



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

9th Session

10th Assembly

HANSARD  
Official Report  
DAY 6

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1987

Pages 184 to 215

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 18th.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Discussion Of Location Of Capital For Nunavut

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to be talking about my concern under this item, as it cannot come under questions to the Ministers. I guess I may ask this question to the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. Today we heard over the news that if we get Nunavut, some people are saying where the capital of Nunavut will be or is not going to be. Hearing that over the news at the present time, I do not think is helping us any. I realize that the public can say whatever they want to say at any time, but I feel that when some leaders in Eastern Arctic talking about where the capital is going to be in the Nunavut territory, it is a very major concern to our people. Our people will have a lot of worries and they might misunderstand it, that this is the wish and decision of the Legislative Assembly. We should not be concerned about this at the present time. The reason I am saying this is that some people are already concerned about where the boundary is going to be. And on top of that if we are going to talk about where the capital is going to be or where it is not going to be, it may do more harm to us than good. For example, I have heard some leader saying that Iqaluit is not going to be the capital, it could very well turn out that residents of Iqaluit may no longer want anything to do with the boundary. I just want to make sure that people in the North know that the Legislative Assembly at the present time is not talking about where the capital is to be.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arlooktoo.

Member's Statement On Liquor Plebiscites

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to talk about my concern. It has been experienced by a lot of people in the communities already. Some of the communities held a plebiscite to prohibit liquor in their community and after they hold a plebiscite there is no liquor allowed in these communities. After that is done and a community is prohibited from having liquor there have been a lot of laws broken because of people bringing in liquor. Several communities cannot prohibit liquor for a long time; they have to hold a plebiscite after a while. If they do hold another plebiscite and the majority of the people want it, they could get liquor into those communities that were dry. Since that has been done for quite some years now it has been a problem. I have seen some problems with communities that have had a plebiscite to ban liquor in

their community. Also it is a teaching experience for the people when they have to be banned from having any liquor in their community and when it opens again after another plebiscite they have not learned anything from having had liquor banned. They are not really educated in a way of drinking liquor and they get into a lot of problems in the community. So I felt that the plebiscite that is held in those communities...

MR. SPEAKER: Two minutes does not last very long. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Point of order. I do not think two minutes is long enough for Inuktitut speaking because it has to go through the interpreters. It takes you a little longer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with your point but it is not actually a point of order, but we will see through the Management and Services Board whether or not some changes might be made. But until such a time as a change is made, two minutes is the rule. Are there any further Members' statements? Item 3, Members' statements. That appears to conclude Members' statements for today. I am glad to see Members making use of this part of the orders and would encourage them to do so more often. And actually if you are fully prepared and get used to the two minutes, you can say an awful lot in two minutes. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

#### ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Return To Question 023-87(1): Communities Covered By Statistics Canada Survey Of Prices

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, this is a return to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on February 16th, regarding Statistics Canada and its consumer price surveys, Question 023-87(1). Statistics Canada publishes a consumer price index each month for Yellowknife. It is not possible for Statistics Canada to prepare consumer price indexes for NWT communities other than Yellowknife because of the limited range of goods and services available for pricing in those communities and the cost involved. To put this in perspective, in southern Canada the consumer price index is published only for Ottawa, the provincial capitals and for major population centres such as Vancouver and Montreal.

Every four or five years, however, Statistics Canada does survey prices in most NWT communities. These surveys compare community price levels to those in southern Canada and are used to calculate isolated post allowances paid to federal government employees. Prices in Eastern Arctic communities are being surveyed this winter; Western Arctic prices were last surveyed in 1983. Results from these surveys are available from the territorial government bureau of statistics.

The bureau of statistics is the territorial government's official contact with Statistics Canada and has a continuing dialogue with that agency. The bureau consults with Statistics Canada regarding all surveys it does in Northwest Territories. For example, the bureau of statistics and its Yukon counterpart convinced Statistics Canada to extend the national consumer price index to Yellowknife and Whitehorse and also provide Statistics Canada with some of the information used in the survey.

The bureau of statistics, this is our bureau of statistics, surveys prices in NWT communities. For example, in 1982 and 1985, the bureau completed a survey of community food prices with the assistance of the Department of Social Services. The results of those surveys are published in a booklet available from the bureau. In addition, each year the bureau prepares Yellowknife-Edmonton price comparisons based on consumer price index information provided by Statistics Canada.

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

#### ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 034-87(1): Change Of Decision To Establish Grade 10 In Arctic Bay

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it was in July of last summer that I travelled with Dennis Patterson and John Parker, the Commissioner, and another guy, a High Commissioner from Ottawa. Dennis Patterson agreed to give me assistance in regard to -- he apparently met with the education authority in Arctic Bay on a request for a grade 10 education in that community, but later on he wrote a letter, I think it was in October 1986, that he is not able



to give us assistance on that grade level that we requested. I wonder what changed his mind, to reject our request, because I thought at that time when I travelled with him that the Minister of Education runs the Department of Education. Was he told by his department not to do that? My question is, I wonder what changed his mind when he denied us the request that we had, when he told us that he was going to assist me on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 034-87(1): Change Of Decision To Establish Grade 10 In Arctic Bay

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to assure the honourable Member that my department does not tell me what to do, I tell them what to do. With respect to the establishment of grade 10 in Arctic Bay, Mr. Speaker, my first assessment of the matter was that Arctic Bay alone did not appear to have enough students to justify the expense of establishing a class. However, since that first examination, I have received a proposal from the Baffin Divisional Board of Education and in fact I received a further telex yesterday from the Baffin Divisional Board endorsing or recommending the establishment of grade 10 in Arctic Bay and proposing that the necessary number of students could be derived from the communities of Arctic Bay and the adjacent community of Nanisivik and that students from Nanisivik could be home boarded in Arctic Bay from Monday to Friday to make up the numbers that are required by our present guidelines.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the honourable Member today that I am favourably impressed with the proposal and I am at the moment inclined to recommend that we go ahead with this initiative but I must point out, Mr. Speaker, that critical to the extension of grades in this community and in other communities in the Northwest Territories is approval of the main estimates for the Department of Education. Until the estimates are...

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Way to go!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...approved, I will be unable to make a commitment, a firm commitment, but I am inclined to look at it favourably, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 035-87(1): Information Officer In Communities Re Government Programs

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak in English, because my two minutes are up.

---Laughter

My question is directed to the Leader of the government, since this question involves various departments. In a small community one of the biggest problems is lack of information simply because we do not have a Department of Information. There is no interpreters' corps in the small community. We need some kind of information officer, if you want to put it that way. I am not asking for an additional person. My question is whether the Executive Council have been considering adding an additional job for, let us say, the field service officer or adult education, whoever it might be, to be some kind of information officer. Because a lot of the time government programs or what have you are not known to communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, Mr. Erkloo, I gave you a lot of leeway on that question, so we are even for the two minutes. Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, it is funny the Member should say that. In the budget in my department we could have some money for this sort of thing. On a more serious note, I will have to look at the concern that the Member has raised and provide him with a response as soon as possible.

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

Question 036-87(1): Limit On Government Borrowing Power

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance and it concerns the possibility that this government may have to borrow funds to meet the expenditures being proposed. It is my understanding that the federal legislation, the Northwest Territories Act,

contains a limit. That act establishes this government and contains a limit on what the government can borrow. My question to the Minister is: What is the limit, the borrowing power of this government? Has the government, in fact, reached the maximum allowable? Is the government going to be requesting an increase in that maximum borrowing limit at this time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 036-87(1): Limit On Government Borrowing Power

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the limit allowable is \$15 million. From my recollection I do not think that we have approached much more than seven or eight million within that \$15 million. This government, as we did some two years ago when the limit was five million dollars, is looking at and has already instituted discussions with the federal government with regard to increasing the borrowing limit permitted this government. However, I would also respond to the Member's preamble that there is not an intention of the government to borrow money in any relative way to the budget being presented to the House on this occasion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Richard.

Supplementary To Question 036-87(1): Limit On Government Borrowing Power

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is, in the discussions that are taking place with the federal government on the possibility of increasing the allowable amount, what ceiling is being proposed by the Government of the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 036-87(1): Limit On Government Borrowing Power

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Discussions to date have occurred at the bureaucratic level. I do not know if amounts have been discussed. I believe only the principle of increasing that limit. No amount has yet been identified. The matter has not been discussed by the Executive, therefore a decision has not been made by the Executive.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 037-87(1): Operation Of Grollier Hall

MR. T'SELEIE: I would like to ask the Minister of Education about Grollier Hall and the department's plans to make an arrangement for the running of Grollier Hall. The chairman of the Inuvik regional education committee has expressed her concern with the fact that the Catholic church will no longer be running Grollier Hall. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the chairman or members of the Inuvik regional education committee will be consulted by the department when the department makes its choice on the successful bidder for the running of Grollier Hall.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 037-87(1): Operation Of Grollier Hall

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, was concerned at the decision of the church to no longer continue with the contract they have with the Department of Education to manage the Grollier Hall residence. I think they have done an excellent job for very good value for many years. However, now that we have to consider the future of the residence, I consulted with the chairperson and other members of the executive of the regional education committee about my plans to invite proposals to continue the operation of the residence. These proposals would be invited from the general public and from the private sector but would permit as well the Inuvik regional education committee to apply, themselves, to run the residence, which is an idea that they have been seriously entertaining.

Mr. Speaker, I have relied on the IREC group to provide advice on the operation of the contract by the church and, to answer the Member's question, I intend to consult with them as we determine the future of the facility. If they should apply and submit a proposal, of course, it will be difficult to consult with them on who should be awarded the contract. If they do not apply, I certainly intend to get their advice on the appropriate agency or group to run the residence.

So Mr. Speaker, I have no quick fixes to the Member's question, but I would like to assure him that I am aware of the problem and will address it as best we can. Thank you.

