



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1984

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): For the record of the Assembly the following has been received dated today's date addressed to the Speaker. "It is my pleasure to respond to Motion 4-84(1) which was passed by the Members of the Legislative Assembly, January 11, recommending the appointment of certain Members to the Executive Council. I accept the recommendations of the House and I am pleased to confirm that the following are Members of the Executive Council, effective January 12: Tom Butters, Nellie Cournoyea, Tagak Curley, Bruce McLaughlin, Richard Nerysoo, Dennis Patterson, Nick Sibbeston and Gordon Wray. Signed John Parker, Commissioner, Northwest Territories." Item 2, are there any Members' replies? Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to ensure, Mr. Speaker, that the replies not having been made now will not prevent the Member from speaking again later on during the session.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will be recessed, rather than adjourned so that there will be an opportunity in February to all Members. Mrs. Sorensen.

ITEM 2: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mrs. Sorensen's Reply

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say a few words. First of all I would like to congratulate our new Leader and to say how pleased I am that he has accepted the very onerous responsibility of leading the Legislative Assembly and its Executive Council over the next four years. I would also like to offer my congratulations to the new Members of the Executive Council. I know that they will keep good counsel over the next few years and that when I and my constituents have concerns that each and every one of them in their portfolios and the Leader will listen to the things that I and the other Yellowknife Members say on behalf of our constituents.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MRS. SORENSEN: I would also like to offer my congratulations to the new members of the interpreter corps, those Dene members who so ably translated our new MLAs' speeches, or parts of those speeches yesterday. It is indeed, I think, a wonderful thing to have a Legislature in Canada that is not only in English and French, as some of the Legislatures in the South are, but in the native languages as well. I am very pleased to be a part of a Legislature that is doing those kinds of things.

### Constituency Concerns

Normally the first speech that an MLA gives at the beginning of a session talks about the interests of the constituency and also a little bit about the constituency that they represent. That is primarily what I would like to do today. My constituency is that of Yellowknife South. It is the largest constituency in terms of population in the Northwest Territories. There are approximately 5000 people in the constituency, 3300 of whom were able to vote in the last election. I have a mixture of public servants, of teachers, of Department of National Defence employees, of RCMP and of businessmen. I also have a mine in my constituency and with that miners and mining personnel.

I might also add that I had the honour of being an MLA who almost had an astronaut in my constituency as well. Dana Ferguson, a local member of an engineering firm here in Yellowknife, made it down to the last 20 people of some three or four thousand people chosen across Canada as contestants for the honour of representing Canada in outer space. I think it is to our credit and naturally to his credit that we had someone of that calibre who almost made it to the finals. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him even though he did not win the contest in the end.

My constituency also contains the hospital. I would like to talk for a minute about the importance of proceeding with the new hospital in Yellowknife as quickly as possible. We have currently a hospital that is literally falling down around our ears, and while I do not for one minute think that it is dangerous to be a patient in that hospital, I think that we have to be very cognizant of the fact that it soon may be because of the age of the building and because of the many add-on trailers that over the years we have had to institute because of the condition of the building and the growing size of the services that it provides, to not only the constituents of Yellowknife but the constituents of some of our other MLAs in this area. I would hope that the Executive Council would proceed to get that treasury report submission in to Treasury Board -- it is my understanding that it is not there yet -- as quickly as possible. The health of our citizens may well be at a risk in the very near future.

I also have five schools in my constituency, three primary schools and two junior high schools. I would say that the education system in Yellowknife is a very good one primarily because of our teachers and of our committed school boards. I also have been informed by several residents who have since moved to southern jurisdictions who had children in our school system in the Yellowknife area and that we have one of the best systems in the country.

---Applause

That certainly is a credit to former Ministers of Education and indeed the work of Mr. Patterson over the last couple of years when he helped in the portfolio as well. The airport is also in my constituency. I would hope that I could solicit the support of the Executive Council in an expansion of that airport. The money, of course, would come from the Ministry of Transport at the national level. It too is an overcrowded airport and we need a larger facility because of the nature of the kinds of services that we are providing at that airport.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents individually are very unique people in the North in that the adults, for the most part, are not born here. But they have chosen to come and live in the Northwest Territories, in Yellowknife, because they see a role for themselves to play here. I would like to say that sometimes when you choose a place, rather than having the fortune of being born in the place, you have just as much commitment and in fact sometimes more commitment because you also have the choice of leaving. I would say to those people who have built their own homes and who have made that commitment to make Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories their home, that I welcome that commitment and look forward to representing all of my constituents over the next four years in the Legislature.

