



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## Speaker

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Officers

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

Clerk Assistant  
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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Paniloo, 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): Mr. Curley, point of privilege.

Point Of Privilege

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, point of privilege. I rise as a Member, as well as the Minister responsible for an event happening yesterday. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my personal apology and apologies on behalf of my colleagues who attended the luncheon at the food fair yesterday, for the inconvenience which we caused yourself, and this House. Members attended the luncheon to meet with 100 or so delegates that were in attendance.

The topics that were under discussion were most relevant to the current debate which is under way in this House; the strengthening and diversification of our economy. It should also be noted that this was the last opportunity for Members to participate with the delegates in their deliberations concerning the commercial use of our renewable resources.

Mr. Speaker, we all left the luncheon prior to the serving of the main course. However, even this measure was not adequate as we were a few minutes late in returning. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. This is a general comment from the Chair. If things of this nature happen again, if we are advised, we can always set our clock back here a little bit, but once we have entered the chamber we do not have any course but to follow through on the rules. We will certainly at all times try and accommodate the Members and the work of this House. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of statements with regard to my department.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Good news.

Minister's Statement 1-87(1): Tourism Marketing Plan Paying Dividends

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce to this House today, that our new tourism marketing plan has already begun to attract new tours to the Northwest Territories.

Three tour wholesalers from Alberta, one from the United States and one from Sweden are planning package tours to the NWT for this summer. These tour companies are working closely with northern hotels, local tour companies and outfitters so northerners gain the maximum benefits from these ventures.

Canada Motor Coach Tours will operate bus tours along the Mackenzie highway. David Thompson Tours of Red Deer will offer air tours to communities in the Northern Frontier and Big River country zones. Arctic Adventure Holidays Ltd., will bring visitors into attractions such as Nahanni National Park and Cambridge Bay. In the Baffin, Blythe and Company, a New York based tour company, will fly tourists direct from New York to Iqaluit, with options to Pangnirtung and Cape Dorset. Forsanna Tours from Sweden are offering canoe trips into Keewatin and the Western Arctic.

The department has produced several promotional items that are helping to market the Northwest Territories and we have begun an initiative to co-operate more closely with industry to promote our attractions. Our "World Class Fishing" booklet has been received so well we decided to publish it again. Those of you who travelled with Pacific Western Airlines this month may have seen the special 32 page insert in "Skyward", their in-flight magazine, called "Adventure Northwest Territories". This was done in co-operation with PWA. And as one more example of industry and government co-operation, the department is producing a "Package Tour Trade Manual". This inventory of all package tours in the NWT will be supplied to travel agents as a handy desk reference.

Mr. Speaker, if I may conclude with the shorter statement with respect to my department.

Minister's Statement 2-87(1): Growth In NWT Tourism Facilities

Mr. Speaker, TravelArctic has just concluded a review of the growth in the tourist-related infrastructure throughout the NWT. The results are quite noteworthy. We have grown significantly in several important areas. For instance, in 1975 there were only 39 hotels and motels, 40 lodges and 13 outfitters. Today, 71 hotels and motels, 54 lodges and 82 outfitters operate in the NWT.

This growth in facilities and services means more business opportunities and employment for northerners. For tourists, this means they have greater choices in where to go and what to see throughout our territory. Almost every community now has some facility to accommodate tourists and visitors.

The doubling of this tourism infrastructure over the last 12 years shows that we are working together to build this important segment of our economy. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism will continue to help the tourism industry through business assistance programs to entrepreneurs and by marketing the Northwest Territories to attract more visitors.

Copies of the report can be made available to interested Members. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Butters.

Minister's Statement 3-87(1): Interest Rate Reduction Program

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce, on behalf of the Department of Finance and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, an interest rate reduction program on outstanding municipal loans. These loans have been issued by the Government of the Northwest Territories for municipal capital projects.

All loans with interest rates greater than 10.5 per cent will have the rate reduced to this level. This decrease will benefit the municipalities through both savings in terms of interest payments and the potential for faster repayment of the loan principal. The total amount of interest savings over the next 20 years is expected to be approximately \$2,229,000. These savings will be retroactive to each loan's 1986-87 payment date.

The outstanding loans have been financed internally by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Had the government required funds obtained from long-term borrowing in order to finance such loans, 10.5 per cent is the estimated current cost of this borrowing. As well, it is



a rate that will encourage the municipalities to maintain their outstanding loans with the GNWT, rather than opting to refinance the loans with borrowings from private institutions. This will help to protect municipalities from the volatility of the interest rate market.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Northwest Territories 1987 Explorers' Guide

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement today on behalf of the people of Gjoa Haven. My statement is toward the NWT 1987 Explorers' Guide. I believe that this Assembly is quite active in bringing tourists to the Northwest Territories and I believe that, through the Economic Development department, there were 150,000 copies of this Explorers' Guide that were published. At that time when they released the news in around December, they had 77,000 copies sent out already to agencies and other interested groups. I have not read all the other information about the communities, but it certainly has some misleading information on Gjoa Haven, about how it might be attracting tourists. The person named, Rosie Paulla, has passed away approximately eight years ago. To publish something like that is misleading. The department, or whoever, should have consulted with the community first.

Also in this information it says, "Caribou sometimes come peeping round the hills." We may have caribou but I have lived there all my life and I have never seen a caribou myself, personally, when travelling on King William Island.

This is what this information says. We have to go over to the mainland. The intent of this information may be a good idea but honest information would certainly benefit the community.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Angottitauruq, your two minutes are up. You had one too many caribou peeping around the corner. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Richard.

Member's Statement On Budget Debate

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, it is a disappointing revelation to learn that the Government of the Northwest Territories has no approved fiscal plan beyond March 31, 1988. It is especially disappointing at this time, when the people of the NWT, through their MLAs, are being requested to authorize the government to spend \$75 million in excess of available revenues in the coming year. From projections provided by the Minister of Finance and his officials and assuming that the O and M expenditures continue to grow at levels experienced in recent years -- and Mr. Speaker, in the absence of any plan to delete or even to reduce the growth, that is a valid assumption -- and also assuming that the government will continue to require supplementary appropriations at levels experienced in recent years -- these are for urgent and unforeseen circumstances, another valid assumption -- it is clear, Mr. Speaker, that if this election budget is approved...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Hey, hey!

MR. RICHARD: ...our government will be in a debt position in excess of \$100 million by 1990, three years from now. A debt of that magnitude is one that we cannot afford from all of the information that has been made available to us.

In recent days Members of this Assembly have attempted to emphasize the seriousness of the situation and have requested Members of the Executive Council to explain how the projections could be otherwise, or alternatively, to cut back the excess, the expenditures, to a more reasonable level. To my disappointment, Members of the Executive Council have declined to discuss these important issues, and even more disappointing and alarming is the resistance or reluctance to provide the projected fiscal figures for the public record. And now, Mr. Speaker, in the last 24 hours, the Government Leader and two of his Ministers, including the Minister of Finance are quoted on CBC radio, calling for closure...

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame!

MR. RICHARD: ...or an end to the discussion of these important issues. One Minister describes the discussions as dealing with irrelevant principles.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Shame!

MR. MacQUARRIE: If you do not like what is being said, shut off your mike.

MR. RICHARD: This response, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, is shocking behaviour by Members of an Executive Council who are vocal advocates of consensus government. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. T'Seleie.

Member's Statement On Appointment Of Mrs. Ethel Blondin-Townsend

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Executive Council on the appointment of Mrs. Ethel Blondin-Townsend to the senior position of assistant deputy minister of the Department of Culture and Communications. Mrs. Blondin-Townsend was appointed in 1986. She is originally from my constituency and is an individual that I consider to be more than qualified for her position. Mrs. Blondin-Townsend is fluently bilingual in Slavey and English, as well as having been a teacher for some years. It is my belief that the appointment of individuals of the calibre of Mrs. Blondin-Townsend will inevitably lead to a civil service that is more responsive to and knowledgeable on the concerns and needs of the aboriginal people of the North.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 019-87(1): Use Of Old RCMP Building, Pond Inlet

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Erkloo on February 16th, concerning Pond Inlet community museum development.

Last year the hamlet and the Pond Inlet women's group approached the RCMP, the Department of Justice and the Department of Culture and Communications, with a request to use the vacated barracks for cultural purposes. The RCMP had declared it surplus to its needs and was in the process of calling tenders to have it torn down or removed from the police compound. During that process, the barracks was apparently offered to the community and women's group, with the condition that it be moved off the RCMP compound. The condition was not accepted by the community. At the same time, staff of Culture and Communications contacted federal authorities and the RCMP on behalf of the hamlet but were not able to resolve the issue.

More recently a local Pond Inlet resident was awarded an RCMP tender to remove the building from the compound. He plans on relocating it to another area of the hamlet and repairing it for his own personal use.

Officials of the Northern Life Museum are examining alternative buildings to accommodate the community's interests. They will also be meeting with staff of Economic Development and Tourism, as the community wishes to have a combined heritage/cultural area and an arts and crafts shop. I expect this matter will be resolved in the next few months.

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

Return To Question 021-87(1): Recreational Funding By Department Of Social Services

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 021-87(1), asked by Mr. Pudluk on February 16, 1987 concerning social assistance and hockey fees in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of registration for hockey in Rankin Inlet is \$70 per person; this includes a five dollar charge for insurance. The Department of Social Services has negotiated with the hamlet council in Rankin Inlet that social assistance recipients will contribute a work service for the council instead of paying the registration fee. They are required to pay the five dollar insurance, which they do so from whatever income or social assistance they receive. The social assistance program provides a benefit of \$20 per person monthly for personal items, from which a recipient could pay for hockey insurance if he or she so wishes to do so. The Social Services program does not have an allowance for recreation. However, if recreation were an important part of the rehabilitation of an individual, the department may provide an allowance for this, if it is not available under any other program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 045-87(1): Guaranteed Employment For Pond Inlet Residents Re New School Building

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was called by the hamlet council from Pond Inlet yesterday. They have written three copies of the document to the Minister of Education, DPW and to the Government Leader. They are going to be building a primary school in Pond Inlet in the future. When the building is being built by contract, they wanted Pond Inlet residents to be employed on a quota of not less than 30 per cent. The Pond Inlet residents would like to get a reply and confirmation on this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 045-87(1): Guaranteed Employment For Pond Inlet Residents Re New School Building

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed we have received the letters from Pond Inlet. We are not able to meet the request to put a quota system in place for employment. That has been considered, along with a number of other items, for increasing the amount of local involvement in construction projects. However, we feel at this time that there are other ways in which we can do it without actually bringing a quota system in, because experience says that, in fact, a quota system may very well work against you.

What we do intend to do in Pond Inlet is this. We have the list of names that has been submitted by the community. Prior to the start of the construction, a meeting will be held with community officials, the contractor and Public Works and Highways and we will co-ordinate local involvement in the construction. The department is working right now on a number of other areas we can move on to increase local involvement in all contracts, not just this one. We also are requiring that the contractor will stay in the Sagoonik Hotel and use those facilities which will provide a fair measure of local employment in the hotel industry. Other items will be looked at to ensure that local involvement does take place. We will be making the list that was sent by the council available to the contractor. We will be working with the contractor to ensure that as many names on that list as possible are hired, as long as their work skills are satisfactory for the job required, of course. Thank you.