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

Question 041-87(1): Misunderstanding Of Advertisement Re Grollier Hall

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a follow-up with regard to the questioning earlier regarding Grollier Hall management, to the Minister of Education. There seems to be some interpretative misunderstanding with regard to the advertisement that is being run in the newspapers. I am wondering if the Minister could give me some assurances that he will communicate with the Inuvik regional education committee to clarify what seems to be a misunderstanding with the advertisement that is being run in the newspapers.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 041-87(1): Misunderstanding Of Advertisement Re Grollier Hall

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought the proposal was clear and simple, but if misunderstandings have arisen I certainly will be pleased to undertake to clarify those misunderstandings with the Inuvik regional education committee, as the Member has requested. I will do that immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 042-87(1): Hiring Of Aboriginal People Within NCPC Agreement

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy. I think most MLAs have received a copy of the letter to the general manager of NCPC from the president of the NWT Metis Association. I think the letter is a timely letter and I think that the request is contained in there about making it one of the stipulations of any transfer agreement, that the hiring of aboriginal people be included in that agreement. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to us whether or not that type of agreement is possible and whether or not he himself sees it as something that he could maybe negotiate in any transfer agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 042-87(1): Hiring Of Aboriginal People Within NCPC Agreement

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I have read the letter referred to by the honourable Member and I agree that the objective is a desirable one. At the present time Northern Canada Power Commission is owned and operated by Canada and this government has an interest but we have not yet been able to develop an agreement with Canada to see that utility devolved to the NWT. When such devolution does occur and can occur, it would fall, I expect very much, under the general policies of this government. And one of the major policies of this government is the early implementation of affirmative action programs. So I guess I am just saying, I can talk to the Minister of DIAND with regard to the commission's lack of such a program now, but any direct effect on the affirmative action in that particular commission could not be enforced or pursued by this government until it is devolved. So I have read the letter, I am aware of the intent and support the intent.

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

Question 043-87(1): Delay In Proclamation Of Coroners Act

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, in October of 1985, I believe, this Assembly passed a bill making substantial amendments to the Coroners Act. It is my understanding that as of this date, that act has not been proclaimed in force. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate what is the hold-up in bringing this Assembly's legislation into force? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.



Return To Question 043-87(1): Delay In Proclamation Of Coroners Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the fact that the act has not been proclaimed and as the honourable Member knows, I have just set up a task force dealing with justices of the peace and coroners. I have been asked by the chairman of that task force if I can hold off the proclamation until they make their recommendations, because the feeling is that the magnitude of change proposed may be greater and there may be some changes to what was enacted in 1985. So I agreed to hold off the proclamation until after I have had a look at the recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Richard.

Supplementary To Question 043-87(1): Delay In Proclamation Of Coroners Act

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, that response would explain the delay experienced in the past month or so since that task force was established. What about the first 12 months or so after this Assembly passed the legislation? Why were the steps not taken to implement this Assembly's expressed wishes in terms of the changes to the coroners system in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question under advisement and provide the honourable Member with details of reasons for the delay.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 044-87(1): Letter Asking For Guarantees From NCPC

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Energy again about the letter. The Minister did not really say what he was prepared to do. All he said was that he had read the letter and he is aware of the contents. I would like to know just exactly what the Minister plans to do in response to this letter, because I think that the contents are legitimate. We are here made to agree to some of these transfers without any real strong guarantees of the benefits for us. In devolution, a whole range of other areas, as far as I am concerned all it means for us is sometimes we are just going to have more outside people employed in these transfers. To me, there is really no...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. T'Seleie, you are in a position of debate, not questions. Will you give us your question, please?

MR. T'SELEIE: (Microphone not turned on)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. In my opinion the Minister answered your question fully. If he feels that he can fill in anything, he can proceed. Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 044-87(1): Letter Asking For Guarantees From NCPC

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the letter will be provided to our negotiating team and can be placed on the table during negotiations. It is possible that in discussing the objective that has been enunciated in that letter, that we may wish to look at identifying money in the transfer arrangements which could be utilized for affirmative action training programs. The letter will be on the table when the discussions proceed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Oral questions. That appears to conclude the subject for today. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W4-87(1): Social Services Vehicle, Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to bring up, to the Minister of Social Services, the need of a vehicle for Cape Dorset social services. The reason they need a vehicle is that the weak, disabled, and aged persons have a hard time getting to the airport when they need to go away for check-ups or treatments, especially the sick and elderly. I want to know if something has been, or will be done about this problem with transportation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question W5-87(1): Training In Counselling For Social Appeal Committee, Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is to the Minister for Social Services. The social appeal committee in Cape Dorset has been concerned about themselves for not being taught at all on dealing with people who are troubled, confused, or are in trouble with the police. Even though the committee is not capable of counselling, especially with the people in trouble with the RCMP, they always come to try and get some help. No matter how serious or confidential their problems might be, the social appeal committee cannot do much about it, as much as they would like to help. I would like to ask the Minister for Social Services if training or workshops could be arranged for the appeal committee so that they could get more ideas and education in order to help more people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

Question W6-87(1): Responsibility Of NWT Supreme Court Re Egg Marketing

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct my written question to the Minister of Justice. Regarding the NWT supreme court's refusing responsibility on the Hay River Dene Band's attempt to market eggs in southern Canada, the NWT supreme court has no legal authority, under the Legal Questions Act of the NWT, to rule upon three questions referred to them by the territorial government. My question to the Minister of Justice is this: What were the three questions the NWT supreme court could not rule on? What is the next step this government is taking? Further, what is the Legal Questions Act that restricts a ruling?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Written questions. That appears to conclude written questions for today. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Question W1-87(1): Capital Projects In The Sahtu

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Hon. Gordon Wray's return to Question W1-87(1), asked by Mr. T'Seleie on February 12, 1987, on capital projects in the Sahtu:

On Tuesday, February 17, I provided a letter to Mr. T'Seleie on this issue.

During the past capital planning cycle, considerable effort was made by myself and my department staff to thoroughly assess and prioritize the capital needs of all NWT communities and to allocate the department's limited capital target for 1987-88 as fairly and equitably as possible.

As a result of Mr. T'Seleie's letter of September 4, 1986 and the additional capital resources that became available during the fall of 1986, I did endeavour to address Mr. T'Seleie's concerns. In particular, I am pleased to advise Mr. T'Seleie that it is now proposed, in my department's budget, to initiate construction of the Fort Franklin office in 1987-88. As well, I hope to be able to secure funding, in my department's 1988-89 budget, to construct a new arena/curling rink facility in Fort Good Hope.

Return To Question W2-87(1): Contamination Tests Requested For Caribou

Hon. Bruce McLaughlin's return to Question W2-87(1), asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on February 12, 1987, on contamination tests wanted on caribou:

About 200 samples of caribou meat from different parts of the North, together with samples of lichen, have already been sent from the NWT to the health protection branch in Ottawa. These samples are being evaluated for the results. These results will then be interpreted in terms of health risks.

Monitoring will be continued and interpretation of results will be provided to all people as soon as official information from the radiation protection branch of Health and Welfare is obtained. In the meantime, I have had no indication to advise anyone to stop eating caribou.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Anything further on returns to written questions? Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Mr. Paniloo.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Paniloo's Reply

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a concern in regard to the finance committee. Our recommendations were rejected by the Ministers. The finance committee is trying to work toward the future and they work hard to make sure that the financial situation in the government runs smoothly. We recommended to cut funding down. Although their recommendations have been rejected by the Ministers, the deficit funding is quite big. In my community, I would like to see a new community hall and a new school in our community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: It is always good to get the first request in. Item 8, replies to the Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was planning to table this document even if I get the assurance from the Minister of Education. Now I would like to table this document, Tabled Document 14-87(1), Proposal for the Introduction of Grade 10, Inuujaq School, Arctic Bay, prepared by the Arctic Bay community education council in January, 1987. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to my oral question regarding staff housing for teachers, I am going to give copies to all the other MLAs of a letter from the local education authority in Cape Dorset. Tabled Document 15-87(1), Cape Dorset Education Council Concern. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude tabling of documents today. Item 12, notices of motion. Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 3-87(1): COPE And IRC Presentation On Tabled Document 1-87(1)

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, February 20th, I shall move the following motion, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit: Now therefore, I move that this Assembly invite appropriate representation of COPE and IRC to also make a presentation on the Tabled Document 1-87(1), entitled "Boundary and Constitutional Agreement for the Implementation of Division of the Northwest Territories between the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum". At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will seek unanimous consent to proceed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 12, notices of motion.

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

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to seek unanimous consent to proceed with the notice of motion that I gave a few minutes ago.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested to proceed with the motion that Mr. Nerysoo has just given. I would advise that there are no copies of that motion for presentation at this time. On the unanimous consent, are there any nays? You have unanimous consent, Mr. Nerysoo.

Motion 3-87(1): COPE And IRC Presentation On Tabled Document 1-87(1), Carried

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the chairpersons of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum and the Western Constitutional Forum have been invited to appear before the committee of the whole;

AND WHEREAS the Assembly wishes to hear from COPE and IRC during the discussion of the Tabled Document 1-87(1), entitled "Boundary and Constitutional Agreement for the Implementation of Division of the Northwest Territories between the Western Constitutional Forum and Nunavut Constitutional Forum";

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that this Assembly invite the appropriate representation of COPE and IRC to also make a presentation on the Tabled Document 1-87(1), entitled "Boundary and Constitutional Agreement for the Implementation of Division of the Northwest Territories between the Western Constitutional Forum and Nunavut Constitutional Forum".