### Programs For Youth

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk for a little while about issues, not only of concern to my own constituents but also to constituents across the North, to the citizens of the Northwest Territories. A very major issue is one of youth. Not only youth unemployment but youth in education and youth in positions of responsibility. I would like to see this Legislature deal, over the next little while, with how we are going to address our youth. When I was going door-to-door during my campaign I was very surprised at the number of young people in my



constituency living in houses and in trailers who are unemployed. It is not only in the regions that we have unemployed youths but we do have them here in Yellowknife. They are unemployed, not because they have no skills or little skill, but because there are not very many jobs in Yellowknife for them. I think that one of the things we have to do, as a Legislature, is place a priority on our returning students who have been in southern Canada gaining an education and who have come back to the Northwest Territories seeking jobs. I think that there has to be a special place for these people. I do not say that we have to guarantee them jobs in the profession that they have trained in because that is probably just about impossible but I think that we should be very mindful that we have, in a large measure, contributed to the education of these people and they have come back to offer their services. We should make a special effort to find a place for them, not only in government, but in industry as well. That should be one of our major priorities.

I would also like us to see a very well thought-out summer program developed for students. I was involved last spring and summer with the youth that were returning to Yellowknife. There were some 200 Yellowknife students who returned to the city to find jobs over the summer. I found that while the government always does set aside moneys within each department for youth employment, there is not an awful lot of planning for those positions. I think that if we are to give our returning students, who are going back to school in the fall, a meaningful summer program that we should take some time to develop that program for them. That includes the Legislative Assembly as well. We can, over the summer, have a number of students employed and working for either MLAs or the Legislative Assembly in general to give them some legislative experience since we do have committees that meet over the summer. This would give them an indication of what goes on in the Legislative Assembly as well as in government departments. We can also play a part with industry and small business within our community and across the North in employing students. I know too that the federal government plans on a very extensive summer employment program and we must be very careful to tap into those dollars in a meaningful way so that our students benefit as students will across the country.

There is another area that I will hope to develop over the next little while and it will, of course, mean acceptance by other MLAs. I would like to see us involve students from across the North in a legislative program where perhaps each MLA over the course of the four years has one student or maybe more come and attend a session with them, help the MLA so that they see what is involved in the process as a legislator. That student would be involved with the Legislative Assembly and the workings in the preparation for a sitting. I would see this as a privilege that a student would have and therefore he or she should have a demonstrated interest in the civics program in the school, in social studies. Certainly it would be an older student rather than grades one to six. Each of our constituencies, I am sure, has students whom we could encourage in the future, I would hope, to take our place in the Legislative Assembly. This is one way to give them first-hand knowledge of how their government operates.

#### Development Of Small Business

Another major priority, and it was something that was mentioned yesterday in Mr. Parker's opening remarks, is economic development. Economic development and tourism has been a very keen interest of mine over the past four years. I can assure the Legislative Assembly that it will continue to be a major interest of mine over the next four years. I would see that we would have to place a much greater and more intense emphasis on the development of small business. I see small business and small industry as being the future of the North rather than oil and gas or major development in the "boom and bust" sense. I would like to see the encouragement of joint ventures between established northern businesses and smaller businesses perhaps in the communities who would like to get involved in businesses like the construction industry. I would like to see our northern preference tied to joint ventures where other small business is encouraged to grow and expand. I think that we do continue to need to polish our northern preference. I believe that we have nothing to hang our heads about with respect to the policy that was developed by the former Executive Council. It was in direct relation to the direction that was given by the Legislative Assembly, but I think any policy is definitely a living thing and there is room for improvement. I know that our chambers of commerce across the North are keenly interested in the northern preference policy and I think we should continue to listen to the things they have to say about it, not necessarily implementing all the recommendations we receive but choosing and picking those that we think will best serve the majority of the people in the North.

Another major priority and one I know that other Members feel strongly about is education. We have to be realistic about our educational system, however, Mr. Speaker. When you really get down to the nitty gritty of education, studies have revealed that success in school is directly related to

being there. The best programs, the best facilities and the best teachers are important, but if the child is not there on a day to day basis, the child is not listening to what the program has to offer, there will be no learning. We can continue to build schools and we can expand our personnel and we can implement good programs within our schools, but unless our children are in the classrooms dedicated to learning they will not learn. Directly related to them being there as well is the physical well-being of the child. Has the child had 10 hours of sleep? Has the child had regular meals and is the child healthy? A child that is not healthy, has not had plenty of sleep and has not been eating properly cannot learn. Therefore even if the child is in school he or she will be tired and undernourished and therefore the brain cannot have the capacity to take in the things that the teacher is teaching. Directly related to all of that, of course, is the commitment of the family to education and I think that over the next four years this Legislature has to be committed to the family. We have to do that in several ways, through example, through the dedication of dollars in whatever ways we see fit to support the family and through our Social Services programs. That leads me to the other priority that I see us dealing with and that is health and social services.