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

Question 046-87(1): Cancellation Of Business Management Course At Inuvik Campus

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Education and in his absence is provided to the Government Leader. I want you to note the so-called eloquent speech that the Minister of Education made on the 18th of February, where he indicates, "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 was 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."



Mr. Speaker, while he was making and uttering those particular statements, the president of the college was cancelling a program in Inuvik which, in fact, now has 15 students; one which would help students get involved in the business community. Now the question is: When was this decision made to cancel the business management course at the Inuvik campus? Was it an Executive Council decision?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to take the question as notice and provide an answer as soon as possible.

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

Question 047-87(1): Hospital Boards Of Management Request For Meeting

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and it relates to the lack of consultation with the hospital boards of management. I wrote to the Minister last month regarding this lack of consultation with the boards of management regarding the proposed changes in the Financial Administration Act and in the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act. No consultation took place with these boards on some of these changes which have quite an effect on the operation of the boards. I understand some of these boards of management have also written directly to the Minister of Health and have requested a meeting with him to discuss this item prior to the legislation being brought in for consideration. My question is: Will the Minister be meeting with representatives of these boards of management in the near future? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 047-87(1): Hospital Boards Of Management Request For Meeting

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The boards of management of health in regions such as the Baffin and the hospital boards in the rest of the Territories are under the auspices of the THIS Board and those boards are funded through that organization. The assistant deputy minister of Health chairs the THIS Board. In the actual process of dealing with this, we were under instructions by officials of the Financial Management Secretariat not to discuss this outside. That is one matter.

In the second case, it should also be understood that the Member, I believe it was in meetings of the standing committee on finance -- and everyone knows what goes on there -- that the Member said, "Too many boards and agencies of this government are spending too much money without any seen controls." The new Financial Administration Act is going to have boards and agencies under the spending control of this government -- something everybody is always worried about and that has been brought up in the last few days. So boards and agencies of this government, which are spending territorial government money, are going to be under control.

I can also assure Members that when the standing committee on legislation reviews this matter in particular, they will find that boards and agencies of this government will have more freedom to operate within their own budget than they do under the existing Financial Administration Act. So it was not our intention to consult specifically with these boards. My assistant deputy minister of Health is quite capable of giving advice to us in that area, in the Financial Management Secretariat and that is the advice we use, primarily. I will be explaining later to these boards how the new legislation is going to affect them.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Richard.

Supplementary To Question 047-87(1): Hospital Boards Of Management Request For Meeting

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, the longer I stay in this business I guess the more and more disappointed I get with some of the responses from some of the Ministers.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: You won't be here for long.

MR. RICHARD: I will be here longer than you, Curley.

---Laughter

Early in that response, Mr. Speaker, I thought I heard the words that on the direction of the Financial Management Secretariat the Minister did such and such. Now I would hope...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Terrible, being told what to do by public servants.

MR. RICHARD: In the course of answering my supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I do hope that the Minister will clarify that. Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister saying that, in answer to my question: Is he not going to consult with the boards of management? His response is, to justify the changes that are being made, no, we are not going to consult with them, we are going to explain what we are doing to them. Would the Minister confirm that that is the thrust of his response? It runs contrary, in fact, to a section of the proposed Financial Administration Act, which number I cannot recall. But it specifically says in the legislation that after it comes into place, there will be prior consultation with boards and agencies before making decisions of magnitude such as this. But the Minister is not prepared to indicate that he will do such consultation prior to bringing in proposed changes to the Financial Administration Act. Could he confirm that that is the case?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 047-87(1): Hospital Boards Of Management Request For Meeting

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, now that the act has been made available to the standing committee on finance and standing committee on legislation, the opportunity is there for input from those boards directly to Members on those committees and that is where the issue can be debated. We did not consult with them in advance and we purposely did not consult with them in advance and I do not hide that at all. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. I must warn the Assembly that the Chair is not going to tolerate speaking by Members unless they have the floor.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: If it continues I am going to request that the person be removed from the House for the rest of the day. I have gone as far as I am going to go allowing this banter to go back and forth. It has come to an end.

---Applause

Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 048-87(1): Radio Telephones Provided Through Special ARDA

MR. ERKLOO: My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources although I know it has something to do with the Minister of Economic Development. Some Inuit are now getting skidoos, outboard motors, that kind of thing from Special ARDA funding. Some individuals also are getting telephone radios these days. Hunters and trappers associations in some communities are not exactly happy about this. I am not happy either because some hunters and trappers associations have hardly any telephone radios because of those CBs. My question is to the Minister, can his department do something about this? I know his department is not really involved with the Special ARDA people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 048-87(1): Radio Telephones Provided Through Special ARDA

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The applications for assistance that are submitted to Special ARDA, Mr. Speaker, are submitted by the individuals and are judged on their merit by the Special ARDA board. In the field where these applications are for items that concern the harvesting of renewable resources, my officers normally assist the individuals in making out their applications. I had not been aware of this problem until Mr. Erkloo alerted me to it. In my own area I believe that the radio telephones, HF radios that are provided through Special ARDA and certainly through our department, are provided to the HTAs and not to individuals. I will pass Mr. Erkloo's concern on and I am sure the Minister of Economic Development has heard it well now and we will bring your concern to the attention of the Special ARDA board. Except for that we will, as a department, monitor the situation. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 048-87(1): Radio Telephones Provided Through Special ARDA

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned some of the HTAs in the communities do not have many radios, due to the fact that they have broken down. I am aware that your department would give the community \$15,000 to assist the HTAs. It is quite expensive to have these radios repaired. I would like to get a further reply whether your department would be able to assist in repairing these CB radios. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will undertake to look into that and provide an answer for the Member and also assure the Member that our offices are available to the HTAs if they should wish to apply through Special ARDA for replacement radios for those which are broken. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Question 049-87(1): Task Force On Justices Of The Peace Visit To Rae-Edzo

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. Recently the Minister announced the task force on JPs and in a recent publication in one of the newspapers there was a list of communities that the task force was going to visit. I want to know from the Minister if it is possible for the task force to also hold a meeting in the community of Rae-Edzo, so that the community will have an opportunity to make a presentation to the task force in regard to JPs.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 049-87(1): Task Force On Justices Of The Peace Visit To Rae-Edzo

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will bring the suggestion of the Member to the chairman of the task force but I want to put it in perspective that this task force has limited dollars. This task force will not be able to visit every community in the Northwest Territories. If you are trying to get regional representation from each of the regions, it might well be if the task force visits Rae, it will not be able to visit another community that it intended to. I will bring the concern to the task force and we will see what we can work out. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is taking the question as notice. Supplementary, Mr. Wah-Shee.

Supplementary To Question 049-87(1): Task Force On Justices Of The Peace Visit To Rae-Edzo

MR. WAH-SHEE: I wonder if the Minister could indicate what region does the community of Rae-Edzo fall in? Do we fall in under the region of the city of Yellowknife or what region does my community fall in?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 049-87(1): Task Force On Justices Of The Peace Visit To Rae-Edzo

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously I consider the Member's region to be within the Dogrib region and I am sure there will be representation asked for from the Dogrib region. The list of communities has not been finalized. There is only a preliminary list. The cost considerations are still important but I will impress upon the committee that definitely representation should be heard from the Dogrib region. Thank you.

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

Question 050-87(1): Food Subsidy For Pelly Bay

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to direct this question to the Minister of Government Services. It is regarding the food subsidy for Pelly Bay. I believe that the community is out of their subsidy for this year and they are waiting for the 1987-88 fiscal year. Before

April 1st they will be getting 30,000 kilograms of supplies. I am wondering what is going to happen because the price of food before April 1st surely is going to go up and is going to hurt the families over there. I do not think that after April 1st comes in that they would easily automatically change their prices that early. So I am asking the Minister, what is he going to do in the meantime when they get their supplies? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 050-87(1): Food Subsidy For Pelly Bay

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The GNWT has always assisted in this area for the supply except that the local co-op has already used up the assistance and it was fixed for so many years. For that reason the Government of the Northwest Territories has depleted this fund. I will look into this further to see if that 30,000 kilograms of supplies can be delayed. Maybe we can consult with the co-op. We cannot give you further assistance until April. This community is assisted because it does not get any barges or ships; they get their supplies by airlift. I will get back to you on this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 051-87(1): Direction By FMS To Minister Of Health

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Minister of Health whether he is under the direction of the Financial Management Secretariat in other determinations that he makes, as well as in respect of this one about consultation with the hospital boards?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 051-87(1): Direction By FMS To Minister Of Health

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe each one of the Executive Council Members is under the direction of the Financial Management Board and our officials are under instructions. Subsequently, if signals come down from that board then my officials will be under those same rulings from the Financial Management Secretariat, on a matter such as I previously discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Minister if he would ask the permission of Mr. Nielsen, the head official in the Financial Management Secretariat, as to whether he could tell the public why the hospital boards oughtn't to have been consulted? I am willing to wait a day if he has to confer with Mr. Nielsen tonight to see whether he is able to do that, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is out of order.

MR. MacQUARRIE: The government is out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 052-87(1): Role Of Department Of Health In Medical Evacuation

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health; it is with regard to medivacs in the small communities. I understand that this year if there is a medivac in the small communities, you cannot use a single engined plane. It has to be a Twin Otter, or a two engined plane. I would like to ask the Minister why he does not express that particular concern to the regional director of Health and Welfare here. The letter that was responded to by the Minister says that he is referring the concern to the regional director and he is not particularly addressing the issue of medivacs in the communities. I would like to ask the Minister what role this government plays with regard to the health of the people in the communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.



HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, our Department of Health is concerned about the medical transportation of people in the NWT, whether that transportation is arranged through our own territorial hospitals or whether it is arranged by Health and Welfare Canada officials in nursing stations. There are standards that are expected to be met and that depends on the type of medical evacuation and whether the person is under intensive nursing or medical care during the actual transportation. I will have to take notice on the details of the requirements that Health and Welfare Canada put on particular emergencies and degrees of emergencies in that service delivery and report the details back to the House later. Thank you.

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

Question 053-87(1): Fort Providence Bison Management Board Requests To Special ARDA

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development. I understand that with regard to Special ARDA, this government does play a role in decision-making on who gets funding under that particular program. I would like to ask the Minister the reasons why the Fort Providence bison management board was turned down twice, with the possibilities of the bison herd attracting tourists to Fort Providence.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the question as notice because it involves the details and I would like to have a full briefing before I make a formal response.

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

Question 054-87(1): Big River Travel Association Study On Tourism

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again want to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. There was a study that was done by the Big River Travel Association with regard to the tourist development and marketing strategy. This was a year ago that this study was started and I would like to ask the Minister whether this particular study has been concluded and what are the priorities that the Big River Travel Association came up with, with regard to the development of tourism, especially from my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I am aware there was a study in that region, that zone, and I look forward to getting a full briefing on that matter. I know there has been some discussion with the communities and the regions affected, in that. So again I would like to take the question as notice and provide a detailed response later.

