



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1986

| | <u>PAGE</u> |
|--|-------------|
| Prayer | 230 |
| Ministers' Statements | |
| - 10-86(2) Policy Initiatives, NWT Housing Corporation | 230 |
| Members' Statements | |
| - Mr. Richard on Party Politics | 231 |
| - Mr. Gargan on Fire in Fort Providence | 232 |
| Returns to Oral Questions | 232 |
| Oral Questions | 233 |
| Written Questions | 235 |
| Returns to Written Questions | 235 |
| Tabling of Documents | 239 |
| Second Reading of Bills | |
| - Bill 6-86(2) Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1985-86 | 240 |
| Consideration in Committee of the Whole of: | |
| - Bill 6-86(2) Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1985-86 | 240 |
| Report of Committee of the Whole of: | |
| - Bill 6-86(2) Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1985-86 | 245 |
| Orders of the Day | 245 |

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Ms Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Friday, October 24th. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 10-86(2): Policy Initiatives, NWT Housing Corporation

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to advise the Members of two policy initiatives I have asked the Housing Corporation to pursue.

The first is the private home repair and improvement program, PHRIP. This is a new program being introduced as a pilot project. This program is in direct response to an urgent need identified by the special committee on housing. Eligible home-owners will now be able to upgrade their residences to meet current structural, electrical, plumbing or health and safety standards. A degree of flexibility has been retained in the program in order to address the variety of requirements found across the NWT. By supporting existing home-owners with such a program, it is expected that it will reduce the ever increasing demands for new social housing, thereby representing potential cost savings to the GNWT.

As a pilot project it will be subject to a review process to ensure that we have a truly appropriate program to deliver to eligible home-owners across the NWT in the years to come.

Regarding the second policy initiative, Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the Members that I have asked the NWT Housing Corporation to undertake a review of the legislation governing condominiums. Now that the federal legislation has been passed, the amended Condominium Validation Act, there is a need to make sure that the significant experience gained in southern Canada with condominiums is considered and that our legislation is current and supportive of condominium development.

Condominiums offer an alternative form of housing, particularly where a private market exists. There is current interest in condominiums in the NWT and I wish to ensure that our legislation is supportive of any housing initiatives undertaken by private developers. Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to keep the Members informed of the results of the review and to identify the need for policy and legislative change when the report is available.

Mr. Speaker, as this House was made aware at the last session, some developers have experienced difficulty in obtaining CMHC approval to underwrite loans for condominium projects. I have had several discussions with the Ministers responsible for CMHC and with the chairman of CMHC.

Although we have yet to resolve the situation, we are endeavouring to explain to them the difference in our situation, with the hope that we may ultimately gain their support for northern condominium construction.

Another aspect of condominium development was recently raised by Mr. Richard concerning granting of title. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise, as Minister of Justice, that since the federal Land Titles Act was amended to validate the Northwest Territories Condominium Act, the NWT has been in a position to issue title to a condominium corporation. To date, only one filing per title has occurred under the Condominium Act. This filing occurred last week and is being processed in the normal course of events. No holdups or difficulties are anticipated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Item 2, Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude this item for today. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Party Politics

MR. RICHARD: Qujannamiik. Mr. Speaker, many constituents of Yellowknife South are in favour of party politics and are prepared to campaign for and support party candidates of whatever stripe...

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame!

MR. RICHARD: ...at the next territorial election in 1987.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Big mistake.

MR. RICHARD: Last night yet another meeting was held at a private home in Yellowknife to discuss the possibility of running candidates in the 1987 territorial election; candidates representing the Liberal Party of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, in attendance at the meeting were Liberals from many regions of the Northwest Territories...

AN HON. MEMBER: How many?

MR. RICHARD: ...including MLAs from east and west, north and south.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: South?

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, of those in attendance at the meeting it was the consensus, excuse the expression, that the time has indeed come for the introduction of party politics in territorial elections...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: That is at your peril.

MR. RICHARD: ...and steps are being taken to run Liberal candidates in the 1987 election.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: You'll be sorry.

---Laughter

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, last night's group will become known as "Club '86."

---Applause

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: How about the "northern party"?

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, this is yet one more...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Headline in the fall, "Club '86 clubbed to death with election."