#### Health And Social Services

Our health programs are not only the provision of health care programs so that people have access to hospitals and doctors, but it is also preventative care and Mrs. Lawrence mentioned that yesterday in her opening remarks. There is going to be a great deal of talk in the next little while because there is a movement across the South and I know that there will be talk in the North as well about preventative medicine, what it means and what is involved in it. I would say that preventative care, teaching in the schools, teaching through the public health division of a healthy way of living is probably our best medicine and one that I would like to spend time over the next four years developing programs for. We need to encourage doctors and nurses to come north who have a commitment as well to preventative medicine because it is a whole way of life. We need more advertising through our government and through our northern health agencies of what a healthy life style is and some of us I suppose, if I were to preach, would do well to quit smoking as quickly as possible if we are to be an example of a healthy life style.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I am glad you are not preaching.

MRS. SORENSEN: Finally, Mr. Speaker, social services is an area that I feel very strongly about, as well as health, and one that I intend over the next four years to spend a lot of time on. I had the experience of touring through a couple of penitentiaries in Kingston this summer and while we in the North are nowhere near, I think, having the type of penitentiaries they have in the South it certainly opened my eyes toward corrections and the whole need to spend time understanding our own corrections system and the provision of services related to the corrections system such as half-way houses and again working at ways in which to prevent people from going into the corrections system if there are ways of keeping them in their communities.

I also had an opportunity to spend time with social workers and correctional workers right after my campaign and I have found that social work and corrections work is probably one of the most demanding and difficult positions to hold in the Northwest Territories today. I would see that the whole social services system does need to be looked at with a view to support systems for our social workers. They have a training program and they need support as well. I would see this whole area as one that we have to look very seriously at.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other priorities, of course, and I do not wish to take any more time, but I am looking forward to representing my constituents and the people of the Northwest Territories over the next four years. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in the Legislature and I also would take this opportunity to congratulate yourself, sir, in taking on the position of Speaker. I look forward to working with you as well. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize members of the Katimavik group. I believe there are two groups in town, one working for the Tree of Peace and the other working for the city of Yellowknife. I understand their leaders are Doug Wheeler and Barbara Cameron. Welcome to the North.

---Applause



I would like to remind all Members that there will be a photograph taken immediately following our recess today, so if you will please stay around for that photograph. Members' replies. Mr. Ballantyne.

Mr. Ballantyne's Reply

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, being this is my maiden speech in this Legislature and that first impressions are very important I will keep this speech very short. I would like to congratulate you, sir, for again undertaking the difficult role of Speaker. I think you did a fine, fine job last time and I think all of us look forward to seeing the Office of Speaker and his services to Legislative Assembly improved over the next four years. To Mr. Nerysoo my congratulations and best wishes to you as our Leader. I think during the next four years the role of the Leader will evolve and take on deeper and deeper significance. Again I have confidence that Mr. Nerysoo has the qualities to do a fine job as our Leader.

---Applause

To the new Members of the Executive Council, I realize at times that all of us as politicians have strong personalities and there will be some differences of opinion. I think that the abilities and the energy amongst you lead me to believe that you have a tremendous future as our Executive Council. I am looking forward to working with you and I trust that you will provide the leadership and support that we need to carry on our responsibilities in our communities.

---Applause

Also I will speak for all three fellow MLAs to welcome all Members to Yellowknife. I hope you enjoy your stay here and I want all of you to know, from all Yellowknifers, that you are always very, very welcome in our city. The mayor is out of town.

---Laughter

I would like to briefly tell you about my constituency. I probably have the most unique constituency in Yellowknife. It is situated in the older part of town. About one third of my constituents are native and mostly living in Rainbow Valley and Detah. Many of the problems that they are experiencing are the same problems that many of you experience throughout the Northwest Territories. There are housing problems, as in shortages, lack of job and business opportunities. There is a problem with what the children should be doing. I want to make it very clear now that one of my major priorities as MLA is to do what I can do, hopefully with your support, to give these people the sort of opportunities and future that they deserve. Also, in my community there is a gold mine, there are a number of working people living in trailer courts, some civil servants, so generally it is a very interesting mix of people.