MR. SPEAKER: Taking the question as notice. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W7-87(1): Task Force On Program Review

MR. RICHARD: My written question is addressed to the Government Leader. It is my understanding that during 1986 the Executive Council established a task force on program review. Will the Government Leader advise this Assembly, at an early date, of the following details regarding this task force:

- 1) the date that the task force was established;
- 2) the terms of reference of the task force;
- 3) the membership of the task force;
- 4) the number of meetings the task force has held to date;
- 5) the results of the deliberations of the task force to date;
- 6) whether interim reports of the task force will be provided to MLAs;
- 7) the date by which the task force is to conclude its work.



MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question W8-87(1): Quota For Dall's Sheep Near Aklavik

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question directed to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. The Minister is aware of the residents of Aklavik having discussed with departmental officers a request for a quota of Dall's sheep near Aklavik. I am wondering, is the government prepared to establish a quota for Dall's sheep near Aklavik and what amount of quota is the Department of Renewable Resources prepared to recommend?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Written questions. That appears to conclude written questions for today.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 16-87(1), Northwest Territories Team, 1986 Arctic Winter Games. Thank you.

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

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 17-87(1), a document which came from Grise Fiord residents and the Grise Fiord settlement council regarding their taxes and annual leave assistance program. Thank you.

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

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 4-87(1): Workers' Compensation Board Appointments

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Monday, February 23rd, I will move, seconded by the Member for High Arctic, that the Legislative Assembly recommend the reappointment of Robert Byron MacLeod, Moseesie Koonoo, John Todd and Teddy Itsuk Carter to the Workers' Compensation Board for a term to expire on March 14, 1988. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Notice Of Motion 5-87(1): Proposed Taxation Of Northern Travel Allowances

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Monday, February 23, 1987, I shall move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that this Legislative Assembly make representation to the federal Minister of Finance to demand that a deduction from taxable income for vacation should be granted to all taxpayers residing in the North, regardless of whether they travel in the South and regardless of whether they receive vacation assistance from their employers. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Notices of motion. That appears to conclude this item for today.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions: Motion 2-87(1), Mackenzie highway completion. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 2-87(1): Mackenzie Highway Completion

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS this Assembly has expressed its support for the development of an improved tourist industry;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly supports the development of a long-term economic strategy;

AND WHEREAS the construction of the Mackenzie highway would be an important development in any long-term economic strategy;

AND WHEREAS many communities have expressed their support for the construction of the Mackenzie highway;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly express its support of the continued construction and completion of the Mackenzie highway to Inuvik;

AND FURTHER, that this House express its support for the efforts of the Government of the Northwest Territories in negotiating the construction of the Mackenzie highway;

AND FURTHER, that this House recommend that the Speaker communicate this support for the construction of the Mackenzie highway to the Speaker of the House of Commons; the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney; and the Minister of Indian Affairs, the Hon. Bill McKnight.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order, Mr. Nerysoo. To your motion.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have indicated, one of the intents of our government is, or certainly our government has gone through the process of encouraging, the development of the tourist industry, in particular the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. And also there is a need, I believe, to respond to the requests of other communities that are not now being serviced by an all-weather road. As a government we have been providing services to communities through the construction of a winter road to provide them with goods and supplies that they require on an ongoing basis. This particular highway could provide the impetus for some significant economic recovery in the Northwest Territories. It also can provide for long-term economic stability in the North and provide the opportunity for communities to participate in the development of a long-term economic strategy, which includes the development of tourist sites and facilities, the development of various types of outfitting companies, if that is necessary, but none the less a role for the communities to play in the development of an economic recovery.

Highway Would Serve Several Communities

Also I would like to note that a number of economic conferences that have been held throughout the Mackenzie Valley have requested that this particular highway be constructed -- that it be constructed to service in particular the Sahtu region, but also this particular highway would be, as I indicated, of service to other communities that are now taking advantage of some development, in particular in the tourist industry.

I note that this particular request, in fact, has received some opposition previously, but from many discussions and certainly from public statements that have been made from our most recent conferences, there is major support for the continued construction. As such, I am happy to rise in this House to introduce this particular motion so that we can get on with the construction of the particular highway in question.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. T'Seleie, as seconder.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to second this motion. At the most recent meeting of the Shihta Regional Council last September, this was one of the topics that the delegates had discussed. I do not have a copy of the motion that they passed at their meeting, but essentially the motion called for the extension of the Mackenzie highway. Part of the job that the delegates identified at that time for themselves was to somehow get a lobbying effort together, especially with members of the Deh Cho Regional Council. I know that they have been communicating back and forth. Just a few days ago I noticed a piece of paper on my desk here, I think most Members got it, outlining the federal government's five year capital plan. What I noted in there was that some dollars were allocated for the extension of the highway. If that is the federal government's plan, to continue to view the extension of that highway as a priority, I think the intent of our motion is to keep the lobbying effort on the federal government because there are some benefits to an all-weather highway into my region, at least. Those are my only comments, and I hope Members will support this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to put on record that I am in support of this particular motion. During the fall meeting of the Deh Cho Regional Council, a motion was supported by the council to support the Sahtu region to have the highway extended from Wrigley down to Fort Norman and Fort Franklin and Fort Good Hope. Mr. Speaker, the former MLA for that particular area, Pete Fraser, was also there to ask that we support them in that particular area. That was the reason why the Deh Cho Regional Council supported it.

#### Federal Government Should Be Lobbied

Also, right now the potential for tourism is there and I believe this government plays an important role with regard to lobbying the federal government. Outside of what we have now for our own highways, is that we negotiate with the federal government, as was done previously. We had representatives from the territorial government, representatives from the Deh Cho region and we also had representatives from this government when Hire North was doing a lot of the work on the Liard highway and also toward Wrigley. I believe a board like that would be of benefit in making sure that this type of a highway would get the extra money to be built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To the motion. Mr. Wray.

#### Comprehensive Transportation Policy Needed

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, can support this motion. In fact I could have even supported a much more comprehensive motion. I think that we, in the last week or so, have debated very much in this House about the economic problems facing the North and the solutions necessary. I think that while we may continue to work on solutions, the basic problem that we have is that until we have a comprehensive transportation policy laid out by the federal government and until we have a commitment by the federal government to put money into that transportation policy, economic development in the NWT is going to be very much on an ad hoc basis.

The development of our tourism industry, the development of our renewable resources, the development of our non-renewable resources are all linked to the availability of a proper transportation network. It is no surprise that development in other countries in earlier days was all linked to the development of a transportation system, whether you are talking about opening up the western United States or opening up western Canada or opening up Europe. It was all linked to the viability of a good transportation system.

The costs are high. A new road, a new highway, is approximately, at today's figures, about one million dollars per mile. It is not a cheap thing to do. But I would not only like to see the extension of the Mackenzie highway and the paving of the Mackenzie highway take place, I would like to see highways put in to the Arctic coast, into the Keewatin. I would like to see the development of proper airports and docks in the Baffin Region. I would like to see the development of proper airports and docks in mainland Northwest Territories.

Over the last year or so we have heard much debate on Arctic sovereignty, and the federal government's solution is to spend \$450 million on an icebreaker. As usual, \$450 million will be about \$800 million before it is finished, depending on which proposal they go with. However, I can



think of a hell of a lot better ways to spend \$800 million in the North and still provide the same type of sovereignty that they are looking for. I can think of no better sovereignty in the North than having highways and people running into those areas and people living there, people working there and tourists from the United States and Canada coming in there. I can tell you that the money that will go to build this one icebreaker -- I am not quite sure yet what this icebreaker is going to do. They shut down the Beaufort for all intents and purposes and they took away the incentives, so the requirement up there has now been lessened. I do not think those of us in the North want an icebreaker running around up there during the winter. I cannot see any reason for it.

But the \$800 million that they are going to spend would not only pave the Mackenzie highway, it would probably extend the Mackenzie highway to Inuvik. It would probably also be able to begin construction of a highway into the Keewatin. It would begin construction of highways to the Arctic Coast and it could probably build an airport and dock in nearly every community in the NWT. That, I think, is Arctic sovereignty. That is where the money should be going. We as a government have attempted to go to the federal government through the action force and say, "Look, nothing is really going to happen in the North. There is going to be no real economic development until we address the basic transportation needs of the North." So I can certainly support this motion and in fact could support an even more comprehensive motion on the entire transportation sector in the North.

---Applause

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to speak in favour of the motion. I think that the last few days of budget debate have shown the concern of many Members about our government's long-term economic strategy. Speaking as a Member of the action force, we are pursuing that economic strategy and this is one area that we are pursuing, the extension of the Mackenzie highway, the loop of the Dempster-Mackenzie. We are pursuing it for a number of reasons.

#### Highway Has Economic Development Potential

I think the other Members have talked about the economic development potential. I think it is very important that we build our economic base. I think we agree that our initiatives this year are not going to solve all the problems. We have to pursue long-term objectives and this is one of the objectives that we will be pursuing. If we can get the federal government convinced, I think there will be tremendous job, business and tourism opportunities in the North. A much more increased tax base. I think that a lot of our economic problems can be ameliorated with initiatives such as this.

I think another aspect is that this government is looking to increase their revenues with resource revenue sharing. To me, the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and highway should go hand in hand.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I see that with support for this and the acceptance of the federal government for a highway, the next logical step -- I do not know which would come first, the pipeline or the highway, but one would be complementary to the other. I see that ultimately, if we can get that commitment, a highway and a pipeline. With resource revenue sharing -- I think some of the concerns of Members -- in the long term of our financial ability will be helped considerably.

---Applause

#### Highway Would Establish Sovereignty

My honourable colleague brought up the concept of sovereignty and I agree wholeheartedly. I think all too often the federal government looks at sovereignty in a very conceptual way. They look at sovereignty as a line on a map. They look at sovereignty as an over flight of a military airplane. Or sovereignty as the passage of an icebreaker. I think our point to the federal government is that sovereignty is people. It is the use of the land, the use of the resources. I think nothing will demonstrate sovereignty more than a highway...

---Applause

...through the North. One of our objectives as an Executive Council and as a government trying to deal with the long-term economic problems of the North is to get the North back on the federal political agenda. The North should become an important component of their political agenda when they go to the people two years from now, or whatever it is going to be. We think that is very important, whether it is this government or another government, that the North should be very, very high on their political agenda. By supporting a motion such as this, by supporting an initiative such as this, I think that a lot of the concerns expressed by honourable Members could be met in the five years, in the 10 years to come, and our children need not be fearful 10 years or 15 years from now, because we would have done our job as a government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: As the Member for Inuvik, I support the motion wholeheartedly. I would indicate that this motion is not only in the territorial interest but it is very, very much in the national interest. I would remind Members of the situation that occurred in Canada prior to the turn of the century, the last century, when John A. Macdonald struggled to throw steel across this country to protect it from incursions from the South. Our transportation systems are basically our bulwark against intrusions and incursions on our sovereignty.

I would point out that it is time Canada recognized that signposts on a road that say, "East" and "West" are unrealistic, that there should be a third arm which points north and, to reflect the words on our motto of Canada, from sea to sea to sea. And to protect the sovereignty in the next century of this country, it will be absolutely necessary, if not to throw steel north and nail down our land, but to have a highway north to ensure that there is travel and use of the northern areas of our country.