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order, Mr. Nerysoo. Proceed. Does the seconder wish to speak? Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 14, motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88; and Bill 7-87(1), Education Act, with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

Point Of Privilege

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, if I may before we go into committee of the whole, I would like to rise on a point of privilege. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a report in Nunatsiaq News of January 30, 1987 quotes me as stating that NWT residents can likely expect another deficit. Mr. Speaker, I was pointedly asked a question by the reporter about the deficit, as a result of news reports coming from statements made by MLAs of this Assembly and as I recall I pointedly refused to confirm that information since that is secret information, which I believe should have been presented to this Assembly first. I did point out, however, that as a result of recommendations of this Assembly, I would be presenting an enhanced budget for my department, which would aim at providing equality of educational opportunities for northerners compared with other Canadians, which would provide more money for students with special needs and for more adult upgrading and training. I have spoken with the author of that report and he tells me that it would have been more accurate for him to have stated that I gave him the impression, by my comments about forces driving the Education budget, that another deficit is likely. He also informed me that his question to me resulted from statements made to the press earlier by certain Members of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. We will resolve into committee of the whole 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 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88. Yesterday, we were still on general comments. I believe Mr. Arlooktoo was the next person. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have any different items to discuss at this moment but I just wanted to state that after all the MLAs have spoken, I would like to make a statement on behalf of my constituency about this budget. I am not really -- I have to



let you know what I am speaking about and what I would like to say. I understand the discussion on the floor and the discussions that we are having right now. It seems that this would be appropriate for us for the future so the children that we have right now can have a better place to stay. So I felt that what was under discussion was appropriate for me. But another way of understanding -- maybe I am mistaken -- but the equipment for our communities should be rushed forward. I will be in agreement with the statements of the Ministers in this regard. I was involved in the election of the Ministers and sometimes I will be in agreement with them. I have not seen much wrong that is done here by the Ministers and on behalf of my constituents I would like to make this statement. So I feel that this budget that we are dealing with -- I will be following the discussions. I understand both sides' concerns and I am in favour of the discussions we are going to be carrying on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Richard, do you wish to make a general comment? Your name is on the list. I am following the list of the chairman from yesterday. If you do not wish to speak, I have Mr. Butters next. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that there will be some advantage if a short recess might be called for the committee of the whole at this juncture. I think that a number of Members would agree to having this done if you put the question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): It is not proper for the Chair to propose a question to the Members of the committee. It is the other way around.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: May I seek unanimous consent that a short recess be entered into at this time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Let us do this properly here. Mr. Butters, if you wish to make a motion, then we can vote on it. I am at your disposal.

Motion To Have Short Recess, Carried

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we embark on a short recess immediately.

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

---Carried

We will take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The committee will now come to order. I think the next speaker is Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comment will be brief but it is a concern of mine. There is a concern in my community and everyone is -- wage earnings. The concern that I have is when the Ministers were commenting on the budget. In the Yellowknife area it seems, from what I see, you do not need to use as much funding in this area, as you already have a highway and the highway will be upgraded and use up a lot of money. In our community, when we live on the island, our main road has to be ploughed throughout the winter with inadequate machines that are not ploughs. We have been requesting to have these roads raised from ground level. The equipment we have always breaks down. The response that we get is always that we will get new equipment only after the five year capital plan has been approved. In this five year plan, I do not think the equipment that we have will make it within that time span. We have been voicing this concern a lot to the Iqaluit regional government and for that reason the government has not been informed of our discussions. It seems as though those people who have decided on the budget have never been into the remote areas like the island where I come from. It seems to me once you have visited a remote place, then you can get a better picture in deciding on where to allot the money.

Equipment Will Not Last Five Years

I do not want to reduce the budget, because we need some equipment. The budget is planned for five years and the type of equipment that we have in our community will not last for that period of time and we will have to keep requesting funds for the equipment. It is a fact; we need the equipment.

Mr. Chairman, those are the comments that I wanted to put forward toward the principle of the bill. I am not too sure. Right now I have not made up my mind, but later on I will be more decisive. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to return to the fiscal framework of the government, of which this budget in Bill 1-87(1) is a part. Earlier this week, I believe yesterday, I asked the Minister of Finance if he would table, for the public record, the five year fiscal framework that was disclosed to the standing committee on finance in January; if he would provide it for the public record during these deliberations today and in subsequent days. The Minister in response, Mr. Chairman, indicated that there is no approved fiscal framework of this government and that the figures that were provided to the standing committee on finance, although called fiscal framework, were only, indeed, targets. After that response yesterday, I then asked the Minister of Finance if, even though they are called targets, he would table those figures for the public record so they might be discussed during our deliberations in committee of the whole. I wish to make further comments on the fiscal framework and I would ask again, today, if the Minister of Finance would file those figures with this committee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to take that request under consideration and discuss the request with my colleagues and reply as soon as possible, probably tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, for myself, and I do not want to be an obstacle in the orderly progress of matters, I do not want us to cease the discussion under general comments until those figures are made available. If you require a motion -- or if I can have some undertaking from the Minister of Finance to that effect, sir. I think it is very, very important.

The Government Leader is inviting me to make a motion, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if you can go on to other general comments, I'll get someone to assist me in drafting a motion to that effect. Thank you.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Your secretary.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would not have any problem agreeing that we would come back to general comments to discuss this material, should it be made available to Members. I said I would take the Member's request into consideration and discuss the matter with my colleagues and respond tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more general comments? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we look back at Hansard for yesterday, it is easy to see that that day will go down in the annals of history in the Northwest Territories as the day that the Executive Council, through magnificent speeches by many of its Members, made an heroic defence.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you.

---Applause

### Marginal Spending The Real Issue

MR. MacQUARRIE: You should save the applause. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, it was a defence of matters that were not attacked and they did not in turn defend the area that is critical. No one has attacked the need for a great variety of programs and services in the NWT. No one has attacked the vast bulk of the budget, that the budget is proposing to try to carry out those programs and services in the NWT. No one has attacked the idea that there is a downturn in the economy in the NWT and that we are in need of a growth budget this year to try to ameliorate the impact of the downturn. All those things are conceded. I want to drag the debate back to the real issue that has been avoided by the Executive Council. The real issue, I repeat again, is the marginal spending that would put us into a situation of real debt, or the probability if not the certainty of real debt.

It is clear that if we had a budget of \$770 million rather than \$790 million, that we probably could go into next year without real debt. And so the real question is: What is the incremental benefit of expending that additional \$20 million, as weighed against the detriment to the NWT by spending it? And contrary to what the Minister of Finance said yesterday, I did not answer all my own questions. I did answer one of them but not the other two, really. I say that the Executive Council must demonstrate the clear benefits to the people of the NWT of expending that additional \$20 million at the margin and defend the thought that if that \$20 million is cut, in some way there are going to be dire circumstances for the people of the NWT. They will have to defend why that \$20 million cannot be cut.

In one of the finest speeches I have every heard in this Assembly, made yesterday by the honourable Member for Slave River, he pointed out a number of ways in which it appears that cuts potentially totalling \$20 million could be made without any harm at all to the major programs and services that are offered to the people of the Northwest Territories.

### Significant Cuts Can Be Made

The suggestion was made in the report of the standing committee on finance and by the honourable Member yesterday, that when you examine conference travel for staff Members and a great variety of other things like that, it seems clear that significant cuts can be made. So I believe that the Executive Council must demonstrate the clear benefit to the people of the Territories of expending that \$20 million as opposed -- and here is where I did answer the question that the Finance Minister indicated I had answered -- to the clear detriment of taking the first step into a quagmire that you can never extricate yourself from. And that is the quagmire of debt.

I alluded to some figures in a federal document yesterday and I find that they may have been mistaken. Yesterday's Globe and Mail has an article dealing with federal finances. They point out that in the 1985-86 fiscal year, Ottawa spent a total of \$111.4 billion. Now, out of that, \$36.3 billion, or 32.6 per cent of the total spending, went toward interest payments on the public debt. To put it into simpler terms, what that means is that that government has got itself into a circumstance where for every \$100 it wishes to spend annually now, the first \$33 have to go to pay, not the debt from previous years, but to pay the interest on the debt from unrestrained and imprudent spending in previous years. So out of the \$100 that they are able to raise for spending, they are left with \$67 to try to provide for the needed programs and services in the country. That is a very serious situation and they are not able to extricate themselves.

### First Step Into Quagmire Of Debt

Now, I do not wish to pretend that if we vote to incur a real debt of \$20 million next year that we are going to be faced with precisely the same situation as the federal government, but I do say that it will be taking the first step into a quagmire which years down the road will lead precisely to that same kind of situation, on a proportional basis, for our territory. There will be some day when Assembly Members in this House are struggling to provide all of the programs and services and capital needed by the people of the Territories and trying to do it on \$67 out of every \$100 they raise, because the rest of the money has to go to pay off what people like us decided to do in previous years.

The real issue that faces this Assembly is, given the needs of the territory, but also given the resources that are available to this government in the Territories at the present time, what can we reasonably afford to spend? That is the real issue. It would appear that we can reasonably afford

to spend about \$770 million. We cannot reasonably afford to spend \$790 million without getting ourselves into problems in future years. I must reiterate that if it were \$770 million rather than \$790 million, that would not mean cutting the money that is available this year to carry on the programs and services that are required.

#### Balanced Budget Of \$770 Million A Significant Increase

A \$770 million budget would still mean a very significant increase over what is expended this year. My rough calculations show that it would still be somewhere in the neighbourhood of a 13 per cent increase in the budget. A 13 per cent increase, is that insignificant? Not at all. What it means is that this coming year we would be spending \$113 at every point where we were spending \$100 last year.

That is a significant increase when you consider that the cost of living has not risen anywhere near that in the past year -- more like 4.5 per cent. So that would be a growth budget. A significant growth. If an Assembly were to increase its spending at the rate of 13 per cent every year, it would be a mere six years before you had doubled the amount of spending that you were doing. In other words, if the Assembly in the next six years were to come in with 13 per cent increases in expenditures, in six years you would have a budget, for perhaps 55,000 or 56,000 people, of \$1.5 billion.

It is a significant increase. And when you consider the detriment to the people of the Territories in the future of going an additional \$20 million and putting people into debt and having the illusion of well-being this year but being faced with the reality in future years of trying to make do with 67 cent dollars, it is clearly an illusion and not something that is a benefit to the people of the Northwest Territories.

There were a number of quite persuasive arguments put by Ministers yesterday about needs and expectations and revenue. But there were parts of the arguments that were not persuasive. It seemed to me that the point to which the Executive Council has taken it at this moment is, that in order to increase revenues for future years we ought to increase spending in this year. Spend your way to prosperity. Will that be persuasive to the federal government, that we run a real debt budget and that therefore they ought to provide us with greater amounts of money in future years? I am not persuaded that it will. I say let us get together, let us work together to press the federal government to broaden the base, but I would not be overly confident that they are going to be willing to do it, given the serious financial circumstances that they are faced with at the present time.