Today I will not go into the long-term ideas I have of the sort of direction that I would like to see this Assembly carry out over the next four years but I would like to give you a couple of ideas that I have and a couple of emphases that I will be following through in the next four years. I think Lynda Sorensen has talked about the area of economic development. As I see the past four years, this Legislature has put together, I think, a very solid political structure. I think that the services that we provide have improved and generally they are coming into place. I see the long-term danger is that as the demands on the systems increase year by year we will have to find a way to pay for those demands. I think that under our new system of formula financing the days of our Legislature going to Ottawa with our problems is rapidly coming to an end. I think with independence comes responsibility and accountability. So I see the growth of economic development as very, very important if we are to carry out these sorts of desires all of us have, providing the better life for the people of the North. There are many ideas I have along these lines, but I will not take up your time at the present time. That will be a prime consideration of mine.

There is one other area which, at this point in time, obviously I am very familiar with. I do have some concerns about the provision of municipal services. I want all the Members to know right now that in the city of Yellowknife there is a major problem with the sewer and water system. We are talking about a multimillion dollar problem, that is on the verge of collapse. I know there are priorities and I know that we cannot do it all in one year. I want you all aware of the problem and we will be bringing documentation and back-up to you, so you will realize the seriousness of this problem.



I will not go on now, only to say that I am very proud to be here. I was not here by very much. If eight people had thought otherwise, I would not be here. I am looking forward to working with you all and I am sure that we will enjoy a very productive four years.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further Members' replies? Mr. MacQuarrie.

Mr. MacQuarrie's Reply

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, thank you.

---Applause

Thank you very much. I am so pleased to see that Mr. Curley particularly, is very happy to see me back here.

---Laughter

And of course I am happy to see him here as well. First of all I would like to congratulate all Members who have won seats in the 10th Legislative Assembly. We are the winners in the electoral process but I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to those many men and women across the Northwest Territories who ran and lost, because the democratic system cannot function effectively unless there are competent and interested people who are willing to put their abilities to work for the public good, willing to put their reputations on the line in public in order to serve the public good. Only those of us who have offered our names for public positions know precisely what it is like. It is a difficult thing to do. My honourable colleague from Yellowknife North says that it takes jam to do that. I am not sure what the word jam means but it does somehow put across what it takes in order to make the effort.

MRS. SORENSEN: Balls.

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is another word. It comes out of the mouth of Mrs. Sorensen.

---Laughter

It takes a lot of effort and expense and wear and tear on reputation, and emotions. Since there were so many people across the North willing to take that risk, I would like and I am sure that the other Members join me in congratulating them. Even though they lost, they were willing to do that.

---Applause

As the Member for Yellowknife Centre, I would also join my Yellowknife colleagues in welcoming all Members to Yellowknife. Particularly the new Members who may not have had a great deal to do with Yellowknife before. So you have only heard horrible stories of what Yellowknife is like and of course now you have the chance to be here and find out that that is not really true at all, that Yellowknife is a very fine city and you are welcome to enjoy it with the residents of Yellowknife. Also we particularly welcome the Executive Council Members who may make the decision to move to Yellowknife, to live here, and also some may not make that decision to move here permanently but will still be spending a great deal of time in Yellowknife enjoying the sporting activities, cultural activities and other excellent things that this city offers.

Sensitivity To Needs Of Yellowknife

Although there are no Yellowknife Members on the Executive Council, through conversations with various Members of the Executive Council, I am satisfied that, as Executive Members always have to do, they will make every reasonable effort to keep the needs of the entire territory in mind as they make their Executive decisions and will be sensitive to the needs of those areas which are not represented in the Executive Council.

---Applause

Yellowknife's people -- there is nearly a quarter of the population of the Territories residing in Yellowknife -- Yellowknife people have the same kinds of social and educational and health needs as people right across the Territories. Of course Yellowknife does have some special needs as a capital city, because in fact a number of these services that are offered here are offered not only to Yellowknife people but to people from other parts of the Territories. I am thinking of a program for the mentally retarded that is run in one of the school systems here. The addiction service that is offered here, the health services at Stanton hospital, these serve people from many other parts of the Territories.

#### Comments Regarding Public Servants

My own constituency is one that has many public servants in it and therefore I suppose the difficult words have to be begun at some time. I guess I would take the liberty of starting now. Because there are so many public servants in my constituency and I know that the majority of them are dedicated, competent and hard-working, I have a concern arising from the public comments made in a CBC interview by the honourable Member for Nunakput -- and occasional other comments that are made by Members -- about removing public servants from certain positions.

