point of order, Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, my point of order is that I know we have concluded the vote but I do not think there was a decision to totally throw away the process. What I want to ask is what amount of information, we have been dealing with one item on the -- not the first item but a number of items in the schedule. Am I being asked to provide more information on all of them or on one?

Bill 13-86(1), Deferred

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I am sorry we have already voted on Bill 13-86(1). Now we have no more bills to deal with today. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) I do not think we have any order in the House, so I would like to adjourn. I would like to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): All those in favour raise your hands. Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will report progress.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, hold it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Okay, try again, I thought there were four. Okay, all those in favour of the motion raise your hands. One, two, three, four, five, six. Opposed. One, two, three, four. The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will report progress.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 7-86(1), OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT; BILL 13-86(1), WRITE-OFF OF ASSETS AND DEBTS ACT, 1985-86

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 13-86(1), 5-86(1) and 7-86(1); Tabled Documents 37-86(1) and 42-86(1); the Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bills and Other Matters, and wishes to report progress.

Mr. Speaker, your committee wishes to report that Bill 7-86(1) is now ready for third reading.

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. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, orders of the day please. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I want to tell the House that I have had the laugh of the week regarding the editorial in News/North today. The editorial seems to be mixed up and has a difficult time recognizing a strong elected leader as opposed to an appointed Commissioner of former years. So I have had my laugh of the week, truly.

AN HON. MEMBER: What does it say?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: You will have to read it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a joint meeting of the standing committees on finance and legislation this afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

ITEM 18: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, for Monday, June 16th at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer

2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Oral Questions
5. Written Questions
6. Returns
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 13-86(1); Tabled Document 37-86(1); Bill 5-86(1); Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bills and Other Matters; Tabled Document 42-86(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Third Reading of Bills
18. Orders of the Day

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, June 16th, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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