---Laughter

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, this is yet one more step in the progress of the people of the Northwest Territories toward fully responsible government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Fire In Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to make this last week but I did not, so I will just make this statement that on Sunday, October 12, 1986, in Fort Providence, there was a fire on a housing project that the Hay River Reserve has contracted to do through the tendering process. Circumstances, Mr. Speaker, are that at about 1:30 a.m. Sunday morning the siren sounded. This also occurred the previous night. Due to the quick response of the local fire department, including yours truly and fire chief Sonny Jenkins, the local fire department was able to react within five minutes of the siren and was able to address the fire, which caused limited damage. This quick and timely reaction has saved this government "X" number of dollars on a major capital project. My compliments go to these people. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that we have a brand new fire truck and perhaps that was another factor.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Members' statements. The proposal was complete in that far corner, I see. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 069-86(2): NWT Issues Within Free Trade Talks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, this is a return to a question asked by Ms Cournoyea on October 22nd, 1986 regarding free trade negotiations. She asked what matters had been brought forward on behalf of the Northwest Territories to be dealt with in the free trade negotiation process. The NWT has participated at the officials level in the free trade talks that have been going on for the last year. As well, the North is represented on the sectoral committee on fur and apparels by the deputy minister of Renewable Resources. The NWT, like a number of provinces, has not tabled a formal position on free trade. The Executive Council will be considering the adoption of a formal position shortly.

However, trade issues have been raised in a number of forums. I, myself, at the First Ministers' Conference last November raised the issue of barriers to trade within Canada and the difficulty this created for a number of northern businesses. At the premiers' conference in August in Edmonton, I mentioned several specific trade concerns of the GNWT, including the threats posed by the increased duties on softwood lumber and the proposed US duties on zinc and other base metals.

Recently a paper was submitted to the sectoral committee on fur and apparels, dealing with free trade and the renewable resource economy. Further papers, on marine mammals and on environmental issues as they relate to free trade, will also be submitted to the committee. This approach has allowed us to use the free trade negotiations as a forum to lobby for the removal of US barriers to the import of marine mammal products, including sealskin products and crafts made of bone and ivory.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 078-86(2): Indian Remissions Regulation

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Return to Question 078-86(2), asked by Mr. Gargan on October 22nd, 1986, with regard to remissions order for Indian people living on reserves.

Under the federal Indian Act, status Indians living on reserves are exempt from paying taxes. As a result, we have passed a regulation, under the Financial Administration Act, to remit NWT taxes on income earned on a reserve. As a result of that regulation: 1) All status Indians are exempt from income tax on income earned on the Hay River Reserve. 2) Status Indians who have paid tax on income earned on the Hay River Reserve can have that tax reimbursed upon application to Revenue Canada at its district office in Edmonton, Alberta. 3) Persons working on the Hay River Reserve who are not status Indians are subject to taxation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Pedersen.

Further Return To Question 062-86(2): Advertising In South

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question 062-86(2), asked by Mr. McCallum on October 22nd, in regard to hiring of southern applicants.

Since the advent of the affirmative action policy on February 18th, 1985, there have been 65 southern hires in that year and 119 to September 30th, 1986. Although we have only approved 114 requests in 1986 for southern recruitment, one request is often for more than one vacancy and there are a limited number of professional fields which are exempted from the southern recruitment rule; these are engineers, architects, instructors for the Iqaluit and Thebacha campuses. We will not approve requests for southern recruitment for positions below pay range 25, which is \$34,230 on the present pay scale, unless the position is specialized or technical in nature.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Pedersen.

Return To Question 079-86(2): Informing Employees From The South On Affirmative Action

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to Question 079-86(2), asked by Mr. MacQuarrie on October 22nd, regarding southern applicants under the affirmative action policy.

Not all southern hires are specifically and explicitly informed before they are hired that there is an affirmative action policy in place or that their career development could be curtailed by the policy. They are, however, always informed of the cross-cultural setting that they will be expected to work in and questioned carefully regarding their capabilities to work in such an environment. If they are expected to have a trainee in that area or if specific areas within their parameters are targeted for native employment, they are informed of the policy and its effect.