Now, first of all, I would say that the policies that we shape, that we make, in order to put them into effect we rely on loyal and hard-working public servants. They must be supported if we are going to be successful and I say to all Executive Council Members that it is important to remember that. We need their loyalty and support and by making some statements that may undermine morale we may be doing ourselves a disservice and I would ask Executive Members to consider that seriously. I have no doubt at all that from time to time there are problems. I really believe that the vast majority are competent and hard-working and therefore have nothing to fear. But when threats or general statements are made they have no way of knowing whether they fall under suspicion or into disfavour. So we must be very careful about statements.

There are certain other public servants who are also dedicated and hard-working and loyal, but we may have found that they have got into a position which they just cannot quite manage. That very human thing can happen. Indeed some of the Executive Council Members may find that in five or six months that has happened to them. I hope not but it is a possibility. I would hope that all of us would have some compassion in these situations and try to work them out -- at least treat them humanely and see that they get other jobs that they can do.

It is only those who are apathetic, lazy or deliberately obstructive who maybe should be targets for removal. I hope they are the only targets for removal because it would be an intolerable situation if public servants were to be removed because their only crime was in having spoken the truth and given frank and honest opinions about how things should be done and having tried to the best of their ability to implement the policies of this Assembly and of the Executive Council and in having done that maybe stepped on somebody's toes who has now come to power. Executive Council Members have an enormous power in their hands which is to be used to benefit the people of the Northwest Territories. I hope that it will be used for that and not to settle private scores. You can only use that power for the benefit of the Northwest Territories, for the people of the Northwest Territories, if we have an effective public service. That does mean perhaps removing people who really are not able or willing to do the job, but it also means approaching this whole matter with fairness and with clear criteria and being willing to accept frank and honest opinions when you see that they are given in the hope of improving the situation for the people of the Northwest Territories because, if it is not approached in that way, you will start finding public servants who simply say what they think the Executive Council wants to have said and that will be a service to nobody.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

#### Focus On Economic Development

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is such an important area. One other item I want to touch on is economic development. I was very pleased to hear in the Commissioner's Address that he sees economic development as being an important matter for this 10th Assembly. I believe it is as well. There is no doubt in my mind that the tradition of the original people of the Territories was a tradition of self-reliance. It was through individual efforts and not through anybody else's effort that food for the family and clothing were acquired. Yet we have a situation where there is a heavy

reliance by this government on funding from the Government of Canada and a heavy reliance by the people of the Territories on government spending in general. It is understandable why that situation has arisen but I think it is important for us to start taking steps to try to make our society as self-reliant as possible and that means a focus on economic development. This situation is not easily changed, but I think we should be making a good beginning at it and in the February session I would like to introduce a motion that would ask the Executive Council to make that a priority in the 10th Assembly and I hope that Members would consider supporting it.

Finally, turning back to the Executive Council, in English, when we go somewhere and find ourselves some place where our friends are not, we send back a little note saying "wish you were here" and so to some of my friends on the government side I can only say, "I wish you were here and I were there", but that is not to be. So I would like to congratulate sincerely all of those who were elected to the Executive Council and especially our new and capable Leader Richard Nerysoo and I wish you all the very best in carrying out the very important responsibilities that you have undertaken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Paniloo.

Mr. Paniloo's Reply

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) I do not have that much to say. I just wanted to congratulate the Members of the Executive Council. As an MLA this is my first time sitting here in Yellowknife and I am very happy about it. The reason is, my concern is the budget that we will be passing in the future sessions. I think there have been some problems in northern communities about lack of housing in the communities. Maybe in our February session I will be dealing with a lot of these problems that they are raising in our communities. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Members' replies. Mr. McCallum.

Mr. McCallum's Reply

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take the opportunity to indicate my appreciation of the services you have provided as Speaker of this House and look forward to that same kind of service upon your election unanimously to the position of Speaker again. As well as other Members have indicated, I want to extend to each and every Member of the Executive Council of this 10th Assembly my sincere best wishes for your success. I know that as it has in the past so it will in the future bode well for the Government of the Northwest Territories and the people of it. To my good friend Mr. Nerysoo I wish the very best of good fortune in the coming times as well. I know for myself -- and the other Members of the Executive -- he can depend upon me to ensure I will give support where it is necessary and, of course, unaccustomed as I am to speaking from this side of the House I would intend to obviously play a different role. Nevertheless I look forward to the ensuing times and I want to again indicate that I am very pleased to be back here as a Member of the 10th Assembly as I was a Member of the two previous ones. I look forward to the way in which things will develop over the next four years and hopefully that I will have a role to play in that, albeit a different one. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Members' replies. Mr. Patterson.