When we get into general questions, I will want to know from the Minister of Finance, who negotiated the formula financing that we have -- did he not put those arguments to the federal government three years ago when we were trying to develop a formula for funding here? Why were there not better results? Were the arguments put in effectively? Well, what I am saying is: Do we have greater hope in the future of persuading them? Let us try, let us get together and do it. But in the meantime, let us spend responsibly. Let us consider what our present resources are and spend wisely.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Agreed. There is the first vote from the other side. Thank you very much. Are you spending wisely? Well, I would like to put a little information on the table, just for people to think about.

One side point that I wanted to make first is that I know from the kinds of answers that we received during the question period today, every time we as MLAs, during this budget session, now raise matters of concern to our constituents which might involve expenditures of money, I know the Executive Council is going to preface the answer by saying that if the honourable Member is going to ask for things that cost money, then we have to have a deficit budget. And I say, "Crap and baloney." That is not true.

MR. RICHARD: I said, "Infantile response."



MLAs' Job To Point Out Needs

MR. MacQUARRIE: It is our job as Members of the Legislative Assembly to try to identify program needs generally that we think are important. It is our job to bring them to you and tell you that we think they are important and I will never apologize for doing that; I will not back away from it merely because you will try to embarrass me by saying, "It will perhaps cost money and, therefore, we must have a deficit budget."

MR. RICHARD: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: Because again, I will say, "Crap and baloney."

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: The point is there is a reason why you people have "Honourable" attached to your names. You did not get that title for no reason. There is a reason why you get a significantly bigger salary than the rest of us. There is a reason why you have privileges and authorities that extend beyond ours, and the reason is that it is up to you, finally, to make the judgments about what can be accommodated and what can't be if we don't have the monetary resources. And in turn, then, if we do not like the judgments that you have made, it is up to us to do something about it, which we may very well do. But you will never succeed in running back to me as one Member and saying, "When we add up all your requests, we had to blow the bankroll and go into debt." Again, I will say, "Crap and baloney".

AN HON. MEMBER: Who would want to?

Revenue Equally Hard To Raise Next Year

MR. MacQUARRIE: It is your job to ensure that there is responsible spending on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. So each time a question is asked, say that if you want, but it will not have any impact on me.

The information that I want to lay before the House is this: Members make good points about needs in the Territories, about expectations in the Territories, about revenue in the Territories. Off onto a side track again -- revenue in the Territories. The Executive Council is recommending that we take steps that probably -- and that is a judgment, but probably, in my estimation -- would force us to incur real debt next year. Debt that has to be serviced. At the same time the Ministers in their speeches yesterday, if you will read it, and in the budget speech, point out how difficult it is to raise revenue in this territory. The two things do not really go together then. You could not possibly say to the people of the Northwest Territories that we are going to incur a debt this year and clear it off next year. I say, most unlikely, because if the revenue is hard to generate now, it will be just as hard next year.

Provinces' Per Capita Rates Of Expenditure

Now to the information that I wanted to table. When I heard about the needs of the Northwest Territories and the need for spending by this government, I said to myself, "What do other governments do? To what extent are they spending on the people in their jurisdictions and are we really badly treated in comparison to them?" So I thought I would look at some information and I have done it for a few provinces. The province of Saskatchewan, for example. I find that in their 1985-86 estimates they were planning expenditures of \$3.396 billion. I find that Saskatchewan at that time had a population of 1,019,500. When I do a little bit of arithmetic, I find that in that year the government of Saskatchewan was planning to spend on each of its citizens for all its programs and services, \$3331.

I went then to British Columbia and I find that they were planning to spend \$3333 on each of their citizens, man, woman and child. I then went to Nova Scotia and I found that they were planning to spend \$3865 at that time on each man, woman and child. Then I went to New Brunswick. They are getting extravagant. They are planning to spend \$4463 on each man, woman and child in that province. And then, really extravagant, the Yukon Territory was planning to spend \$8306 on each man, woman and child. Now I said to myself, I recognize that the NWT is a huge territory, long distances, and we know that the cost of living is higher. So I say in a place like British

Columbia, which is a pretty big province and which has some outpost communities and that kind of thing, they are spending \$3333 on each man, woman and child. So would it be fair to, say, double that for each person in the NWT because of the higher cost of living and the great distances? Maybe triple it to \$9000 or \$10,000? I was not sure what would be a fair figure, but I did my arithmetic. For the budget that our government is proposing for this coming year, I find that for the NWT they are proposing that we spend \$15,466 for each man, woman and child.

#### Percentages Of Revenue Raised By Provinces

Another question then: I said people have a right to have expectations. I know that when people do, they often take steps to try to provide the best that they can for their own needs. So I thought, how do some of these provinces manage? I found, for example, that of the total expenditures in Nova Scotia, they are willing and able to raise 20 per cent of all they spend through various tax measures. And then I looked at Saskatchewan and I found that they are willing to raise 39 per cent of all they spend, through various tax schemes. Then I went to New Brunswick and found that they raise 44.5 per cent of all that they spend, through various provincial tax measures. When you go to British Columbia you see that it is 53.8 per cent of all that they spend, through taxing the people who live in the jurisdictions. I thought, "How are we doing in the Northwest Territories?" And I see that we are willing and able to raise 9.7 per cent of all we propose to spend, through taxing our own people. So what appears to be the case is that our government is telling us that at this time 9.7 per cent is a fair amount, given all circumstances. They certainly did not recommend that any more money than that be raised within the Territories. But at the same time they are saying that there are very great needs and that there ought to be more revenue and that people in the NWT must not reduce their expectations and even increase them.

So I simply put the question: Who are we expecting to meet our expectations? Are we demonstrating responsibility in that area? Is our government indicating clearly that it is willing to have the people of the NWT help to the greatest extent possible? And I do not for a moment believe that the figure could really be much more than that. But there is not really a ripple of an indication that this government was willing to address that at all. Rather, spend more; spend more than you have and let the devil take care of tomorrow, I guess. And I am afraid that it will be the devil who may take care of tomorrow, to the detriment of all the people of the Territories.

I again invite -- not invite, but demand that the Executive Council not set up decoys but rather address that specific question -- the marginal spending of \$20 million.

MR. RICHARD: Hear, hear!

#### Cut \$20 Million Of Fat, Not Remaining Budget Of \$770 Million

MR. MacQUARRIE: Weigh the benefit or the dire consequences if we do not spend it -- you know, is there not \$20 million worth of fat? Mr. McCallum, I thought, gave some pretty good arguments where some of it might be found, without cutting the spousal assault programs, without cutting back on housing programs so that 10 do not have to live in a room, without cutting back on teachers. That is something serious that I say this government must do. It has to address that and not try to bamboozle everybody by talking about the \$770 million which are not in question in this House. Let us see a little bit of discussion on that, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. At this time the Chair would like to recognize the mayor of Spence Bay, Mayor David Tucktoo.

---Applause

Any more general comments? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I do hope that the Ministers will respond to my colleague Mr. MacQuarrie's invitation to bring the discussion to that marginal spending. But before that I would like to go back to the issue of the fiscal framework because I feel that it is very important and it is related to the comments that Mr. MacQuarrie has made. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion at this time.

Motion That Minister Of Finance Provide Document "Fiscal Framework" To Committee Of The Whole, Challenged

I move that the Minister of Finance provide this committee of the whole with the financial data entitled "Fiscal Framework", which data was provided to the standing committee on finance on January 9, 1987. Thank you.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Point of order.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that the motion is out of order and I would challenge your ruling because you cannot instruct the government. Therefore my challenge stands that the motion is out of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Curley, you challenge the Chair.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman.

MR. ERKLOO: Mr. Speaker, I ruled the motion in order and my ruling was challenged.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have that part of Hansard produced as quickly as I can and read the matter under question at the moment. I will place the House back into committee of the whole to proceed with your discussions, with the motion being stood aside temporarily. Mr. Erkloo, we will resolve back into committee of the whole, with Mr. Erkloo in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The committee will come back to order now. Any more general comments? Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the back there when we were having recess I was listening to the Conservative Finance Minister making his budget speech and either Mr. Richard or Mr. MacQuarrie must have written the budget speech for him. However, politics makes strange bedfellows, I guess.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, yeah! Oh, yeah!

Comparison With Provincial Costs Not Valid

HON. GORDON WRAY: I will not deal with all of Mr. MacQuarrie's arguments. I obviously disagree with the gloom and doom scenario put forward by him and others -- the dire consequences, the debt to our children. I think these are all scaremongering tactics that really have no basis in fact. The government is not proposing to borrow money. The government is not proposing to service any debt. But I will dispute Mr. MacQuarrie's assumption that because we spend \$15,000 a year per person in the Northwest Territories, that we are far in excess of what the provinces spend. There are some major flaws to Mr. MacQuarrie's argument. The first one, of course, is that with regard to the governments which he mentioned in the calculations that he has obviously done, he has forgotten that in those provinces there are thousands of tax-based municipalities who pay for services to the general public which this central government in the Northwest Territories pays. That is a major flaw to the argument.

Secondly, in the Northwest Territories, unlike the provinces he mentioned, we are not faced with five and six and seven per cent unemployment. Those governments can generate significant tax revenues. I submit to you, Mr. Chairman, how can you raise taxes when you do not have that many people who pay taxes in the first place? The minimal amounts that can be raised in the Northwest



Territories by taxation are exactly that. They are minimal amounts that would make no significant difference to the government's revenues. However, doing what he suggests would be placing an even more onerous burden on communities and people in communities who already spend far in excess of their income on just trying to stay alive. He can talk about Nova Scotia, where the government spends \$3800 a year on its citizens as opposed to us who spend \$15,000 a year. But you can also buy a 10 pound bag of potatoes in Nova Scotia for \$1.19. The same bag of potatoes in my home community will cost you close to \$15, or 15 or 16 times more than what you would pay in Nova Scotia. You hear the cries of agony from the community of Yellowknife when the ferry goes out every spring because the price of their milk goes from \$2.45 a litre to \$3.40 or \$3.50.