Because of careful consideration given to requests for southern recruitment, only positions that are essential to the delivery of a government program, senior management positions and those that are specialized or technical in nature are approved. With the limited availability of native applicants qualified in these areas, at the present time, it will be some time before their career development is affected by such a policy. I would like to thank the honourable Member for bringing this to our attention and I can assure you that in the future all staffing personnel will ensure that all southern hires are well-informed of our affirmative action policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. That appears to conclude this item today. Item 5, oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Erklou.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 089-86(2): Funding For Home-Ownership Assistance Programs

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of the Housing Corporation. When they were travelling from Frobisher Bay to Clyde River, he mentioned about having some kind of funding, two separate fundings for home-ownership programs. He mentioned that there was hardly any funding available for this purpose. Can you clarify that, please?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 089-86(2): Funding For Home-Ownership Assistance Programs

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I brought it up in the House in response to a number of questions. We have had major problems with getting labour funding and we have a proposal in front of the federal government right now. Last year we got money from two different sources; from STEP, the subsidized term employment program, and also from Indian/Inuit community human resources strategy funding. What happened is that in the Baffin, the selection committee made up of representatives from across the Baffin, decided that housing was not going to be a major priority. So the Baffin did not get as much money for labour as other areas of the Northwest Territories. But this points out the problem. What we are trying to do is come up with a more consistent way of funding HAP labour in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 090-86(2): Responsibilities Of HAP Clients

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Housing and it is again with regard to HAP clients who are building this year. I would like to ask the Minister if it is the responsibility of the clients themselves or the corporation to provide plumbing and electrical work on these units.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the corporation is responsible for the electrical, the client for plumbing. But I will get the details on that and get back to the Member during this sitting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 091-86(2): Geographic Restrictions On Job Applications

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Minister responsible for Personnel. I had supplied the Minister with a couple of territorial government employment ads from Nunatsiaq News, the one indicating that the job was open for Frobisher Bay, and the other indicating that the job was open for Baffin only. Could I ask the Minister to explain what is the government's approach to limiting the geographic area in which job applications apply?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 091-86(2): Geographic Restrictions On Job Applications

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Member for giving me prior notice of the question. The Personnel policy and procedures manual allows for management decisions to be made with regard to the area of competition that the advertisements will be placed in. The decision to open a competition to a particular community and region only, is based on the limited availability of housing and the likelihood of qualified candidates being readily available in that area for these particular competitions. The purpose, Mr. Speaker, is of course to advance the policy of local hire into local positions.

I would agree with the Member that there are better ways to do this than wording the ads as they are in the samples that he has supplied me with. We could look at, as we have in the past, putting a requirement in for the ability to have fluency in the appropriate aboriginal language and we could also mention, as we also have in fact, whether housing is available for the specific position. I think we will plan in the future to solve our local hire policy in that manner. Thank you.

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

Question 092-86(2): Response To Tabled Document 16-86(2)

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I had tabled Tabled Document 16-86(2), concerning housing in Cape Dorset. Would you be able to respond during this session?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 092-86(2): Response To Tabled Document 16-86(2)

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I will give that undertaking to have a response this session, yes.

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

Question 093-86(2): Tabling Of Local Government Legislation

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. He is not present at this time but it could be taken as notice. In the Baffin Region the community leaders would like to get some information on the Municipal

Act. It has been about 10 years since they reviewed this act and this was mentioned. They would like to review the Municipal Act first before it goes into effect. When are you going to be giving this Municipal Act to the public? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will take aspects of the question that I cannot answer, as notice, but I do know the Minister intends to table all the acts associated with municipal government -- settlements, hamlets and other governments -- at this session, for discussion at the winter session. So the material should be in the Members' hands before this session concludes.

I would just like to indicate that the honourable Minister is accompanying the Member for Tu Nedhe to the south of the lake where Mrs. Lawrence will be officially opening the Little Buffalo River bridge.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, you are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Question 094-86(2): Response To Question 053-86(2)

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Government Leader could respond to the oral question I raised in regard to senior management leaving their posts and entering into private enterprise in less than a year.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Member for not having made a response yet and I undertake to provide it on Monday.

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

Question 095-86(2): Construction Of Community Gym, Hay River Reserve

MR. GARGAN: I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance or perhaps the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. There is moneys allocated this year for the design and planning of a community gym on the Hay River Reserve. I would like to ask the Minister, does this in fact mean that the construction of this community gym would start next summer?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I am not personally familiar with the program or the schedule for that particular capital. I will take the question as notice and provide the detailed answer that the Member wishes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W15-86(2): October And December Polar Bear Seasons

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a written question to the Minister of Renewable Resources on which communities in the Baffin Region have their polar bear season in October and December. Would the Minister clarify which communities have October and which communities have December? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Written questions. That appears to conclude this item. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Question W10-86(2): Nunasi Corporation

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to Question W10-86(2), asked by Mr. MacQuarrie on October 22nd, 1986.