Right Hon. John Diefenbaker's Roads To Resources Program

I would suggest also that this motion correctly recognizes that in the government that currently sits in Ottawa, we have a government that is committed to this concept. It was committed to the concept under the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker and the Hon. Walter Dinsdale in the roads to resources program which laid the groundwork for many of the roads in place today -- not only our highways but the rail system which is serving Pine Point and your constituency, Mr. Speaker. So, therefore, I think this motion will fall on rich soil and the government of Mr. Mulroney will quickly see that it is in the interest not only of Canada but of the Conservative tradition to move in this general area.

I would point out too, just before I close the argument on sovereignty, that the Alaskans enjoy an excellent highway. That highway was not built through planned structure. It was rushed because the Japanese sat on the Attu and Kiska Islands and threatened us with guns and bombs. The threats that we are looking at today may not be there in presence but they hide under our ice and they fly in the airspace of northern Canada. They are not our aircraft nor are they our submarines. So it is important that this concept and this initiative be supported not only by this territory, but by Canada as a whole.

A minor matter, I just would suggest, is that in the construction of such a highway link we must ensure that the project is constructed to the extent possible by the people of the North. It should not be built as the Dempster highway was built. It should not be built as other highways were built by federal DPW, using their contracts and working to their parameters. It must be done to the extent possible by the people of the North. We have skills...

---Applause

...and we can do a great deal of that work, sir, when it does occur. The second thing I would say, and I am quite sure the mover would agree to this, is that construction work can start from both ends. The work on the highway must begin from Arctic Red River just as it begins from Wrigley. Thank you, sir.

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



Highway Should Be Built Hand In Hand With Resource Development

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in favour of this motion and especially along the lines which my colleague, Mr. Ballantyne, mentioned, that some hand-in-hand arrangement has to be made with resource development at the same time as the construction of the highway. It was through the resource development in projects which occurred in my constituency, for example, which allowed these other infrastructures to be put into place.

It is sad in my constituency that the mine that was constructed there is coming to an end and destroying the lives of people. As I pointed out once earlier, there is a hydro dam in place there which would cost \$100 million to replace at today's prices, which serves communities on the south side of the lake. In fact, more communities may now be served by that dam if the permanent closure of the mine takes place. There is a rail link into Hay River which connects with the river transportation system that serves the whole North. So the idea of developing this highway in conjunction with a pipeline and possibly some potential mines in the Mackenzie mountains along the river valley is very important. I would like to just add my support to this and hope that it can be done in conjunction with some renewable resource projects which will help pay for the cost of the project, and the highway will be left there afterwards to serve the people of the Northwest Territories for a considerable number of years afterwards.

Mr. Speaker, I should maybe just add one thing. With the northern development technology, I would like to advise Mr. Wray -- actually I commend him on some of the things he has said about northern construction on highways to me personally -- that there are some construction projects in other northern countries, in particular the Soviet Union, where they have built a large network of highways in the area north of Moscow in the Republic of Russia. Apparently their technology in this area is more advanced than what we see between Grimshaw and Hay River. People I know from External Affairs who have visited Russia and travelled on those highways say that they do not seem to have the continual frost heaving and reconstruction that seems to be necessary in our area where you and I come from, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Highway Should Not Be Built At Expense Of Existing Highway System

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say that I am going to be supporting the motion but I would like to caution the mover that this particular project will be a fairly expensive project. I would not want to see this being constructed at the expense of the existing highway system, which requires not only ongoing maintenance. As well, I think that if we are going to attract tourism on the long-term basis, then the existing highway has to be upgraded and it is my belief that it has to be paved. Obviously when you are talking about large projects of this nature there are always priorities. I do support the idea that the highway should be constructed from Fort Wrigley north.

But I would also like to indicate that years ago, which was not that long ago, the federal government did indicate that they were prepared to have the highway constructed along the Mackenzie River north to Inuvik. At that time there were some problems and concerns with the Dene communities. So what has happened is that the community of Wrigley did not support the construction of the highway and it has only been recently that they have expressed an interest in having the highway constructed.

So in supporting the motion, I just want to indicate the concern I have. And also when the highway program is transferred to this government, then this administration will also have to work within their own priorities. My concern here is that we always lack sufficient resources to tackle all the problems that we have. One of the problems that we are dealing with right now is the whole transportation system. I know that in supporting this particular motion, any improvement to the transportation system will improve the tourism and economic development opportunities.

Public Tendering Process Should Be Used

As well, I hope that when they give opportunities for the people of the North to participate in the construction of the highway that they will do it under a tendering process and not have it done without a public tendering process. If you do not go through the tendering process, then obviously there are always questions being raised with regard to how did this group of people get this

particular contract. So to avoid that, I think there has to be a public tendering process. As well I think that every opportunity should be given to the people of the North, not only to be given opportunity for employment, but training as well. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I intend to support the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Appaqaq.

#### Roads Very Poor In Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to make my statement brief. I am not too happy about the motion of getting a highway because in my community roads are very poor. It seems like you already have a highway system in the Mackenzie area. However looking at my community, we have been pursuing tourism attraction and also we have been trying for two years to get tourists in my community but they hardly ever walk on our roads because our roads are very poor. Every time they tour our community they have to use three-wheelers because there is too much gravel on the roads and the road conditions are very poor. I tried to have a car but I cannot use it because of the poor roads. They say that the tires are good enough to last for one year but they would not last because of the road conditions. For that reason the tourists cannot even walk on the roads.

The communities who already have a road system, instead of just supporting them -- looking at my community, it is very hard for me to support such a motion. We all like to get tourist development in our areas. I am not going to vote for this motion. Thank you.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make it brief, too. I am happy about the motion. However, it seems like we are only dealing with part of the NWT. Tourism is growing in the NWT and also, looking at the NWT broadly, it changes a lot. It differs a lot from other communities. In the communities in the Baffin Region, the only means of transportation is by plane; we do not even have a highway system. The longest road in the Baffin Region is from Nanisivik to Arctic Bay. It is 17 miles long. The tourists have to travel by plane. We have no means of transportation other than airplanes. If you want to go into different communities you have to travel by airplane.

#### Motion Will Make Federal Government More Aware Of North

I am happy with the motion because we can get the federal government more aware of the North. Also I would like you to consider the Baffin Region more in dealing with this. It is very, very expensive to travel by plane and it is very expensive for the economic development, for the people who have their own businesses. The people who work for tourism hardly make enough money because it is very expensive to travel by plane. If you are travelling by highway you do not even have to pay taxes.

Those people who are travelling by big airplanes have to pay \$50 extra tax. I am happy about this motion as it will make the Canadians more aware and make them appreciate this area, especially the tourists who come up North. Because the NWT is very beautiful and the residents are very friendly. For that reason, I will support the motion because it would enhance the view of the NWT of people from outside the NWT. I think we should be developing tourism in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

#### History Of Highway Construction In North

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I know that it might sound like I am getting old when I talk about this subject. I recall working in the Fort Smith area when the highway was just getting to Fort Smith. I worked on the project in the 1960s. The Fort Simpson area has a long history of highways. I recall in 1970 when the highway was finally built to Fort Simpson and Jean Chretien came to open up the highway. Eventually, after that, the highway began to be extended down toward Wrigley. The highway eventually stopped 10 miles south of Wrigley because at the time, people in Wrigley did not want the highway to go there. They felt that they would be inundated, they would be overwhelmed. They were simply not ready for the highway to go to their small, little community.

I recall, too, the debate in our area whether or not the highway should be built to Fort Liard. I was involved in that debate. All along in highway construction, in the highway coming to our part of the North, there has been a gradual, evolutionary development or process that has gone on.

In the 1960s and up to the early 1970s, the government, when they built highways, simply gave the contracts to big southern companies. Slowly the people in the area were concerned and wanted to become involved in the construction and maintenance of the highways. In the early 1970s a process began of highway construction where local people were hired and trained, and we saw the start of Hire North, for building a highway from Fort Simpson to Wrigley. For two or three years people in the area were trained and eventually built the highway. So a start was made in a program of training local people to build the highway.

Eventually when the Liard highway was being built, a similar step was made where local people were trained and used to build a highway. At this time an advisory board of directors was used to guide all of the construction activity. When the Liard highway was finished, there was a bit of a lull. The highway was more or less completed north of Simpson about 10 miles short of Wrigley and three years ago another phase started. The government negotiated a contract with the native companies in the area. The Deh Cho Regional Corporation was set up so native people were using their own construction company. By then they had gained the experience, the knowledge and the expertise to do the work themselves. It has been a developmental process where people have trained and learned how to build highways. We are now to the point in our area where people have built highways and if there is any construction of a Mackenzie highway north of Wrigley, then I think people in the area would very much like to be involved in the undertaking, though a contract negotiated with local people.

I was in the House in the early 1970s when I said that the people of Wrigley did not want the highway to come to their town. I am pleased now, approximately 15 years later, to say that the people in Wrigley and people I know down the Mackenzie River, Deh Cho, are favourable to a highway being constructed to their communities. I think it shows the development and progress that has been made. In part, people now recognize that they can benefit from a highway. The bottom line in anything is that if people are going to benefit from the highway, then they will likely support that. People in Wrigley are anxious and are willing to have the highway come to them. They are now ready if a highway does come. There are only a bridge and a ferry missing now for the Mackenzie highway to extend all the way to Wrigley. People in Wrigley are ready if the highway does eventually get completed to their town and is further extended. They look forward to building a little service station, and a restaurant to take advantage of any of the economic opportunities that may arise.

#### Motion Indicates People's Support

Mr. Speaker, I think this motion is important because it indicates the people's desire and full support for the Mackenzie highway to go down the Mackenzie Valley. I state some caution of course. If the government does agree it must be done in such a manner where local people benefit. This is not just a small matter. Land claims are still not settled. I remember when it was questioned whether the highway should go into the Liard area, people really felt that they had a say in it and wanted a say in it, because the highway was to go into the heart of their land and open up the country, not necessarily just for them but for other people in the North and Canada. So that is the issue. If the highway is to be built, it is going to go through the heartland of the Dene and the Dene and Metis people must benefit from that undertaking, both in the construction and eventually in the maintenance of the highway. With those conditions, people will agree to the project.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government should look favourably on a request such as this. It is an opportunity to open up the North and it should be part of the federal government's new vision of the North, where the North is developed, opened up, firstly for the benefit of the local people and then for the benefit of all Canadians. So on that basis, I support the motion.

---Applause

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



No Developments Without Highway

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This motion is not only supported by NWT residents -- we will not have any developments unless we have a highway. The everyday needs always will be costly and we are going to have fewer job opportunities if we do not have a highway. This road will benefit not only the people who are sitting around here but all the residents of the NWT. There will be job opportunities as a result of building this highway. For that reason I will be supporting the motion. As I said, the road systems should not just be all in this area because in the Keewatin area we have to utilize the aircraft in terms of transportation. We have to look at ways and means of enhancing the economic development and we should not just debate on this. (Translation ends)

I have no problem at all in supporting this motion. I think it is the kind of motion that is a responsible motion and it is one that speaks for most of the people of the Northwest Territories and it speaks for the heartland of the business community as well as the exploration companies and resource companies. They like to hear these kinds of motions being debated in the House. What is in it for the average man and the one who is doing some exploration work out in the field, out in the country, and for those people that are exploring for other non-renewable resources.