MR. RICHARD: (Inaudible comment)

HON. GORDON WRAY: Well, where I come from, half a litre of milk will cost you five dollars. The cost of living in our communities is, in some cases, eight, 10, 15 times higher than the cost of living in southern communities. Most of the southern communities, most of the provinces that Mr. MacQuarrie quotes, do not endure a seven or an eight month winter where temperatures range from 15 to 40 to 50 below. Those governments are not faced with paying fuel costs and electrical costs, 10 and 15 times higher than what you will find in Nova Scotia. If you remember a couple of years ago, Nova Scotia was complaining because they had the highest cost of electricity in Canada -- or PEI was complaining because they had the highest cost of electricity in Canada. Yet in the Northwest Territories, in the communities that I represent, our power costs were something like nine times that of PEI's. So to use those figures is a complete fallacy and a complete misrepresentation of the facts as they really stand. They are in no way relative to each other. And we hear the buzz word around -- it is comparing apples to oranges. You cannot compare us to southern jurisdictions. There is no comparison. Fifteen thousand dollars seems like a lot of money.

MR. RICHARD: It is a lot.

#### Per Capital Expenditure Of \$15,000 Does Not Buy Much

HON. GORDON WRAY: But what does \$15,000 buy us? Does \$15,000 per man, woman and child buy us comfortable and safe housing for all residents of the Northwest Territories? No, it does not buy us that. We have about a third of our population living right now in substandard housing and housing that in any of those provinces would have been condemned as not fit to live in. Does the \$15,000 we spend on every man, woman and child buy us an education for our children? No, it does not buy us that. Does the \$15,000 that we spend on every man, woman and child buy us adequate health care for our residents? No, it does not buy us that, either.

The \$15,000 that we spend on every man, woman and child in the Northwest Territories does not even begin to buy us a basic level of service. When you are living in the small communities that the bulk of the population in the Northwest Territories lives in, when you are faced with the costs of just living there, never mind prospering -- you go into our communities and there are very real, poor people out there. The average per capita income in my home community of Baker Lake is something like \$8000 and yet it costs you about \$1100 or \$1200 a month just to buy food for a family of five. So, no, we are not overspending on our citizens. We are underspending by a very large amount.

I do not want the impression to be given to the press or to the public that this scaremongering tactic of Mr. MacQuarrie's, of "Look how much we spend compared to the provinces" is a real figure, because it is not a real figure if you compare the situations. Yellowknife and some communities in the West have the luxury of having a road running into their communities, while most of us live in communities where we have to take plane service, where before you even buy something at the Hudson's Bay store it is costing you 55 cents a pound to get it there. Most of the provinces do not face that problem. So there is no comparison. We are unique in Canada. We have a unique situation. Unfortunately, the unique solutions that we must bring in to solve these problems cost a lot of money. There is no way that you can escape from that fact in the Northwest Territories. The cost of doing business, the cost of living, the cost of surviving, amounts to a lot of money up here.

#### Taking Responsibility For Inflicting Cuts

I was also somewhat taken by the comments of Mr. MacQuarrie that because we are Ministers, because we have the word "Honourable" in front of our names, because we get significantly higher pay cheques -- which I would dispute, by the way, because I would match my pay cheque up against most



MLAs' any day -- that we should take the responsibility of inflicting the cuts necessary on people. Well, I do not say that I am not willing to take that responsibility but along with that responsibility what I challenge the Member and what I challenge other Members on the other side to do, is to also take your share of responsibility. Fine, tell us where you think we should be spending but also tell us where you think we should be cutting. Offer us solutions because it is somewhat, I think, an abrogation of responsibility to stand up so that your constituents can hear you and say the government should do this, the government should spend this, the government should bring this program in and make yourself look good to your constituents. But the real hard task of standing up and saying that the government should cut this, this program is no longer effective, the government should not spend that -- that should also be part of the responsibility of an MLA.

I have had, in my capacity as Minister, to go into the communities that I represent as an MLA and tell them that we could not afford to give them money for this or that, to tell them that projects had to be delayed, to tell them that they could not get a bigger facility. I have not shirked from that responsibility. It is a very difficult one but it has to be done.

Finally, to close, Mr. Chairman, I would just reiterate that the doom and gloom scenario being put forth by Members opposite is not one that I share. Obviously, there is a difference of opinion on it and I am sure over the next three or four weeks we will hammer out that difference of opinion but I think that the bottom line for all of us sitting around this House is that, whatever compromise we come to or whatever the final solution is, that it has to be one that is going to benefit the people of the Northwest Territories and not an exercise being taken just because a person, for some particular reason at this point in time, wants to prove himself fiscally conservative.

#### Negotiations For Federal Funding Hindered By Surplus

I would hope that the doom and gloom scenario can get somewhat tempered by the realization of the situation that the government and the communities and the people are in and that they should be thinking ahead to where we are going in the future. They talk about a surplus or leaving ourselves with a small surplus so that we may face the next day. Well, I just spent four and a half months trying to negotiate the turnover of Arctic airports in the Northwest Territories and the one contentious and major issue that we got stuck on between ourselves and the federal government was the funding for 11 Arctic B and C airports. I maintained that because it was a federal mandate, and federal legislation, that the federal government was responsible for funding those 11 airports. Time and time again the representatives of the federal government in those meetings pointed out to me that, as a government, we had a surplus, therefore why did we not spend our money on the airports? Every time we turned around an attempt to negotiate new programs with the federal government, whether it be young offenders, whether it be education, whether it be Arctic airports, time and time again the finger gets pointed at our surplus, saying, "You spend. You spend." I think the point we are trying to make with the federal government is that they have a responsibility and we cannot be punished for the fact that we were a good government and we did put some money away for a rainy day.

The point has to be made to the federal government that they also have a responsibility in the North. We, unlike other governments, do not have resource revenue sharing, we do not have a tax base, we do not have a wealthy population that can afford to support itself. Our ability to raise money is extremely limited but on the other hand the needs are very real. The federal government cannot abrogate its responsibility to the people of the Northwest Territories. Now the whole world knows what we have been trying to do, and I put it to any Member opposite there, if you were a Minister of the government and as a Minister had \$10,000 to build a dock, if a community came to you and said, "We need \$10,000 to build a dock" and you knew that community had a \$100,000 surplus in its bank, what would your reaction be to them? Your reaction would be, "You do not need any money."

#### Deficiency In Program Areas

We already know that in the program area we are severely deficient. We cannot begin to address the problems of day care, we cannot begin to address the problems of spousal assault, we cannot begin to address the problems of housing, we cannot begin to address the problems of crime among our young people, we can only hope to keep pace with them. Members opposite should realize what the government and not only this Legislature and the people of the Northwest Territories are faced with -- they are faced with the exact same problems as every other Canadian but they do not have the

same resources as every other Canadian. It is unfortunate, but we do have to go to the federal government and we do have to get the federal government to come up with money because they are our only major source of revenue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Turn the page.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to prolong the discussion, obviously, because it is the right of an MLA to question and bring forward to their constituents, and it is their privilege as MLAs to put forward alternatives to running the public service in the Territories as well as to stimulate ways to improve the living in the North, the economy, and so on. We look forward to these challenges from the centres that are well served by aggressive MLAs and those Members who have prospering constituencies as far as their economies are concerned, but we also look forward to hearing from the remote areas.

#### Resources Shared Equally Between East And West

I think we do have, often, programs that we can at least present to them and we look forward again to alternative possibilities of sharing the limited resources that we have; we are going to do that and we are not going to back down from that. That is the commitment that we have been given and we have the obligation to carry that through, but one thing I am afraid of is that the old lines between east and west will eventually be again drawn in this Assembly; the "have nots" versus the "haves", the more prosperous communities in the West versus the remote areas. It is unfortunate. This was not the intention of the government when presenting the budget. We thought, and we did try to even out the inequities throughout the North. We tried to make a balanced presentation and I do not think we should be apologizing for that one bit. I think it is important to point this out. I stated, when I replied to a remark on the question of economic development, that the government's resources are limited. We can only do so much and therefore in the difficult times we must respond.

I also trust the Minister of Finance when he says that the deficit is manageable, that it is manageable and that it is something that is not running out of control. I am sure there will be a new Minister of Finance in the 11th Assembly who will wish to cut all kinds of expenditures, but I am not sure at this time that the public service is prepared to -- you know, when I say "public service", civil servants are really prepared to be hacked from their positions at the moment, because that is where the majority of the O and M expenditures are -- delivering programs and servicing the other public services that we have in the Northwest Territories.

I do not think the government at the moment -- we are attempting to balance the partisan nature of the atmosphere here. I do not think we can convince those Members in this corner why our program is better than theirs, because we do not have alternative proposals other than to cut without their stating exactly what we should cut. We look forward to hearing these specific ideas during the detailed study of the departments. I think that is where they will come out. I think we have the support, a majority support, and we are prepared to defend them on that basis. But I am not prepared to put forward psychological warfare so that the perception can be presented to the public that the government's financing is in a state of disarray, because I really believe that the Minister of Finance put forward a very, I think even a fair, assessment of the state of the North in terms of the financial picture and impacts on the northern economy.

#### Comparison Of Incomes Throughout North

I think we should let some of the facts speak for themselves as presented by the more non-partisan report that I have in my hands. I would like to just go through some of the facts. Let us look at some of the facts in terms of personal income in the Northwest Territories. For the Northwest Territories as a whole, let us just assess where the bucks are and where the money is being spent. In terms of average personal income, at \$25,000 for the NWT as a whole, that was about four per cent greater than the Canadian average in 1984. Let us look at why. The cost of living in the Northwest Territories is approximately 44 per cent higher than it is in southern Canada. When we look at the distribution of income, it reveals considerable imbalance. Let us accept that. That report is not made for political purposes. It reveals considerable imbalance across the Northwest Territories. It was 35 per cent higher than it was in the Keewatin -- wait a minute -- at \$26,700

personal income in the Fort Smith Region, it was 35 per cent higher than it was in the Keewatin Region, \$19,700. Yellowknife alone, with an average of \$28,300 and only 20 per cent of total population, accounted for 36 per cent of total personal income. So when you look at these kinds of figures, where the real personal incomes are being distributed in the Northwest Territories -- 36 per cent of them are here in Yellowknife on the overall territorial expenditures. In general, the top 30 per cent of the population of the Northwest Territories earned more than half the total income. So where are they? This area and south of the lake. These are the facts.