At a meeting held in Frobisher Bay in May 1986, the business loans fund advisory board expressed their concern regarding the number of refinancing loan applications being received. The board agreed to the following guidelines: a) refinancing applications would be limited to a maximum of \$200,000; b) all refinancing applications are to be reanalysed by headquarters; c) conditions of a refinancing loan should be more stringent; d) the assistance provided must be based on the future viability of the company and not simply provide a delay to a possible and probable bankruptcy.

In reponse to Mr. MacQuarrie's second question: The conditions put forward by the GNWT to Nunasi Corporation regarding the assistance to be provided were: a) that an experienced business person with an excellent track record be named general manager of Nunasi Corporation; b) that the appointed general manager be authorized to direct Nunasi's day-to-day activities in a businesslike manner.

In response to his third question: The financial assistance to be made available to Nunasi Corporation will consist of an accountable contribution in the amount of \$110,000 under the financial assistance to business policy. No management assistance will be provided per se except that a member of the department will sit on the provisional advisory committee which is made up of five members; one each from GNWT, DIAND, CIBC, Nunasi and TFN. The role of the committee will be "to monitor the short-term action plan and to assist in an advisory capacity, in the development and implementation of the long-term plan".

In response to question four: This question can be interpreted to imply ministerial interference in the decision-making associated with the Nunasi assistance package. There were no deviations to normal procedures for evaluating the Nunasi support package. To be more specific, I did not personally intervene or attempt to cause any abnormal treatment of the application.

The request for assistance in fact came from DIAND, Ottawa, to the deputy minister requesting attendance at a meeting which was to be held in Ottawa in August with representatives from Nunasi Corporation, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The request was a normal one. The first meeting was attended by the chief of business development and subsequent meetings were attended by the manager, training and special projects. The proposed request for assistance went through the normal decision-making channels; from manager of training and special projects to chief of business development, to deputy minister and then to the Minister. The assistance decision was based solely on the merits of the case. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to written questions. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question W8-86(2): Funding For Women's Group, Sanikiluaq

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question W8-86(2), asked by Mr. Appaqaq on October 21st, 1986 concerning funding for a women's group in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that, as a direct result of the community's request, the adult education centre in Sanikiluaq is presently offering an evening course in traditional sewing. The first class was held October 21st, with seven people attending. I would suggest that the women's group approach the community education council if they wish to expand the program to allow more people to participate or to have the program run during the day. The council is funded for projects of this kind, and they will review the request and advise the women's group whether funding can be located. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk, have you any written questions on file?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Return to Question W5-86(2) has been filed.

Return To Question W5-86(2): Draft Policy On Housing

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Return to Question W5-86(2), asked by Ms Cournoyea on October 20th, 1986 regarding the draft policy on housing.

I tabled Tabled Document 78-86(1), entitled "Northwest Territories Housing Corporation 1987-88 to 1991-92 Capital Plan", in this Assembly on June 25th, 1986. This document outlined extensively the community planning process and global allocation that the corporation has followed this year. It also contained all of the summary information from the housing needs surveys and the five year planned housing allocation to communities.

This document has formed the basis for community housing planning throughout this summer and fall. Consultation with communities has been undertaken and individual planning strategies have been developed by each community. The process has worked very well for the first time around. Most communities participated actively and expressed their interest in the process. The entire plan will be reviewed by each community, each year, starting with the update of the needs surveys and any necessary adjustments to the plan caused by changes in need. The community will then review their strategy and make any changes they feel are required in terms of program mix. I will be pleased to make another copy of this document available to the Member and discuss the process and the individual community plans with her.

The proposal made to Indian and Northern Affairs for HAP labour funding has not yet been approved but discussions are continuing. Along with the various bands and other native organizations, the corporation co-ordinated applications for HAP labour funding under the Indian community human resources strategy program, ICHRS. HAP clients received a total of \$720,059 in ICHRS funding for labour assistance. The corporation was also able to secure the subsidized term employment program, STEP, budget through the Department of Economic Development. This funding totalled \$420,000 and was used exclusively for HAP labour. In total, \$1,140,059 has been made available for HAP labour in 1986. I brought the problem of HAP labour funding to the attention of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs during his recent northern tour and am actively pursuing this issue with him. I plan to be in Ottawa in mid November and intend to raise the issue with him at that time. It is clear to me that unless a source of labour funding is secured, there will be continued difficulty with advancing the home-ownership assistance program.