Mr. Speaker, I think we should not overlook the fact that this road is probably inevitable. The fact is that there are large reserves of oil and it is a matter of time before the pipeline is eventually built and there will be a corridor developed toward that. I think it is important that this Assembly urge the federal government, and both levels of government, to consider those factors when the issue is being dealt with by the federal government and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The reason I say that is that I think, having met with the federal officials of Energy and Indian Affairs and the Hon. Jake Epp on the action force, one of the issues that we presented was precisely that the highways and roads must be one of the issues that the federal government has to develop in terms of short and mid and long terms. That is why we did not agree that their prescription for the economic development in the North in terms of short-term capital projects was really enough because that aggravates the long-term development of roads and other major resource development activities. We have resources, we have minerals in the Keewatin Region. That is why my colleague from Kivallivik is asking for a more comprehensive plan to develop roads in the Northwest Territories. That makes an important contribution to our people.

Business Community Appreciates Motion

So, Mr. Speaker, having said that, I know that the business community, particularly the tourism industry, is very grateful for this kind of motion. I would like to congratulate the Member for putting forward such a positive motion, even though other regions, such as Baffin, will be limited to the sealift operation and air transportation. But the North will never really be completed without roads being built and therefore I think this motion will go a long way toward the positive development of the North. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, to the honourable Member for Aivilik. To the motion. You have the opportunity to conclude now, Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express my appreciation for the support that has been expressed here and I certainly want to indicate to the Members from the Eastern Arctic that I am prepared to support a comprehensive policy with regard to the development of a transportation system in the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Further, let me also indicate, Mr. Speaker, that while the concern of Mr. Sibbeston is a valid one with regard to recognizing the need for the aboriginal people to participate, let us also not forget that it is important when we deal with the construction of the project that all people be allowed to participate, including corporations from the Nunavut area, including small business people from the Northwest Territories, generally throughout the Valley. But that in itself is something that I would think that the government will ensure -- that there is participation of northern businesses in the construction of the Mackenzie highway. Further, this particular project could lead to a more co-ordinated approach with regard to the development of a transportation

system in the Northwest Territories, particularly through the Mackenzie Valley, rather than the sort of ad hoc approach that seems to exist at this particular time and I think that in that sense the project itself would be the basis by which that transportation system would be developed. Again, I thank the Members for rising in this House and supporting this particular motion.

Motion 2-87(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, to the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta. Are you ready for the question? Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried with one abstention.

---Carried

Item 14, motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask permission if I could to return to Item 14, motions, so that I could advance the Workers' Compensation appointments proposed by Mr. Pudluk and myself. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested to return to Item 14, motions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? You have the floor, Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion 4-87(1): Workers' Compensation Board Appointments

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the terms of appointment of certain members of the Workers' Compensation Board will expire on March 14 and March 25, 1987, and it is desirable to reappoint those members;

AND WHEREAS the Workers' Compensation Act requires that appointments to the board shall be made by the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the Legislative Assembly recommend the reappointment of Robert Byron MacLeod, Moseesie Koonoo, John Todd and Teddy Itsuk Carter to the Workers' Compensation Board, for a term to expire on March 14, 1988.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. To the motion. Are you ready for the question? Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, I think Members should be aware that the reason for making appointments for only one year is for two purposes. One is so that the next Legislative Assembly and the next Executive Council can deal with the total structure of the board. By having these members appointed for only one year, all the members of the board will be up for reappointment in the spring of 1988. The other reason for doing this is that the review committee which has a report which will be tabled shortly in the Assembly by me, on reviewing the board, made some comments about the size and the operation of the board itself. This would also allow the Legislative Assembly and the next Executive Council to deal with that matter.

As well, Mr. Speaker, it is important for me also to say that Mr. Bryan Roberts, who is the executive director of this board, has served faithfully as a civil servant, as a member of the board, and has been acting chairman for the period of time between Mr. MacLean's retirement and Mr. Moore's appointment as chairman. He has served the board well, both as its civil servant and as acting chairman on occasion. He will be continuing in the capacity of executive director and will continue to give the excellent service that he has given in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. As seconder, Mr. Pudluk, do you wish to add to this?

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I am ready for the question.

Motion 4-87(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We are on 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. Gargan 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. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. We will take a 10 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

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

The committee will now come to order. We have a motion on the floor and I will read the motion to the Members now. 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. Mr. Richard, your motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance indicated earlier this week, in response to one of my questions asking that he produce the fiscal framework that was provided to the standing committee on finance in January, that this was not an approved fiscal framework, they were simply targets. I then later in that discussion, sir, asked, notwithstanding the change of name, that the figures be produced. I do not believe that the Minister of Finance ever did respond to that second request of mine. Two days ago, I again asked that these figures be produced and I believe, sir, the response was that the Minister would take it into consideration in discussion with his colleagues. I do not see, Mr. Chairman, why there should be any consideration necessary. These are figures which were openly provided to Members, of the standing committee on finance during a committee meeting.

In asking Members here, sir, to support my motion for production of these figures, perhaps I should explain what these figures are. They are simply last year's summary of expenditures and revenues, both capital and O and M in 1985-86, and the current year that we are in, the budget figures for 1987-88 which we are considering, and for two more years after that, 1988-89 and 1989-90. There are in those figures, projections of what the annual deficits will be in 1987-88 and in the two subsequent years, if we approve this budget. It also shows a projection of what the government feels the total accumulated debt will be if we approve this budget. There should, Mr. Chairman, be no secrecy about these figures. They have already been provided to a standing committee of this House.

Mr. Chairman, if I hear any of the Ministers in particular, speak, or certainly vote against this motion, I will then assume that they do not want these projections to be subjected to public scrutiny. I will then know with certainty that my fears and concerns about those projections are warranted and that they do not want their projections exposed for the public to see. I would ask, Mr. Chairman, for other Members present to support the motion which is simply calling on the government to put these figures on the table where we can see them and talk about them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, with reference to the motion of the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, I wish to inform Members of this committee that the numbers or in his words, "the financial data" provided to the standing committee on finance were provided in confidence. The numbers relating to the years 1985-86 actuals, the 1986-87 revised projections and the 1987-88 proposed budget were released to the committee and are summarized in the main estimates. So the figures relating to these three years have been provided and can be provided. The numbers provided for the years 1988-89 and 1989-90 were used only to outline the financial effects of the 1987-88 proposed main estimates. I believe that I had made these points clear during the committee's examination. These numbers do not represent the government's financial plan but are planning instruments which form an integral part of a long-term planning process. These numbers and new data on revenues and expenditures as received will continue to be examined by the Executive Council in the weeks to come. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has just indicated that these figures outline the financial effects of the 1987-88 budget, and because the Minister has indicated that that is the case, and because we and the whole public, I would think, would want to know what the financial effects of the 1987-88 budget might be in subsequent years, I do believe that those figures are very appropriate. Recognizing that they may just be estimates and perhaps at this point cannot be anything more than that, nevertheless, it is important to see and to examine what might be the potential results of what the government is proposing to do. I think that that is what is called "prudence"; something that has been so much admired in people down through history, that before you do something, you assess the possible effects of what you are going to do. So, because there does seem to be some honest difference as to what the effects might be of what is proposed in this budget, I think that there ought to be a good public discussion about that. I certainly intend to support the motion and I hope that other Members will do likewise. We should not be afraid of information.

MR. RICHARD: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: And while from time to time the government insists that certain things need to be secret and I recognize from time to time the need to be secret, I absolutely say that if this is not one of those times, we ought to examine what might be the financial effects of the 1987-88 budget on future years.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Abstentions? This motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I will not comment further, sir, on the Members of the government voting to refuse public disclosure of the impact of their budget. For the record, sir, I am going to clarify something said by the Minister of Finance. I am a Member of the standing committee on finance and I listen to what is said all the time in those meetings. I am not going to quote from the verbatim transcripts because certain Ministers have a paranoia about the verbatim transcripts of standing committee's work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Curley, your point of order.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, the motion has been voted on and I believe the same point...

MR. RICHARD: What is the point of order...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: ...should be given. You know, when I attempted to speak on the motion previously -- the point of order, Mr. Chairman, is that the disclosure of information has been dealt with and voted on and I believe that you should rule appropriately that you should get on with the general comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Curley. General comments. Mr. Richard.

Figures Not Given In Confidence

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, in the words of one of my colleagues the other day, if Mr. Curley would just open his ears and listen he would see that I am not speaking about the motion. I want to clarify something said by Mr. Butters, and that is his implication that the figures that I am speaking of were given to me in confidence. They were definitely not given to me in confidence. The Minister, on one side of his mouth says that the figures are virtually meaningless. Another Minister said the other day that these figures change virtually monthly and yet they do not want them disclosed. They were not given to me in confidence and I will speak openly about them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. General comments. When we concluded the last committee of the whole Mr. MacQuarrie had the floor on general comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, Members of the ostrich Assembly.

---Laughter

I would like to carry on with the remarks I was making when 6:00 o'clock rolled around the other day. I would like to add to what I was saying at that point, that moreover, Mr. Chairman, some of the higher income people, that Mr. Curley had alluded to in his analysis, in addition were expected to pay for a number of things. One of those that I had not mentioned on that day was that some are expected to pay, for example, 25 per cent of the education cost for public school education. So my point was simply that indeed Mr. Curley's statistics were introduced and used in a simplistic way as well, because in addition to an imbalance in earnings, which could be pointed out from tax figures, there may very well be an imbalance in the per capita spending that the government does, where you would find that the per capita for people in smaller communities was higher than elsewhere.

Risk Of Taking On Real Debt

But I do not even wish to examine that, frankly, simply because if that were the case, I say that is fine, that is the way things are and I personally believe that the more advantaged should be helping the disadvantaged. If I was called a fiscal conservative the other day I may now be tagged with being a fiscal socialist or something, but nevertheless, that is what I deeply believe. But my main concern with what Mr. Curley said is that once again the Minister did not respond to the real issue, which is the marginal spending that blows the \$40 million bankroll and runs us the serious risk of taking on, for the first time, real debt with the consequent burden on future generations, with what we might call exploiting the future, which is what I think you do when you take on that kind of debt and force future governments to work with fractional dollars -- 67 cent dollars.

I believe that Mr. Curley's intent was simply to deflect attention from that fundamental issue and he may have done it successfully. Despite that criticism, I do have to acknowledge that he spoke quite eloquently about the inequities that exist between rural and urban communities and the inequities that exist between native and non-native people. And I do hope that some day the honourable Minister will invite me for a cruise on his yacht in Hudson Bay where we can discuss this in depth, the inequity between us, and perhaps he can give me some hints as to how I might catch up with him.

I see from the paper and hear on the radio that there are a number of Ministers who are pressing hard to end the debate on the general principle of the budget. They would like to invoke closure. They want to spend and go home. That is always a simple thing to do. When I look at the paper today I see that Mr. Sibbeston is awarded the quote of the week: "Some of the other MLAs...have been continuing the discussion of a general nature to date and we feel they're just regurgitating the same old stuff."

Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to regurgitate a little more. And that should not be hard for anyone to understand, because when a government attempts to stuff something unpalatable down your throat, the natural reaction is that you just want to puke. So that is why we are regurgitating, Mr. Chairman.



The Principle Of The Bill Is The Real Issue

Why do we want to go on about debating the principle of this budget? The reasons are several, but the first is because that is what is the real issue about this budget. We are running a serious risk of incurring serviceable debt and it is not clear that the revenue side of the ledger is adequate for us to handle that. I say that if we do not address that issue right now, at this time, in this Assembly, then we might as well never address it, because deficit spending is a lot like dope. The time to wrestle with the decision is before you take your first fix, because after that it is too late. You are hooked and there is hardly any point arguing about it at all. That is why it is important to deal with the principle of the bill now and to deal with it exhaustively.

We want to deal with it more thoroughly so that it becomes clearer to the public why some attempt will be made, as we go through the budget department by department, and there will be proposals to trim proposed increases in expenditure. Again I want to reiterate that, because the message has still not got through. It is obvious to me and to many people that effort is not being made to cut government spending. The difference between us lies in the fact that the government is proposing to increase government spending in a single year by 16 per cent and there are those of us who are saying perhaps we should only increase government spending this year by about 13 per cent. That is the difference, we are not proposing cuts. So if there are motions to trim, it is not cutting government spending, it is just trying to limit increases by a little bit.

Another reason that the debate has gone on is because so many touchy Ministers have been leaping in to talk about it. I would invite anyone to go back to the records of this House and examine the place in Hansard where a budget is introduced. When it comes to general comments, traditionally that has been a time for ordinary MLAs to make general comments about the budget. And Ministers generally have had the courtesy to sit and listen to what was being said. I know even as an ordinary Member, I sat courteously and listened while some honourable Members, who are now on that side of the House, lacerated the existing government of that day for days on end before we really got at the analysis of the budget. So perhaps if the Ministers will be patient, in another half hour or hour the general debate will be concluded.

MR. McCALLUM: Don't bet on it.

MR. RICHARD: Don't count on it, either.

Disappointment Expressed By Member

MR. MacQUARRIE: I think my greatest surprise and disappointment in all of this is that the usually-responsible Minister of Finance has been urging people to shut off debate on the principle of this, sometimes in subtle ways by congratulating those who seem willing to limit it. He is doing that after riding into this House on a dressed-up nag without even blushing, recommending that we blow a \$40 million bankroll, which had been carefully nurtured by the Commissioner and other money managers over a period of many years, urging us to blow that \$40 million bankroll in one election year and then even go beyond that and incur or run the serious risk of incurring \$16 million in real debt.

All of this appears to be done in the belief that somehow, if we appear before the feds broke and in debt that that will persuade them that we need more money. Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has a point of order. I am willing to wait patiently to hear it if that is the case.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Well, I have not finished yet. I thought the Minister had a point of order. If there is no point of order I will continue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: At any rate, my colleague from Yellowknife South, who is generally a thoughtful and ...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. MacQuarrie, your time is up. Does the committee agree to let the Member continue?



SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie, go ahead.

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...generally a thoughtful and courteous man...

MR. RICHARD: Do not cut him off now!

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...might have been a little unfair earlier when he suggested that the government has no plan about what to do in the future, because it appears there is "the plan". It seems that the plan is to blow the bankroll, go into debt and then have the Minister of Finance or more likely his hapless successor, perhaps his hapless successor too, appear barefoot and naked before the federal Minister of Finance and say, "We have real expenditure needs, we are broke, we are in debt and we need more money." I think at that point the federal Minister would say, "You want more; perhaps we can consider it. Are there indications that you are trying to help yourselves, any signs that you are trying to generate some revenue in the Territories?" I think the answer will be, "No, we do not want to touch that, that is politically risky. We want to spend more, we want more revenue but we want you to give it to us." Well, I think as long as the federal government, when it is faced with that kind of decision can point to a number of things, and for instance, say, "Well, it appears that without malice aforethought, perhaps without forethought at all, you arbitrarily declared an extra holiday in the Territories and shut down government operations for an extra day and thereby lost 1/250th of the productivity of the government." When he would point to circumstances such that a government, this government, supports multitudes of politicians at every level, municipal, regional, territorial, native and so on and politicians of every stripe and colour to go to conferences in Alaska and Greenland and Yellowknife and Ottawa and Central America and South America and Europe and always in greater numbers than necessary; when he points to a government that sponsors a circus of costly moves by government departments from building to building in Yellowknife and from community to community across the North; when he points to an Assembly that treats itself to a trip to Expo '86; when he points to the fact that there is a government that blows a \$40 million bankroll in one election year and runs the risk of going into real debt to the tune of \$16 million, I think he is going to say, "And you want the Canadian taxpayer to provide you with more money..."

MR. RICHARD: Not likely.

MR. MacQUARRIE: ..."especially when there is not a single indication that you want to help yourself?" I can only believe that Mr. Butters, or whoever the Finance Minister is, will be looked at by the Minister of Finance for Canada and he will say, "Mr. Butters, get serious."

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

#### Executive Council Wishes To Deal With Specifics

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to clarify one point, Mr. Chairman, and that is that the Executive Council has no desire or intent or wish to move a motion of closure or to close off the debate. Really, we would like to see the committee of the whole get to the detail of the budget. We agree with the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre that it is the responsibility of government to make reductions if reductions are required. We realize that and we are not expecting the Members opposite to make those reductions. We have the responsibility and can do so. What we would like to hear from honourable Members is their specific concerns. We have heard generalities for the last three or four days. We wish to deal with specifics and we will assure Members as we proceed through the budget that we will accept their concerns with respect and give them full consideration. We recognize this is a consensus House. We recognize that this budget must be a budget of the total House, but to do so and to produce a budget of that nature requires discussion, not a limitation of debate, not closure on debate but discussion of detail and we will wait patiently, to move into such discussion so that we can get on with fashioning a budget of us all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. General comments. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not going to add very much more to the opening comments that I made the other day, wherein I believe that I had put forth certain particular areas where this government could make some change, but since I have been accused of holding back the progress of this House, I might as well be guilty.

MR. RICHARD: Regurgitate a little more.

MR. McCALLUM: I think I just want to get a point across to the government Members. What we are trying to do is to use a form of, if you like, teaching or education called rote. I have not got a two-by-four, I cannot get your attention any other way, and so we are going to keep going over until it finally comes to your mind that there is no need to continue operating this government with an already fat administration -- there is no reason to add to it.

#### Not An "Irrelevant" Discussion

It has been said that all we are doing is talking about the same old material in irrelevant principles. Well, I do not believe it is irrelevant to spend more money than you have. I do not think it is irrelevant to spend the total reserves the government has. I do not think it is irrelevant for government to spend or attempt to spend on implementation of plans that have no policies. I do not believe that it is irrelevant asking for additional person years that the government will not or does not fill for a period of time -- eight to 12 months. I do not think it is irrelevant about using money associated with those vacant PYs and positions involved with them to fund positions in various departments that government then comes back, and asks to have approved. If these then are irrelevant things that we are discussing, then an awful lot of people, not just we so-called "three in this corner", have a different view. If this is an example of responsible government by the group of eight, then I think that their particular view is not a view that is shared by a number of other people.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

MR. McCALLUM: If this is consensus government, then forget it. I am not going to regurgitate old material but I hope that I am going to settle Mr. Sibbeston's stomach, maybe freshen up his taste buds a little bit. I had indicated that we are trying to bring across to you the fact that you are embarking upon doing something, taking on more people into government that does not need it. Now, I think it is too bad that people opposite feel that we are going on with this too long, but I do not believe that the only bright lights in the universe are the eight across the way. Because I question the actions of government, does not necessarily mean that I am wrong.

AN HON. MEMBER: It doesn't mean you are right either.

MR. McCALLUM: The question will likely come down to a vote that will likely show, in the view of Members here, that in their opinion we are wrong. That still does not say that you people are doing it right either.

#### Committee Told Cuts Were Not Up To Them

I think that what we are attempting to do is to do the work of our committee and bring it in here. The way in which it was told to us while we were in the standing committee on finance, was that we were going through a responsible exercise, that it was not up to us to show the government where to cut. I do not want to quote from words that were said in the SCOF meetings, but we have had that particular comment being made to us. I do not understand how Ministers now, when you are talking about a total budget, go to extreme lengths to defend the budget of their departments. As has been noted by Mr. MacQuarrie, that is something new that has come around. You are tired of listening to three people, in the words of Mr. Sibbeston, question what the government is trying to do. You want to change the practice of giving the standing committee on finance access to it.

#### Recommendations Are Now To Be Considered

We have been told that we should not have to do the cutting, that there is no way that we should. Now, we are hearing that if we want to make recommendations, we should be making recommendations. You people will then look at the recommendations and you will come back to us -- trust us. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that there are certain things that have been said here that are not

simply rhetorical pieces of verbiage. We have said the same kind of things in the standing committee on finance and we have identified certain particular areas. I would have thought that given the kinds of things that were being said, that those changes would have been made.

I do not expect the government to come in here and lay before this House a budget and then the next day or two say, "Oh, I am sorry, we did the wrong thing. We gave you the wrong budget. We wanted these cuts." I am realistic enough to know that if we make recommendations for particular departments to reduce their growth, if we make recommendations to the government to reduce the new PY numbers, I am aware enough that that is all it will be. It will be a look at it and there will be very little done, because they are only recommendations. I guess I am not so naive as to think that once we do make motions for the government to reduce their growth or not to implement certain things -- I am really not so naive as not to know that we have about as much chance as a snowball in you-know-where to get those things through. But that will not stop me, as far as I am concerned, asking the questions or putting forth those kinds of motions.

Whether Members of the government think that we are prolonging it or not, that is too bad. The shoe is on the other foot for a while and I do not have to walk in anyone's shoes for very long to feel comfortable in the ones that I have. I think I have a responsibility in terms of indicating to the government where I think they are implementing particular programs that are not proper, where they are planning and proposing to spend money where they should not be. I know full well that even with the increase in the capital budget it is going to be very difficult for this government to carry out a specific capital project in the next year. Undoubtedly there will be some projects that will be put off and held back. But we are talking about a proposed expenditure and that is the only thing that we can discuss. I do not think that they are "irrelevant principles" to quote another Minister's words. I think that it is our particular responsibility to bring those issues forward. We only have one opportunity to bring them in and this is when we are in this House. I, for one, will be doing that kind of thing. I do not expect I am going to win very much, if anything. Nevertheless that is what I will be attempting to do. If that is delaying the progress of this House in any way, shape or form, then again I say, that is too bad. I spent two weeks or more in the standing committee going through this -- and other people on the committee with me. And other committee Members who did not, and still think that we are spending too much time on it. If they do not particularly care about it, that is too bad again. What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that we have heard, "Tell us where we should be cutting it." I am not going to tell anybody where they should be cutting it. I am going to indicate that you should not have that kind of growth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McCallum, your 10 minutes are up. Does the committee agree that Mr. McCallum continue?

MR. McCALLUM: I am finished anyway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to continue on with general comments but I do wish to introduce a motion.