The Northwest Territories economy is best seen as two quite distinct economies.

MR. McCALLUM: (Inaudible comment)

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Most of the non-native population live in major centres whose economies are dominated by government or resource extraction activities. Average incomes are typically very high. Unemployment is very low in these places and future prospects relatively healthy and bright. But if we look at the other side of the coin, most of the 29,500 people of the Inuit, Dene and Metis, which is about 60 per cent of the total population, live in small, widely scattered villages, as we know, where traditional harvesting activities dominate a fragile economic base and where there are few prospects for growth. Average incomes are generally low and unemployment high and social assistance a fact of everyday life. That is what the remote communities are facing. Let us look at the unemployment. Unemployment reaches 50 per cent in some of these communities, even higher, no doubt, in many smaller communities. Hunting and fishing and trapping as a full-time occupation is no longer the preferred option for most. Again, because of factors such as the high cost of purchasing equipment, people without jobs simply cannot afford to buy enough equipment to carry out that kind of economy.

I think, Mr. Chairman, as I go through this assessment, the economy is poorly integrated. That is a fact of life. Linkages to industry are weak in the isolated communities and diversification has been largely limited to development of service businesses which depend on government, primarily, as well as large industry. Apart from minerals and, only recently, hydrocarbons, very little is exported from the NWT.

#### Comparison Of Infrastructures

Mr. Chairman, in terms of community infrastructure. There are five major centres in the Northwest Territories with a population exceeding 2000. The city of Yellowknife, the towns of Fort Smith and Hay River -- all in the Fort Smith Region -- and Iqaluit and Inuvik. Yellowknife has a population, according to this report, of 11,000 or 22 per cent of the total population. The balance, comprising more than half the population, lives in isolated communities whose populations rarely exceed 1000 and typically range between 300 and 800.

Let us look at the community infrastructure of these major centres. These major centres enjoy municipal infrastructures, I believe, that will be high schools, hospitals, airports, recreational facilities and services that are on par with small communities in southern Canada -- no different at all, according to this report. Those in smaller communities, where many of our remote MLAs are from...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I am sorry, Mr. Curley, your 10 minutes is up. What is the wish of the committee? May he continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Go on, Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the honourable Members for listening to facts for a change.

---Laughter

Mr. Chairman, these smaller communities, although we are doing certain things, are very limited in infrastructure such as schools, let alone decent schools. My constituents for instance in Chesterfield Inlet, are still utilizing a school built in 1949. Mr. Chairman, that is the reason



that we are seeing some of the increases of this deficit budget this year. We are having to face doing a catch-up job, which all the other good Legislatures never did do before. But let's compare Yellowknife and other communities around Great Slave Lake. In terms of transportation, Yellowknife and the Great Slave Lake area communities are linked one to another and with southern Canada by the Mackenzie and Liard highways. That is a luxury we do not enjoy. Inuvik, even, has at least an option of transportation.

#### Percentages Relative To Employment Status

Mr. Chairman, when we look at the percentage in relation to the population, 58 per cent of the total NWT population is of native ancestry. Again, these are the majority of those living in the remote communities, approximately 45 per cent of the population. Let us look at the age groups -- 45 per cent of the population under 20 years of age with only about two per cent over 65. In terms of the labour force, 63 per cent of the total population, or 32,000 people, were of working age, 15 to 64, at the beginning of 1985. Of these, 68 per cent, or 21,300 people, were in the labour force, either employed or unemployed and looking for work. Although 5,700 people had worked at some time during the years, let us look at the other side where 3,500 others wanted to work but were unable to find jobs, yielding an average NWT unemployment rate of 17 per cent.

These are the people that we are concerned with, the 45 per cent of the population who are under 21 years of age looking for work and, Mr. Chairman, I believe that these are the facts that this government is sensitive to. We are trying to at least ensure that they do have an opportunity. Mr. Chairman, that is according to this report, which eventually will be tabled before the Assembly; it is the Economic Outlook of the NWT.

#### Educational Factor

When we look at the education through this report, there is high unemployment. A factor involved in this report is the low level of education in the Northwest Territories, which is generally low by Canadian standards and particularly low among native people. Of all residents who were 15 or over, 10,600 or 36 per cent have less than grade nine education. This is one reason that my colleague very eloquently, I think, presented yesterday as to why education is important. It is 16 points higher than the equivalent Canadian percentage. Among native people the figure is 63 per cent -- staggeringly low -- and at the higher end of the scale, only two per cent of the native people have attended university compared with 28 per cent of non-natives. Grade 10 is crucial because it is a minimum requirement for entry into virtually all trades. Yet it is at this stage -- I think we should take note of this -- that most young people quit school because it is a fact of life that most are reluctant to leave their home communities to attend high school in one of the major centres. Mr. Chairman, to me these figures are staggering. I have been working, attempting to see that grade 10 is provided in smaller, or at least in larger communities. It is not. It would be difficult to say a few years ago that it could be provided in all schools but my colleague, the Minister of Education, has a program that, where warranted, grade 10 will be provided and that at least calls for a tremendous amount of expenditures in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a couple more comments in terms of income levels. According to our outlook, the public sector, traditionally the NWT's largest employer, has grown annually since 1979. In 1985, all levels of government including municipal, paid more than 7000 people some \$247 million in wages and salaries and roughly 40 per cent of the labour force and 40 per cent of the total NWT wages and salaries. We could go on and on in terms of mining and oil and gas, but I think these were reflective of today's situation because there has been a tremendous drop in that area.

Mr. Chairman, I think we have a tremendous challenge. I indicated in my remarks that the Executive Council was not proud in carrying a deficit with its budget for 1987-88 but we accept the fact that the state of the North and the state of the public service requirements of our people throughout the North require us to do certain things and that is one reason we are coming forward with this deficit budget. I trust the Minister of Finance, and that goes for all Members of the Executive, that the deficit budget is manageable. It is not out of control and I think we will tighten up expenditures as the year carries on. I can assure you that there have been steps taken in the department, throughout all levels of the department, to restrain spending but unfortunately, we will not be able to do so without first approving the budget before...

MR. MacQUARRIE: You have got that right.



HON. TAGAK CURLEY: ...April 1, 1987 but we will approve it because we do have a majority support who believe in that expenditure, who believe in improving the infrastructure in the communities throughout the North.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to look at a couple of areas and react, I guess, to Mr. MacQuarrie's comments about how much money we are spending per capita. There are, I think, two major things that have to be pointed out. In the Northwest Territories we have the smallest percentage of people who are in the workplace in cash-earning jobs in this country and we also have the highest unemployment percentage of our population in the country as well, but even that figure is not right because most of the people in the Northwest Territories have never had a job in the first place and are not accounted as being unemployed. In reality, you have to look at what percentage of your population has jobs and we have the smallest in the country. You cannot expect us to raise revenue on the backs of those 10 or 15 or 20 per cent of our population who have the wage type jobs.

#### NWT Budget Includes Money DIAND Gives Directly In Provinces

The other thing you also have to realize is that, with that large number of people who are on social assistance, because you have all those people who need housing and need money to live their day-to-day lives, that means those people are all in the budget under programs for housing, for financial assistance under Social Services. So we have the highest percentage of people in the country on social assistance, we have the highest percentage of people in public housing, and another thing that Mr. MacQuarrie did not enter into his figures is the fact that in all the other provinces in this country, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs directly, not through the provincial governments, but directly to the native population in their province operates reserves and funds bands directly, whereas in this government that money is funnelled through our budget. So native people or status Indians or Inuit in all those other provinces are funded directly by the federal government, and not through the provincial government, for a lot of the programs. So that is another reason why those figures he used are skewed.

The point I would like to make is that you cannot compare apples to oranges in this situation because we have a tremendously large percentage of population of our country who are not in the wage earning economy. They are dependent entirely upon government, in some cases by government decree and also by need. That is a situation that is a reality up here. It is a situation we do not like. Our government would like the children of the elders and lifetime northern native residents to get an education, to be able to get a job. Hopefully, we can create jobs in their communities and a lot of that is done through programs.

Things that my department wants to do cause increases to the budget. We could, for example, repatriate -- and we are trying to do this in some cases -- residents of the NWT who are being held in institutions in the South, like handicapped facilities. Now the amount of money that we are paying on a yearly basis per person, if we bring half a dozen or 10 of these people back to a facility in the NWT, is not enough to cover the O and M of those facilities. So we are going to have to dip into our budget to do it. It is more expensive to do it up here, but at the same time we start to employ some northerners, who pay taxes and give some revenue back. We can also "Canada Assistance Plan" some of these things and get 50 cent dollars back, as the Maritime provinces do in a lot of their funding.

At any Ministers' meeting on social services, the Maritime provinces, more than anywhere else, protect all those programs where there is 50/50 cost sharing with the federal government. So we are not the only jurisdiction that is in this situation. But we have the extremes of it. We have the extremes of the cost of living and the fact that our population of only 50,000 is scattered through one third of the land mass of this country. We have over 50 communities we are responsible for and every one of them needs a basic core infrastructure to construct and operate.

#### Money Not Sloppily Handed Out

So there is no reason for Members to be misled to think that there is an awful lot more money being sloppily handed out to people in the NWT. We do not have enough money to meet the basic needs. We have the largest population of children 12 years and younger in the country. We have the fastest growing elderly population of 65 and over. Granted, it is one of the smallest percentage

populations of 65 and over, but it is the fastest growing. These people are getting into situations where they need personal care delivered in their communities, failing that they need institutions to move into, none of which we have anywhere but in half a dozen communities right now. So we have tremendous socio-economic problems to face just to maintain people's dignity and their lives.