MR. SPEAKER: This appears to conclude returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Presentation Of Western Constitutional Forum Report

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to report to the House on an update of the work of the Western Constitutional Forum. I would like to take the opportunity to provide the House with a report on progress and the activities of the Constitutional Alliance of the Northwest Territories.

As Members know, I am the vice-chairman of the Western Constitutional Forum, an organization that is charged with the responsibilities of developing a new constitution for a western territory and of negotiating, with the other members of the Alliance, a boundary for division. The WCF has made considerable progress in the area of constitutional development. A great deal of research has been done, and we have held at least one public meeting in every western community, with the exception of the Deh Cho region, in order to solicit the opinions of all residents on constitutional development and division. The WCF has also held a series of internal constitutional working sessions, as we call them, during which we have considered a number of approaches, principles and a model for a new western government.

I am pleased to say that in a general way all members of the WCF are now operating within the same ball park when we are talking about constitutional development. We have tentatively agreed to a single set of general principles in order to flesh out, in much greater detail, how those principles might be concretely expressed in a new government. Naturally, there are going to be differences of opinion on how and to what extent each principle should be expressed, and it is quite possible that some of our tentative principles will be altered or replaced in the process.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, my point of order has to do with the fact that, as far as I can understand the rules, chairmen of the committees of this Legislature are supposed to make reports to the House. But in this case, I am not sure whether or not the WCF is actually a standing committee of the Legislature. Therefore, I am just asking for clarification whether just a Member of the committee, who is not actually the chairman of the WCF, should be making a statement to the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley, you have raised an interesting point. However, by way of precedent, this has been the reporting format for our representative who was appointed by this House to sit on this committee. It is really the only place that we have reports of this nature and where they could be made, other than tabling, by way of formal motion, or something of this nature. So, inasmuch as we have allowed this matter in the past, I think that we will allow this one today and then review the matter by the Management and Services Board and the rules committee and see whether or not they are in agreement. By way of precedent, we have allowed committees of this nature to report under this item. Point of order, Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware that a report was tabled at the Alliance for Members to peruse before it was tabled or reported at this session. I am just wondering whether this report was passed to other members of the Alliance.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, certainly, I do not know. However, inasmuch as we have allowed this in the past, Mr. MacQuarrie, you may continue. Possibly you may answer Ms Cournoyea's question if you have an answer.

MR. RICHARD: Has a little more...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could say that this is a report of the Western Constitutional Forum, not of the whole Alliance, and therefore other members of the Western Constitutional Forum have approved that I...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

Rules Have Been Changed

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have another point of order. Inasmuch as the rules have just recently been changed to be very specific, to be very clear from the previous practice, where it was quite normal then to have a report from any members of the committees or members of the agents of the government -- the rules are now quite clear that, unless it is firmly stated clearly that the House formally approves, by formal motion, we are not to entertain third party statements in the House. So therefore, I think the rule should not be, at the moment, changed, in view of the fact that we are operating under the new rule, unlike previous practices we have had. The reason I say that, Mr. Speaker, is that, really, the chairman of the WCF should be making a statement if the Legislature agrees. On this occasion, I am tempted to move a motion that he table the report for Members' pleasure.

MR. SPEAKER: On a point of order you cannot make a motion, Mr. Curley. I will take a recess and have a look at this new rule for a few moments.

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

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, with respect to the point that has been raised. This Assembly has mandated the Alliance and the two forums to carry on certain work. These organizations must have a means of reporting back to the Assembly. They are, in effect, committees of the Assembly for that purpose. So I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to consider that when you are making your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We will recess for five minutes while we look at the rules and call it a break for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: I will call the House back to order. It is my ruling that Rule 92, the rule in question, has not been changed in substance. Therefore, the Chair is required to fall back on previous rulings and past practices with regard to the matter that has been raised in this context. Our records show that when this matter had been previously challenged, the decision of the Chair was that the report could be given with unanimous consent of the House. There has been no material change in the rule. It is my ruling that precedent shall prevail and that Mr. MacQuarrie can proceed to give his report after he has unanimous consent. Failing unanimous consent, Mr. MacQuarrie, you could provide the House with a report under the tabling of documents and moving it into committee of the whole.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Why don't you just table it, Bob?