Motion That Committee Support Practice Of Giving Standing Committee On Finance Early Access To Budgetary Material, Carried

I move that this committee support the practice of the Executive Council giving the standing committee on finance early access to budgetary material.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Can we have a copy of your motion, please? For the committee's benefit I will reread the motion by Mr. Nerysoo. It reads: That this committee support the practice of the Executive Council giving the standing committee on finance early access to budgetary material. Mr. Nerysoo, your motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. NERYSOO: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? This motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Butters.



HON. TOM BUTTERS: May the record show that Members of the Executive Council abstained?

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Let the record show that all of the Executive Council voted against the earlier motion to provide information to this House.

MR. RICHARD: Hear, hear!

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Concerning the main estimates of 1987-88, we have been discussing these things for the past three days. I will read the motion in English.

Motion To Move To Detailed Review Of Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs, Bill 1-87(1)

I move that the committee of the whole move to the detailed review of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. Could we have a copy of the motion? For the Members' benefit, Mr. Erkloo's motion reads: I move that the committee of the whole move to the detailed review of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Your motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The chairman of the finance committee mentioned more than once that he supports the budget and that he will not try to cut the budget. But he mentioned at times that he will deal with it individually so that the budget will be more appropriate. I think each one of us has to ask himself how we are going to make a cut when we are not dealing with each department. I think we can only deal with it when we start dealing with the budget by departments, to see where the cuts should be made. The Minister of Education has asked time and time again which programs should be cut that is allotted for education purposes. Again how are we going to make the cuts before we review the whole budget? I think we should review by section and see where the cuts should be made. The people that we represent are expecting to see the new budget effective April 1st. While we, who are suppose to represent the people, are going in circles, there are probably a lot of people holding their breath to see what is going to happen. I feel we have to do something now so that people will sleep better, especially the people in our area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

This Motion A Motion Of Closure

MR. MacQUARRIE: It is clear that it is a motion of closure and it is an ordinary Member who is introducing it, very regrettably, but that is a fact and we have to deal with it. The motion, if it carries, will close debate on a matter of principle that will have, does have, long-term implications for the people of the Northwest Territories. As I said, if the principle of incurring real debt is accepted, then that has implications for many, many years to come.

If the Member who moved it is satisfied that there really is a need for cuts and wishes to get at it quickly, I say I would understand it in that case. I am not at all sure that the Executive Council has been persuaded that there is a need for some -- why do I keep using the word "cuts"? I regret that because that is not what is happening -- but the need for some reduction in the increase that is being proposed by the government, perhaps one could say exorbitant increase, that is being proposed by the government. I am not satisfied that the Executive Council Members recognize that need and I am not satisfied that other Members do or that the public, generally, does. If the whole issue is not entirely clear in Members' minds and we do not try to limit the expenditures of this year, then we will be into a situation from which, I believe there is no return.

As I said, deficit financing is like taking dope. The time to determiné what you are going to do in respect of it is before you take the first fix. Because once you are hooked, you are not in any position to make a real determination any more. We, at this moment in our history, have the opportunity to resist the quick fix. It appears that many Ministers and Members are not persuaded of that. I do not think I can or will say any more. I will regret it. I will vote against the



motion. I will regret it if it carries. Not that I had many other general comments myself. I had wanted to make one more complimentary comment to some of the Ministers, but if I am denied the opportunity to say that, explain what it is, I am sure they will understand.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak against the motion of Mr. Erkloo for the very simple, selfish reason that I wish to debate with the Members of the Executive Council further about the general problems that I have, and a lot of my constituents have, with what this government is doing by asking for this budget to be approved in a general sense. Mr. Chairman, through you to Mr. Erkloo, I wish to respond further to some of the statements made by the Ministers and I do not feel I have had sufficient opportunity to do that.

Two days ago, Mr. Patterson issued a challenge to myself, among others, to point out where the fat is in the budget. I have made just a little short list which I intended to use to entertain the Members of the Executive Council with yesterday. However, I was not given that opportunity yesterday. Four of the Ministers, Mr. Chairman, not only cannot balance the books, they cannot tell the time.

HON. GORDON WRAY: That is a cheap shot -- along with a lot of others.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Along with a lot of MLAs.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Nine MLAs as well.

MR. RICHARD: I love this. This is the banter that the Speaker was speaking about, Mr. Chairman.

#### To Spend Surplus To Create Deficit Is Not Logical

One of the points, Mr. Chairman, that I wanted to respond to was something that one of my constituents pointed out to me overnight, after Tuesday's debate, about the one consistent reason running through all of these statements since January, since we first saw this budget, was this statement by the Ministers that we do not want the feds to see the \$50 million in the bank. We do not want the feds to point to the \$50 million in the bank, we want instead to point to a deficit. Mr. Chairman, these are some of the things I wanted to say and if this motion is defeated, I will continue to say. The point, Mr. Chairman, that a constituent made to me, the sort of thing which should be stated in public debate, is that there is no logic to the government's statement. What if the bodies that this government funds, like municipalities, hamlets, school boards took the same position and said, "We had better spend everything in the bank and run up a big debt and then go to the Executive Council and ask for money."

HON. GORDON WRAY: They do, that is why...

MR. RICHARD: How would that sit with this group of responsible Ministers?

HON. GORDON WRAY: They do it all the time.

MR. RICHARD: I think, Mr. Chairman, that my colleague, Mr. MacQuarrie, correctly characterized the reaction that a federal Minister of Finance such as Mr. Wilson is going to give to Mr. Butters, or his replacement, when this fiscal framework, so called, is put before a federal Minister of Finance.

Mr. Chairman, I want to speak against the motion because it will preclude me from giving the Ministers the examples of fat, so-called fat, in the budget. Mr. Chairman, fat is any time that one blindly, blindly spends \$75 million in excess of the revenues that you have, without any consideration for the future, that is fat. On a smaller scale, let me give a few examples of fat that I will be precluded...

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Curley, your point of order.

MR. RICHARD: They wanted examples, and now they do not want to hear me.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: It is just that you are not making sense.

MR. RICHARD: They make a lot of sense, Nick, some of them are in your department of the Executive.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe the honourable Member knows the rules very well, he is the chairman of the rules and procedures committee, and on that basis I would like to point out the fact that his comments are deviating from the motion and I believe that that is what we are concentrating on right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I would like to ask Members to make general comments to the motion that is on the floor right now and it is with regard to going into the detail of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. That is the motion right now. Mr. Richard, to the motion.

Motion Restricts Right To Discuss Budget In General Way

MR. RICHARD: That is a friendly invitation, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your ruling. I understand why Mr. Curley is making his point of order. The Ministers now do not want me to go into examples of fat in this \$800 million, so I will defer, sir, to your caution and simply ask that my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly not support Mr. Erkloo's motion. I do not support it because I believe it restricts my right to discuss this budget in a general way. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Wray, to the motion.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few comments. I think that Mr. Erkloo's motion is attempting to do exactly what the honourable Member for Yellowknife South wants to do and that is to get into discussions on the budget and to talk in detail about where he and other Members think the fat lies in our government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. GORDON WRAY: I would be the last one to say that a small minority of Members in this House are attempting to take the House into chaos because they do not get their own way. However, I will not be the one to say that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible comments)

HON. GORDON WRAY: Are we dealing with sensitive people now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Can we have some order in the House? Mr. Wray has the floor. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: In his earlier comments, Mr. MacQuarrie referred to other Members of the House on this side, who used to be on that side, and certainly when...

MR. RICHARD: They will be again.

HON. GORDON WRAY: ...and certainly when we were on that side...

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Hopefully.

HON. GORDON WRAY: ...we dealt responsibly with the budget and we confined our general comments to those of a general nature. When we had problems or when we saw fat or when we saw spending that perhaps we thought was not correct, we brought it up in the appropriate place in the budget on a line-by-line basis and we never once, other than, I think if I remember correctly, an attempt to delete money for the Commissioner's Office, not once did we on that side of the House try to make cuts, all we did was merely make recommendations to the Executive.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Were you ever once dealing with a real debt?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Can we have some order in the House? Could you speak to the motion, Mr. Wray?

Executive Council Not Averse To Recommendations

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the motion reflects frustration of Members who also share some feelings, like Mr. MacQuarrie and Mr. Richard, that they would like to see line-by-line discussion so that they can point out where they think government could be cutting back. We, as an Executive, would like to get on with line-by-line detail because nobody on this side of the House has said that we are averse to listening to those recommendations.

MR. RICHARD: They were all made in January.

HON. GORDON WRAY: If the recommendations had been made to me in the standing committee on finance meetings, we would not be going through this show in the House, but the only recommendations I got were to spend money. I am hoping that, in fact, concrete suggestions may come out as to where I can save money.

MR. RICHARD: You did not read those transcripts.

HON. GORDON WRAY: The line-by-line detail is the place for the honourable Members opposite to show us where, in their opinion, the spending is excessive or is not being done properly. I do not know if what we are saying is either going over their heads or through the space in between the ears but that is what we are trying to say. We want to hear those recommendations and I, for one -- and I know I can speak for my colleagues -- if those recommendations make sense, I have no problem in going back and relooking at it. I have said that consistently from the beginning. In fact, based on one recommendation I got in the standing committee on finance -- the only one, in fact -- when my budget comes up, I will be making changes right in this House, so I do not know what the honourable Members opposite are trying to prove. I do not know what they are attempting to do, but it is certainly not to be dealing with this budget in a responsible manner so that we can get the recommendations as to where the cuts can be made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Mr. Wah-Shee, to the motion.

Members Historically Given Sufficient Time To Discuss Budget In General

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The difficulty I have with the motion is that as far as I can recall, whenever a budget is introduced to this House, there is always flexibility given to ordinary Members to spend sufficient time to deal with the budget. As well, I can also say that I cannot really recall previous Members of the Executive Council who were so overly touchy about their budget that they did not want anyone to question it or criticize it, that they feel that this is about the best thing that they have ever produced in the last four years...

MR. RICHARD: It is one of the biggest.

MR. WAH-SHEE: ...and to me, I think that we are dealing with public funds and it is certainly not personal funds of the individual Members of the Executive Council. So with regard to the process in dealing with the budget, I think this particular budget certainly creates a precedent whereby the next Members of the Executive Council can pull the same thing and it is really too bad...

HON. GORDON WRAY: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Point of order, Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Executive Council is not pulling anything. The motion is being made by an ordinary Member. Perhaps you should address the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Mr. Wah-Shee, could you make your comments to the motion?

MR. WAH-SHEE: I was just going to indicate that we know where the Executive Council is going to stand on this particular motion; that is really what I was alluding to. If I could continue, Mr. Chairman, without being interrupted by the Members opposite.

---Laughter

MR. McCALLUM: As far as I am concerned you can go right ahead.

Members' Right To Question Expenditures Threatened

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you. I have heard in the last while that this is an open government, open administration, they really have nothing to hide, they have come up with the best budget they could come up with. So really, I do not see why they should be so overly protective of the questions being raised by the ordinary Members of this House. I think as Members of this committee, we are trying to do our job and take a look at the expenditures of this government. This is a right that we are exercising and it is that right that is being questioned right now through this particular motion. For anyone to support it, basically you are taking away your own right.