A lot of these communities up here, if you look back in history, were created by the government. People were told they had to go to these places and the government would take care of them. So the federal Government of Canada made people wards of the Crown and passed that job on to us to do. We have a big task in front of us, to turn things around in the NWT. I think, when we are sitting here on a surplus accumulated over the years, we are obligated to spend that surplus on the needs we see in front of us. And I do not think that it is a good idea to have an accumulated surplus sitting there forever. Sure, it earns you some interest in the bank, but it also, as Mr. Wray pointed out, gets you in a situation where when I am trying to negotiate young offenders funding they are possibly saying "Well, you have money sitting in the bank."

I would like to put it this way and parallel a little, as we did the other day, to the municipality which collects taxes every year and accumulates a surplus because they did not spend it all, either through mishap or through prudent management of a certain project. To accumulate that surplus over a period of time and then spend it on whatever you want, which happens in some communities, is bad because you might spend it on something that the ratepayers in the community would never have approved in the first place. So you did a kind of end run on them. But in our situation we are spending money on programs that were delayed in the past and not started, construction programs that fell behind. That is how this surplus was basically accumulated, because of delays over a long period of time.

There are all sorts of reasons why that happens. Communities decide that they do not want a facility where they originally planned it, so you delay it for a year. You have shipping problems getting construction materials in and sometimes you just are not able to mount all the projects that you have tackled in a year. That is how we got the surplus, by not actually doing all of the stuff we planned to do. I say that it was prudent or fortunate that it was accumulated because we need it now and we are going to spend it on programs and on capital projects that are needed and always have been needed throughout the NWT. So I urge Members -- you cannot say you are going to approve just the capital, because with the capital go O and M consequences. You have to approve the programs that are going to take place in the facilities too, programs that you are trying to deliver to people. You need buildings to put them in. You cannot just slap a bunch of buildings up and then not have a program. You need the O and M money, too. So I urge the Members to support me and my colleagues in the areas of person years and O and M and growth expansion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make some brief comments on Mr. MacQuarrie's simplistic analysis of expenditures in the NWT compared with other jurisdictions. I would just like to say, with respect to expenditures on education, it is indeed simplistic to compare expenditures in the North on education with those in the provinces. Provinces do not have aboriginal language situations; provinces do not have problems of remoteness; provinces do not have our levels of extremely high unemployment; and provinces do not have the lowest level of formal education in the country.

#### Executive Council Open To Concrete Suggestions

I have listened carefully to what few concrete suggestions were made about methods of reduction and I would like to say that I am open and I am sure my colleagues are open to concrete suggestions. But I do want to assure Members of the standing committee on finance that the Executive Council, since beginning to work on this budget in midsummer, has agonized over those very questions. We have done the job that Mr. MacQuarrie has asked of us and has said we are expected to do, by scrutinizing every possible area of reducing, trimming and again trimming expenditures where possible.

I would say that rather than dwelling on rhetoric for days, I would challenge the Members of the standing committee on finance, in particular, to get on with concrete, detailed consideration of our budget. And I would like to challenge them to show me where my budget, in Education, is fat.

Because I can assure you that my budget does not represent increases and expenditures in headquarters. Increases in the Education budget are going to schools, classrooms and students in communities. I would like to hear Members from the standing committee on finance tell me that it is a mistake, especially in these economic times, to increase our investment in training and education at a time when industrial activity is down. When we most need to create jobs and job opportunities for northerners, is this the time to hesitate about expanding our college system? I want to hear if Members opposite consider that it was a mistake to establish a college system in a region which we all know is reeling from the decline in the oil industry. Would Mr. Nerysoo say that this action was fiscally irresponsible? Because, Mr. Chairman, the new college campus in the Inuvik Region, which will serve his constituents and those people suffering from the downturn in the oil industry, does account for a significant part of the growth in my budget. Should we give up on the opportunity to train northerners for over 50 new jobs in maintaining the north warning system because we will incur a small deficit? Mr. Chairman, this is the time when we need to have the courage to invest in training, especially in light of reduced federal contributions through CEIC in that area.

#### Extended Grades In Communities

Mr. Chairman, I resent Mr. MacQuarrie's suggestion that my answer today in question period to your question about establishing grade 10 next year in Arctic Bay was a trick or ruse to win support for this government's budget. Mr. Chairman, I have budgeted in this budget for establishing extended grades in small communities like Arctic Bay. The money is part of the growth in the Education budget and I think it is extremely significant that this year -- at the end of this school year, we will have graduates from grade 10 for the first time in communities like Cape Dorset and Clyde River, which have never had students get that far in their entire history. We will have 23 students completing grade 11 in Pangnirtung this year as a result of extended grades. Those students would not have made it if they had had to leave home to go to high school. Is this extravagant? Is this irresponsible? Or is this an investment in our future?

Mr. Chairman, the Members opposite have made the point about ways of reducing growth and I want to inform them that we have had an agonizing period of preparing this budget. We have cut back substantially in a number of areas.

MR. RICHARD: Where?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I do not think we need to go into the reductions that were already made. I do not think it would be responsible to inform the public what might have been provided in the way of enhanced services but has been decided is luxurious. But we have already made a number of substantial reductions in growth. We have also implemented significant restraint measures, even this year, and we will do so in the coming year. We have done everything we can, Mr. Chairman, to make this budget as fiscally responsible as is possible in these times. If there is something we have missed, I would like to hear what it is. I do not pretend that we have been entirely infallible. I would like to hear concrete ideas.

I attended meetings of the standing committee on finance to present my budget hoping that, in fact, I would get some suggestions that might be used to restrain the growth because I, too, am concerned about it. I got lots of requests for information from the standing committee...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: So did I.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: ...but I do not recall getting any major suggestion for reductions in growth. If they are still coming forward, I welcome them. I would like to hear where the fat is in my budget. The standing committee on finance has a staff and has the opportunity to make these recommendations. Let us hear what they are. Let us stop talking about principles and rhetoric and get into the line-by-line consideration of the budget. We are open to suggestions about reductions in growth. Where do we cut? That is what I would like to know.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible comments)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Order, please! Mr. Patterson, you have the floor.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is fine to say, reduce growth and cut back growth overall. Everyone likes to say "I am in favour of restraint, but do not cut too close to



home. Do not cut me." I would like to know where. Not in teachers and funding to school boards, I bet. Not in funding colleges, I bet. Show me what I have missed. I would like to know. I look forward to getting on with the business before this House and considering this budget in committee of the whole.

---Applause

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Don't avoid it.

#### Equality Of Access To Education

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I would like to be told if the standing committee on finance wants to be responsible for larger classes and fewer teachers. I would love to have somebody else to blame, than myself. Mr. Chairman, we have worked on this budget since last summer. We have bitten the bullet. We have made some tough decisions. We are willing to take some responsibility for this deficit. I am satisfied that with my budget the quality of education will not be reduced and in fact will be substantially improved. The equality of access to education, the equality of opportunity for northern residents and our ability to take advantage of economic opportunities will be enhanced and that is an investment, Mr. Chairman; it is not fiscal irresponsibility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought that I was going to consider not speaking today and rather go into the details of the budget. But I challenge the honourable Member responsible for Education to look through the records of past and previous debates in this House with regard to his budget. He will note that I have made constructive suggestions. Not necessarily requesting additional funds but rather making suggestions that would utilize the resources that he has in his department. His suggestion that I am not prepared to recommend changes or reductions with regard to the college -- well, that is not true. I can indicate to the honourable Member, if I note that there is a waste of funds in the Inuvik campus with regard to Arctic College, I will, without doubt, make suggestions of reduction in those particular areas. I will not shy away from the responsibility of making responsible decisions with regard to financial management.

I do commend the Minister and the government for responding to developing the college system in the NWT. I applaud them. But I do not think that that particular issue is a matter of debate at this particular time, nor is my position with regard to whether or not the college system is a bad system. But there are other alternatives that might be taken advantage of.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Inaudible comment)

#### Utilization Of University Of Alaska

MR. NERYSOO: I will give you a good example of that, Mr. Curley. One would be the utilization of the University of Alaska and the programs that they now offer. The honourable Member wants to know and take advantage of my suggestions but there are programs that we could utilize in that particular campus. The Minister of Education knows full well the range of courses that are offered that could be of assistance to us. I think that those are the kinds of suggestions that could be constructive to the Department of Education.

I think that in our discussions with regard to management of resources, it has nothing to do with what might be considered to be, I guess, the lack of work or the lack of effort on the part of the Executive Council, to find methods to reduce and to come to grips with the economic problems and the social situation that exists and has existed in the past. But rather the consequences of the decision to go into debt, that is the most severe question that we have to deal with.

#### Ongoing Financial Requirements Of Programs

The other thing that the honourable Members have to realize is what is the result, the future result, of the expenditures we are making with regard to this budget. I trust that the honourable Members have considered the ongoing financial requirements of the programs we are introducing and I assume they have done their analysis.



But let me remind also Members of this House and the general public that when the standing committee on finance does its review and asks for support we are supported by one individual. Each department of government has their own financial staff...

AN HON. MEMBER: Thousands and thousands.

MR. NERYSOO: ...and not only that, but the reality is that there is a secretariat that has been established within government to review nothing but the financial affairs of government and from that analysis, that long-term analysis, come the reductions that take place. You cannot expect the standing committee on finance to go thoroughly through every detail and come up with what you might say nickel and dime reductions. That may not be so constructive, without noting the whole direction that government wants to take. That is the gist of what is going on and when we note that there are some changes that can take place, we will make those recommendations. I do not think that Ministers should also indicate that we have not made recommendations of cuts. Those have been suggestions, we made those suggestions. It is interesting to note that even some of the Ministers have to acknowledge that there are cuts that are going to be made by themselves, because of oversize, or the fact that there are other ways in which they are going to carry out the direction of this particular budget. It has been because of some of the issues that the standing committee on finance has raised and yet when they prepare the budget and table it in this House those same issues appear in the budget. When there is a suggestion that we have not made recommendations, that we are not going to be constructive, I believe it is a bit premature, until we get into the details of the departments, to suggest that we are not going to be constructive or find new areas that cuts can be made in without negatively affecting the direction of government. I think it is important that we recognize that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any more general comments? Mr. MacQuarrie.