MR. RICHARD: I would like to hear him, he is a real good speaker...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie, would you like to seek unanimous consent to proceed with your report?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Indeed, I would, Mr. Speaker.

Consent Denied For Presentation Of Western Constitutional Forum Report

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested by Mr. MacQuarrie to proceed with this report.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Nay? I have a nay.

MR. McCALLUM: How many do you need?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Who is a nay?

MR. SPEAKER: Just one.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Right here.

MR. SPEAKER: Reports of standing and special committees. It is interesting to know that the same request by Nunuvut was given unanimous consent by the House.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We are real reasonable people.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

---Laughter

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: ...stuffed in their ear but I want to hear the other side.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table three documents, but they could be considered to be a package, Tabled Document 19-86(2). The first is COPE Principles on Regional Government, which were presented to the NCF constitutional conference in Coppermine, in September, 1985. The second is The Principles Regarding Regional Government Which the WCF is Offering to the Inuvialuit, dated October 24th, 1986. The third is The General Principles the WCF is Committed to Addressing in its Constitutional Proposal. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table my report but there are a few handwritten references that I will have to incorporate into the body and I will do that on Monday, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The interesting part.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Tabling of documents. Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document, Tabled Document 20-86(2), Baffin Regional Council's motion from a meeting in Frobisher Bay on September 30th, concerning the question that was raised by my colleague, Mr. Paniloo, on the Municipal Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Tabling of documents. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 21-86(2), Annual Contracts Report, 1985-86 Fiscal Year, NWT Housing Corporation. Of 99.8 per cent of all supplier contracts, 74 per cent of all contracts were won by firms registered under the business incentive policy. Thank you. I snuck that in. Thank you, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 14, motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. Bill 6-86(2), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1985-86. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 6-86(2): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1985-86

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that Bill 6-86(2), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1986, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to make supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. To the principle of the bill. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 6-86(2) has had second reading.

Second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 6-86(2), with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

ITEM 17: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 6-86(2), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 5, 1985-86

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Bill 6-86(2). Mr. Butters.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, although by procedure I could have moved second reading of Bill 7-86(2) and Bill 9-86(2), I did not do so since the standing committee on finance has not concluded its discussion of both those bills and I believe that might be continued today. If that is so, I will move second reading of those bills on Monday and expect to conclude them at that time.

With regard to the bill before us, Bill 6-86(2), it is the supplementary appropriation for our government, No. 5, for the year 1985-86. It requests Legislative Assembly approval for \$1,289,000 of additional appropriation authority to defray the expenses of the government for 1985-86. The majority of this amount has arisen from adjustments to our 1985-86 accounts that were recommended by the Auditor General during his annual review. The final results for 1985-86 have now been calculated and I can inform you that the government should post a surplus for 1985-86 of approximately \$22 million. Most of this surplus was caused by late revisions to our revenues and grants payments. Fuller details will be provided to the House when the 1985-86 accounts are finalized and tabled during the winter session. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks. I believe that the deputy chairman of the standing committee on finance would have some comments on this bill.

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

Comments From Standing Committee On Finance

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the absence of the chairman, Mr. Nerysoo, I would like to read his report into the record.

The standing committee on finance had the opportunity to review Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1985-86, on Wednesday, October 22nd. As the introduction to the bill states, this is necessary because, "It appears...from the estimates accompanying the message from the Commissioner, that the amounts set out in the schedule to this act are required to defray the expenses of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986." The government is seeking authority from this House to increase the 1985-86 appropriation in the amount of \$1,289,000. I would point out to the Members of this House that we carefully did not say that the government is seeking authority to increase spending in this amount. It was brought to the attention of the government by committee Members that we, as a Legislature, have no options in this matter. These funds have been spent -- we cannot stop that, or influence that, or control it.

What became the concern of the committee was the effect these extra expenditures had on the surplus from last year and how that surplus affected this year's projected deficit. The committee was given the assurance of government that there is, in fact, a substantial surplus and that it will carry over effectively into this current year.

Another concern of the committee was that we are being asked periodically to approve supplementary estimates for expenditures and do not have the benefit of revised estimates of revenues. The committee asked if the government could provide revised forecasts and was told that the information is available but not collated into an easily understood format. It was agreed that the Financial Management Secretariat could work with committee staff, through the chairman, to provide this information from time to time, certainly at the time that new expenditure funding is being requested.