Everyone in this House has been talking about how great consensus government functions and how every opportunity should be given to ordinary Members to be given the right to speak. What this particular motion does, Mr. Chairman, is basically to limit the rights and privileges of an individual Member. It is that particular principle that I am addressing. It is not so much how gung ho the Members opposite are in terms of expending public funds, or to what limits. So that is the difficulty I have, and it is really too bad that it is an ordinary Member who has proposed this particular motion because the limits that are being imposed by this particular motion will have more of an implication to the ordinary Member, as opposed to the Members of the Executive. Because it is the Members of the Executive that are trying to promote the budget that they have come up with. It also limits the opportunity for any of the other Members who are not part of the Executive to participate a lot more fully. And that is really the problem. It is not really a question of who is right, of the amount that is indicated within the budget. And even that, Mr. Chairman, I have difficulty with as well.

So I cannot really see where ordinary Members should be persuaded to support this particular motion because, really, you are taking away your own right. Any time an ordinary Member, in the future, raises questions or meets challenges to his right to speak, or a time limit is being imposed, then obviously we will have to go back to today's Hansard and say, "How could you say that, because you already supported a particular motion to limit your own right to speak and participate in the budgetary process." So really, it is not so much that we are talking about the budget per se, it is just that you are imposing your majority, just because this is the way you want it and you want to have the budgetary process go through in a matter of days, that you impose your limits on the rights of ordinary Members, which, as a Member of this House, I totally resent. It is no laughing matter as far as I am concerned. For those Members who sit on the Executive today, the next time there is an election maybe some of you might not be around and if you are around, maybe you will end up on this side of the House and when you are talking about your rights as ordinary MLAs, then I really feel sorry for you. Because you had no guts today to stand up for your rights as an ordinary Member. Period.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Mr. Nerysoo.

Motion Sets Bad Precedent

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me first say that I have a very difficult time with the motion itself, not so much because I did not already indicate that I am prepared to deal with the details. I made that very clear. But I think it is the matter of the precedent that it sets. With respect to the mover, this particular practice of closure has been an issue of parliamentary debate for many, many years. And when we talk about the idea of practising consensus government, nothing is more important than the ability to raise concerns and to try to come to some conclusion on the issue. That is the fundamental part of consensus development.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Members' Rights To Raise Concerns Expressed By Constituents

MR. NERYSOO: I realize that there have been some questions and I understand some of the frustration that is going through this particular House, the efforts of the Executive to get into the details and some of the Members wanting to get into the details. But as much as that willingness to get into the details is here, I still think that it is a fundamental principle to



allow Members, who have been elected to represent various constituencies and various people from throughout the NWT, the right to practise the authority that has been given to them, the right to raise questions, the right to challenge what has been put before them, and the right to try to continue to raise the general concerns that have been expressed by constituents. So in that sense, the motion itself as put forward, I have a difficulty of supporting, because Mr. Wah-Shee was very articulate in expressing the effect that this has, not only on the question of dealing with the budget, but the fundamental right of every individual MLA in this House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. NERYSOO: I think it is crucial that as Members of the Assembly we always try to protect those types of rights. So, I personally am going to vote against the motion on the issues that I have raised. Not on the unwillingness to proceed to the details of the budget, I have made that known already...

HON. GORDON WRAY: I wish you would tell your colleagues that.

MR. NERYSOO: That is for them to -- the question of whether or not my colleagues are going to speak or not raise questions is up to them. I am just prepared to proceed. I am not going to restrict the ability of any Members to continue their own wishes, to discuss their particular concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. McLaughlin, to the motion.

#### Some Members Want To Get To Details

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I can appreciate what some of the Members have just stated who are speaking against the motion, that their rights are being possibly taken away by this. At the same time, you have to remember that some of the other Members of the Assembly are interested in getting to the detail. They feel that by taking up the time frame now -- by taking the time frame up now with this, I think what they are saying is, in general, there has been enough generalization so far, and they would like to get into details. Everybody knows that there are events near the end of March that this government would like to participate in -- First Ministers' Conference. We have other important things to do as a government and those are matters we would like to do. So Members would like to conclude the debate in an orderly fashion and to have good time left to talk in detailed consideration, where they will have the opportunity to give this government some specific direction on where we might improve our delivery or increase expenditures or decrease expenditures. Speaking specifically to some of the reasons that Mr. Richard offered as to why he would not want to have this passed, because he would like to take care of his constituents' concerns, I would say to Mr. Richard that a lot of your constituents who are not civil servants, once this budget is passed, are going to be adding additions onto their commercial and retail businesses, increasing their inventories, building houses for rent or to occupy themselves in this community. So I would say that this is a good budget and it is a good budget for his constituents, too, and if he has problems with it and wants to cut some of those programs and expenditures out, when we get into detail that is when he can show us where to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

#### No Motion For Zero Growth Budget

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to repeat what has been said, but I think it is obvious that there is confusion in this House. Obviously, because we have been repeating the same thing ever since the bill was introduced. During the second reading, the same statements were made. The standing committee on finance made the same lengthy presentation but I did not see one lousy recommendation in their report, where they had an opportunity to make a recommendation either to ask the government to -- in terms of a motion, there was no motion whatsoever to go with the zero growth budget.

The Executive Council is not voluntarily going to reduce its budget as presented. Therefore, it has to be made by a motion, Mr. Chairman, so on that basis the Members on the other side are getting frustrated with the same message over and over again. We are not afraid one little bit of opening our books and going to the details of the budget, department by department, line by line. That is when we are going to respond, but we are not going to respond to rhetoric.

I am sure the press will. If you have new information that you would like to get to them, you have an opportunity to do that outside of this House because I think the public deserves a little more credible debate in the House by detailed presentations of the items. So I do not think the Members' rights have been compromised. I think the Members are saying we have enough of the preamble, let us get into the substance. That is all it is.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. T'Seleie, to the motion.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, just to say that I am anxious to get into the budget.

---Applause

And if this motion passes, I see it as not really setting any kind of precedent or infringing on the rights of Members to make the points that they want to make. I think if it passes, that all it does, in this one instance, is that it is the will of the Assembly that we examine the budget in detail. I have concerns about the budget and I would like to bring them out in detail. I have concerns about conferences, travel for government employees.

#### Conferences Often Waste Money And Accomplish Little

Just in this past week we have had a food conference. I think, there are too many conferences in the North. They are mostly all paid for by the government and there must be an awful lot of dollars in these books here that go toward those things. For instance, in the next couple of weeks there is going to be a conference to talk about the problems of the aged and chronically ill in the North. My feeling is that the government should go ahead and do something about the problems of the aged and chronically ill rather than spend a lot of dollars on bringing together people -- probably in Yellowknife for one conference where there will be a lot of words spoken and after that everyone goes home and forgets about the conference and nothing really comes of it. I think if we all examine, maybe, in the past year how many conferences there have been, what good they have done, we could probably say that the money spent on these conferences has not been for the better.

So, I would like to get on with the budget. I think the debate that has been going on here for the last several days is interesting for the public but I think it would be more interesting to examine every department in detail and let the public hear how the government plans to spend money, in detail. I think that discussion would be more informative for the public rather than for us to speak in generalities...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. T'SELEIE: So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to support the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. Angottitauruq.

#### Members Opposing Motion Should Have Framed Their Own

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I am going to have to try and speak to the motion. I guess I would like to discuss the budget detail by detail. Those who are opposing it, if they had come up with a motion similar to this one, would have had their message sent across. I know debating it like this gives the public the interest and shows who is on whose side, but without any clear direction it does not get anywhere. For that matter, I believe that I will support the motion so that we make headway and get somewhere. As I said before, anyone who makes a motion on particular departments and even regions, makes a motion to take some money out from those regions or departments, if I feel like it, I certainly will vote with them to try to get the message across so we do not have to have too much of a deficit.

Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to speak without too much interruption, if that is the way the House has to operate.

In some way I thought that when the opposers of the motion were speaking I would have gone to their side very easily. But then it does not go anywhere, just debating it, and since this motion has been made and we are going to vote on it, I will vote in favour of it because I would like to go to the details instead of wiping a few million dollars right off the bat without discussing where the deductions are going to be. For that reason I would like to go detail by detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Since the motion, if carried, would have the effect of cutting off addressing the bill or the budget in total and rather compel you to look at details, I really feel that it is important to assess, before that happens, that there is, perhaps it is an error or deceit prevalent here, and that is that we are not yet into the budget. I say that is nonsense. The moment a government comes in with a proposal to spend \$790 million, we are into the budget and that is what we have been discussing, the principle of that.

Government Likened To Cadillac Salesman

To give an illustration that may help. The government is acting like a car salesman who is telling us that we need a Cadillac. Some of us are saying, "We do not think we can afford the Cadillac. Can you show us something else? Can you tell us, if we are going to have a Cadillac, how we might finance it, or could you maybe give us something that is just about as good as a Cadillac but costs a little less?"

Now I think that is very legitimate for us, as potential buyers, to say; yet what we are being told here is, "No, that is not good at all, start looking at the air conditioning in the Cadillac. Start looking at the push button windows. Start looking at the collapsible steering wheel. And if you will not let me as a salesman point you to those things, then somehow you are being irrelevant." But as a buyer, I still say that you have not persuaded me that I need a Cadillac.

MR. RICHARD: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: You will not even talk about an alternative. We wanted to find out something about the principle of the budget, some facts that would help me to...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. MacQuarrie, could you speak to the motion, please.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, yes, the motion calls for cutting off the kind of debate as to whether we really need a Cadillac or not. And what I am saying is that in this general part of the debate -- and we are debating the budget -- we try to find out certain information that would help us to understand the effect of the budget. The Executive Council voted against that and refuses to give that information. So there is real ground for debate.

In other words, there is an essence, a principle to the budget. The government refuses to provide information that would help you to understand that. So that is not irrelevant at all. We are prepared to go into the details as well. But let us sort out first of all whether we need that Cadillac or not. That is the issue as far as I am concerned.

MR. RICHARD: Hear, hear!

MR. MacQUARRIE: If this motion passes, then that question has gone by, admittedly, and we start looking at the air conditioning and things like that but I will not let anybody tell me that they are the same thing. They are two different questions and each of them deserves to be considered seriously.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Question.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Recorded vote.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Recorded vote has been -- Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, this motion here says Department of Municipal and Community Affairs only; in that motion this department is particularly indicated. If we finish this department, are we going to introduce the same motion for continuing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pudluk, this is a procedural issue that you are addressing and we are dealing with this particular motion only at this time.

Motion To Move To Detailed Review Of Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs, Bill 1-87(1), Carried

A recorded vote has been requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Paniloo, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Angottitauruq.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. All those against.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. McCallum, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Richard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Abstentions, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Wray, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Curley, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Butters, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Pedersen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): This motion is carried with seven voting yes, five voting no and seven abstentions. Thank you.

We will now go into the details of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, with Mr. Wray. Mr. Wray, your opening remarks.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): A motion is on the floor to report progress. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? I will rise now and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1-87(1) and wishes to report progress, with two motions being adopted, 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. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I notice that third reading is on the agenda. Might we move to that item?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I am sorry. Item 19, third reading of bills. Mr. Butters.



ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Bill 13-87(1): Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 13-87(1), An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 13-87(1) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day.

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

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, February 23rd.

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. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, February 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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