Responsibility Of Executive Members To Make Cuts

MR. MacQUARRIE: Since the issue that was just raised was the responsibility of the other side to make the cuts, that is maybe the issue I should address first. A number have arisen that I will deal with, but that will be the first one.

I say first of all, that that is not the job of any other Member in this House than Executive Members.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Ministers.

MR. MacQUARRIE: It is their responsibility. It is clear from many illustrations in history and a great many different aspects of human life that those who are in charge say, "Do" and those who are engaged to do, do it. I notice when President Kennedy said that we will put a man on the moon by the end of the decade, those who worked for him did not say, "Well, you figure out the mathematical formulas then and show us how it is going to be done." He said, "Do it" and it was up to them to do it. I say the Assembly is the boss. The Executive Council is answerable to the Assembly and when Members of the House voluntarily put their names forward to become Executive Members, they take on the responsibility of doing that kind of work.

---Applause

The Assembly has not spoken definitively yet, but I say that if the Assembly in its wisdom says, "Cut by this amount," that it is not up to the Assembly to figure out exactly where it has to be done. That is up to the Members of the Executive Council, who have staffs in the hundreds to sort out that kind of information.

MR. McCALLUM: Hundreds of them. They are all over the place.

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is not to say that Members from time to time might not make suggestions about where cuts can be made that may be helpful...

AN HON. MEMBER: Good, make them.

MR. RICHARD: Ministers' salaries.

MR. MacQUARRIE: It may be helpful to Ministers but it is not an obligation on Members to do that.

For the Minister of Education, who says, "Do you want me to cut back the grade 10 program in the communities?" the answer from me is, no. I said for years that is a good thing to do and I continue to say it is a good thing to do. He says, "Should I" -- in a sort of petulant way, "Well, do you want me to chop out the Arctic College or something?" I say, no.

---Applause

But I would say to the Minister, is every staff conference absolutely necessary? Is it possible to cut out some staff travel in that sense?

MR. RICHARD: The Minister's travel?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Or even student travel. You know, are those kinds of things possible? What I would like to hear the Executive Council say is, "I see what you mean, I am willing to have a look at that." But that is not the attitude at all, rather it is, "No, we have come in with a perfect budget and you have to show us where there is something wrong with it." I do not accept that at all. In looking at that kind of thing -- staff conferences and so on -- surely people everywhere including Members in this Assembly will understand, if we are in a year where there is a downturn in economy, that we are trying desperately to save really-needed programs and services and so we say for this year we cannot do that and we will support you if that is the case.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is the kind of thing we are looking for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Can we have order in the House, please? Order, please! Order! Mr. MacQuarrie, continue please.

#### Revenues Not Expected To Cover Deficit

MR. MacQUARRIE: I appreciate your help, Mr. Chairman, but I do not really need it. At some point it was suggested that I and others who are adopting the approach that we are adopting, who are fearful of real debt and the burden that that brings to bear -- it is always convenient to tag somebody and then dispose of them when you put the tag on them. So, we are "fiscal conservatives" and of course that is likely to generate a great deal of aggravation in the minds of a lot of people if they figure we are fiscal conservatives. I say, well, the majority seems to be the other way.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: I say that that is not a fair tag at all for this reason: If the Executive Council could demonstrate that their saying we will not have real debt but the possibility is there and maybe the probability, now if they could demonstrate that we would be able to manage that debt in the next year or the next four or five years because of promising increases in revenue and if they say it is just a temporary thing, this is a bad year, we might have a debt of \$10 million but we see that there is revenue coming here and there and we are very confident that in three years time we could obliterate the debt and get back on an even footing, then I would not be so concerned about that. I do see that in ordinary families sometimes they do not have the money to buy a new car but they say, "I think we will finance it because I have every expectation that in these coming three years I will have enough money to satisfy all my other needs and pay that off and we will not be burdened forever by that kind of debt." I just say that if the government could demonstrate the possibility, let alone the probability of us being able to do that in the face of real debt, then I might be willing to agree but the government is not demonstrating that possibility at all. Because Minister after Minister has specifically alluded to the difficulty of raising revenue and it is not likely to get any better next year or the year after and so if we take that step it is the kind of debt that will be with us forever. The Minister of Finance shakes his head. Well, I guess that is a judgment call, I fear that it will be...

MR. McCALLUM: He did that last year, remember.

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, he said confidently last year that a deficit budget would not be necessary. Was that it?

MR. RICHARD: Right, that was like that Expo deficit, was it?

MR. McCALLUM: Do not bring that up.

MR. MacQUARRIE: The reason I introduced some figures into the debate earlier was not because I believed that there are exact comparisons that can be made nor because I believe that we do not need greater than ordinary funding in the North. The truth is I do believe that you cannot make exact comparisons between jurisdictions and I do believe that we do need significantly higher spending in the Northwest Territories to address the same kinds of needs that people are addressing elsewhere.

#### Possible Explanation Of Rationale For Budget

The reason I introduced them though is this, that it is entirely possible that the Executive Council has dressed up the nag that I was talking about yesterday. It is entirely possible that eight departmental Ministers came together and asserted their departmental interests and came up with a whopping big budget and then said, "There is our budget but it is kind of a shocking budget." This is a possible explanation, even a plausible explanation. "It means that we may have to go into debt. Well, what about the possibility of raising the revenue a little bit so that we do not have to? Well, it is an election year -- maybe that is not a very good thing to do, to raise taxes in an election year. There are people who will not like us for doing that. So perhaps the best thing to do is, when we have added all these departmental estimates together, we will say that is the budget and we will put a good face on it and we will say that that is really what the Territories needs at the present time."

AN HON. MEMBER: A new face.

MR. MacQUARRIE: "And in order to win support for it, we will point out the crying needs in the Territories. And we may even go to the extent of making people in the Northwest Territories feel perhaps that in some way they are rather hard done by, that not enough government spending is occurring in the Northwest Territories." It was for that reason that I thought I would introduce some figures that show the kinds of government spending that occur in other jurisdictions. I do not say they necessarily prove anything. I leave that to individuals to judge for themselves.

Mr. Curley pointed out that the cost of living in the Northwest Territories is 44 per cent higher than in southern Canada. I have no quibble with that at all. It is probably true. It is lower than that in Yellowknife, perhaps 25 per cent, but much higher in places like Pelly Bay and so on. So I agree right off the bat that we do need higher than average spending elsewhere in order to address our needs.

Mr. Wray indicated that we simply could not compare apples and oranges, and he said even though we have the \$15,000 plus spending per person in the Northwest Territories, does that government spending buy them good education? Does it buy them good health care? Does it buy them housing? And the answer is obviously, no, but you could say the same thing about one of the provinces. Does the \$3333 that is spent by the Government of British Columbia per capita buy each of its people all of those things? The answer is, no.

HON. GORDON WRAY: ...working on Arctic bargaining...

MR. MacQUARRIE: They are working on it. I would also point out that in some of these other jurisdictions, there are people who have no jobs. There are people in those jurisdictions as well, who do not have adequate housing. There are kids in those jurisdictions who get absolutely no direct assistance from government in order to attend institutions of higher education. And I will tell you something, that when I first came north in 1966 as a principal at Baker Lake, I happened to have on the staff, two teachers who had come from the Maritimes. And they were absolutely astounded at the way in which the school was equipped in Baker Lake and the supplies that were available to students because, they said, "You do not see that kind of thing where I come from."

Some pointed out to me, correctly, that by using those figures I was not really including this and that and the other thing and I acknowledged that in a number of cases that was true. But I should also point out that in each of those provincial examples, the provinces have all of the provincial-like jurisdictions to spend on. We do not, which means that the federal government, in



addition, in the Northwest Territories is spending on certain other jurisdictions that we do not have here at all. If we did have those jurisdictions and the money to do it, the figure probably would be closer to \$20,000 per man, woman and child by this government.

Mr. Curley went into imbalances and in a way I regret that he did that. I see why he does it. It is an attempt to deflect from the real concern and attempt to introduce some divisiveness among Members who have that genuine concern. It may or may not be successful. It is regrettable if it is successful.

MR. McCALLUM: He is a tricky little devil, isn't he?

Higher Income Earners Pay Higher Costs

MR. MacQUARRIE: But I do not think that that can be left on the table without a few more words being said about it. He points out higher incomes in certain areas and indeed if you look only at statistical figures on incomes, it is true. He does not point out that many of those who are earning those higher incomes will be paying the full cost of all health care that is not covered by the basic medicare system in the Northwest Territories, which is a cost that is not a burden on many other people in the NWT. He does not point out that people who are earning those higher salaries will pay the full cost of all the power that they use to heat and light their homes, which does not occur in other parts of the Territories where the wages are lower. He does not point out that the vast majority of people who are earning those higher salaries would not be living in public housing but in some way providing their own housing and having to pay a whole lot more in order to do it. He does not point out that in fact people in those communities by and large -- he talked about the higher price of groceries -- but people in those communities by and large have to buy their groceries and do not have ready and unlimited access to country food.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I am sorry, Mr. MacQuarrie, I have to rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Erkloo.

REVERT TO ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-87(1) and wishes to report progress and requests leave to sit again.

Motion To Accept Report of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. On the point of order that was raised by Mr. Curley. Mr. Curley's point of order is based on the assumption that this House cannot instruct the government to do something. Our rules do not deal with this issue and therefore I have referred to other authorities. My review indicates that the standing orders of the House of Commons permit motions for the production of certain papers of the government pursuant to an order of the House. As well I quote from Erskine May's which states that: "It has been accepted that a document which has been cited by a Minister ought to be laid upon the table of the House if it can be done without injury to the public interest." Therefore I find that under certain circumstances the House can instruct the government to do certain things. I therefore uphold the chairman's ruling that Mr. Richard's motion is in order.

Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.



CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a Nunavut caucus meeting immediately after adjournment tonight.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, February 19th.

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: Bill 1-87(1); Bill (7-87(1))
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 Thursday, February 19th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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