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs

In our review by department, Mr. Chairman, the first department was Municipal and Community Affairs. I would expect that the new name of this department would be reflected the next time we have bills, because it is not reflected in the one that we have before us. It is still called the Department of Local Government.

Mr. Wray, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, required \$32,000 to establish an allowance for doubtful accounts from which a debenture, No. 9, from the town of Pine Point, might be written off. The committee asked if the government anticipated a similar situation with the several other outstanding debentures in a community faced with serious financial difficulties if the mine were to close. The response was that every effort was being made to prevent that from happening but that the bottom line was that if the mine failed, the government would undoubtedly be faced with a major write-off. It was stressed that this is not expected and that each debenture, when due, is being assessed under the present status of the town and not by unknown future variables.

Mr. Wray was also asked about the need for \$666,000 to recognize a liability to the NWT Housing Corporation. It was explained to the committee that this money was loaned by the corporation from CMHC, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, to develop land assembly lots which we own or administer. It was felt that, as a result, the GNWT should carry the liability and not the Housing Corporation.

Department Of Social Services

In the area of Social Services, the Minister, Mr. McLaughlin, requires \$323,000 for overexpenditures in the young offenders program. He explained to the committee that the overrun was substantially higher but most of this was covered with internal departmental surpluses. The problem is, apparently, that the department has no control on the number of youths being sent into custody under this program and that estimates have proven too difficult for better accuracy than is presently being experienced.

The Department of Social Services is also seeking \$268,000 for financial assistance services, due to what it terms non-controllable expenditures in social assistance payments. These increases are due to increased caseloads and compounded by lower incomes and downturns in the economy.

After its review, Mr. Chairman, the committee agreed to recommend that the bill receive third reading. Thank you.

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

Further Remarks From The Minister

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I neglected to inform the committee that when we get to the detail of the bill, the two Ministers responsible for the departments included in the supp will be answering specific questions of Members. I just have one comment on the deputy chairman's report with regard to the government not providing an amended fiscal framework. He may have misunderstood me when I responded to him; I did not feel that it was too complicated. I agree with the committee that an amended fiscal framework should have been provided to you, and it was not done. We omitted to do that. It is not because we thought it was too complicated for us to do or for Members to understand. We will ensure that such amended framework is in the committee's hands in future. I regret that that did not occur at this time.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, as Mr. McCallum has indicated, this bill is simply a formality and the Financial Administration Act provides that this appropriation is deemed to be made whether we agree with it or not. These were moneys that were spent in the last financial year, as opposed to moneys that will be spent following our approval. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister would entertain a motion to amend line 26 so that it would read that the money "has been expended", rather than that it "may be expended". I ask the Minister if he would entertain that, Mr. Chairman, partially with tongue in cheek. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Butters, would you like to respond to the question?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, that seems to be a very reasonable suggestion, in view of the fact that the money has been expended. However, I am at a disadvantage with my honourable colleague in that I do not have the benefit of a legal education and background and I am not just sure what implications might stem from that change. So, I would like to have an opportunity to discuss this with the government's legal counsel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Richard. Order, please. Order, please! Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I will not ask the Minister to seriously consider it further. I was simply making a point and not seriously proposing a change. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. General comments. Is the committee agreed to go into budget detail at this time? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Local Government

Municipal Affairs, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Department of Local Government, operations and maintenance, Municipal Affairs, \$32,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Land, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Department of Local Government, capital, land, \$666,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Social Services

Family And Children's Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Department of Social Services, operations and maintenance, family and children's services, \$323,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Financial Assistance Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Financial assistance services, \$268,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total department, \$591,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Now we go to Bill 6-86(2). Clause 2, application. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Clause 3, supplementary appropriation for 1985-86. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Clause 4, purpose of expenditures. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Clause 5, lapse of appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Clause 6, accounting. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Clause 7, commencement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Schedule. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, \$623,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total capital, \$666,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total appropriated, \$1,289,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Clause 1, short title. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 6-86(2) is ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. That concludes matters in the committee of the whole. I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 6-86(2), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 5, 1985-86.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 6-86(2), and wishes to report this bill is 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.

MR. 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. SPEAKER: Announcements and orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance immediately after adjournment today. The meeting of the standing committee on legislation is at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon.

There will be a meeting of the special committee on rules, procedures and privileges at 9:30 a.m. on Monday morning.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Orders of the day for Monday, October 27th, at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills

16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, October 27th, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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