Mr. Patterson's Reply

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I did not really intend to say anything at all today, but confirming what other Members have said concerning my congratulations to you and my confidence in your continuing excellent job as Speaker, in addition Mr. McCallum's speech has inspired me to say that as a former Member of the Executive Council and formerly a new Member of the Executive Council I know I speak for all Members of this House in saying thank you to him for what I know has been true devotion and exceptional hard work in his many capacities as a Member of the Executive. I can say that despite the vagaries of the political process with which we are all



familiar, I know Mr. McCallum will continue to make a tremendous contribution to this Assembly in his new capacity. I will miss working with him on the Executive Council, but I look forward to working with him and indeed with all the other MLAs from all parts of the Northwest Territories in the 10th Assembly. I would like to say that I am very honoured and humbled to have been selected to the important post of a Minister. I do believe that we have something unique in Canada in that Ministers of this government are truly servants of all the Members of the Legislative Assembly, not just the Members of a particular area or, as we would have in southern Canada and the Yukon, a particular political party. I understand we truly are entrusted with the challenge of representing everyone, whether your particular region or area or the interests of your constituency are fully reflected on the Executive Council or not. We are here to represent you all and I was very pleased to hear Members from Yellowknife express their confidence in our ability to hear their concerns. I am very pleased to hear that, notwithstanding the opinions, the doubts and concerns expressed by some of the local media in Yellowknife. I think that trust is well-founded. I look forward to proving that as Ministers we do not come into this job with a particular axe to grind or a particular bias.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I thank Members for those remarks. I congratulate the new Members and in particular the old returned Members. All of them I count amongst my friends and I think that things are boding well for the 10th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. I would like to correct an announcement I previously made with regard to photographs. The note says "Please remind all MLAs who have not had their photos done today to please come to the second floor this afternoon for their individual photos." Now after we leave here, after we adjourn, go to the second floor if you have not had your photo taken, please. Are there any further Members' replies? Mr. Curley.

#### Mr. Curley's Reply

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say a short speech to the Assembly. I would like to thank you for bringing this up as I would like to say this. There was one person that was supposed to beat me but I have beaten him and I would like to thank my constituency. Bob MacQuarrie mentioned also the people that wanted to be elected and even though they are not here, I would like to thank them very much. They have a lot of work to do in their community and we are going to have to work with the people in the Northwest Territories. For the new people that have come to us as MLAs from the East and from the West and the Dene MLAs, I will be working very hard with them. For some of the new Members that have not been here I would like them to know that I will be working with them for four years. We might disagree at times, but we are going to have to work together. We will be working together.

I would like to make a brief statement that the people are expecting a lot of things to be discussed. We will have to realize that as MLAs. But we have to be aware of the most important thing, that during the federal elections and when they have provincial elections we hear often that not very many people vote. But here in the Northwest Territories when we had the election in 1983 it was very exciting; 90 per cent of the voters turned out in...

MR. MacQUARRIE: And 110 per cent in Rankin Inlet!

---Laughter

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: ...and so we would like to thank our constituents for their concern about their government. Maybe we are a little bit behind the federal people but the whole of the Territories participated. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, I would now just as well like to congratulate every single Member who had a successful election to this House. As I indicated in my last remark in Inuktitut our people do appreciate being involved in the democratic process in electing a government. That was indicated during the last vote, the territorial vote that we had. I think we should recognize that the public is very much involved and I am going to make sure that the elected Members as well as the Members of the



Executive, will respect the wishes of the people as they have demonstrated their interest during the November 21 vote. I think we should be held accountable to them because they showed such an interest even though we may be the smallest democracy in Canada. We have a most interested population. I think we should acknowledge that.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to just, if I may, try to dispel some of the views that the people in Yellowknife may have about some of us reform MLAs from the Eastern Arctic.

---Laughter

We will be fair, we will be prepared to listen to the people whether they be Dene, Inuit or white people. I want to assure you that we have an interesting collection on the Executive Council. I believe that each one is prepared to speak strongly on behalf of their respective constituents as well as the ethnic composition. We will ensure that like any other government we will try to be fair to all segments of the population. I want to assure you that since Yellowknife is the capital city of the Territories that it will have a special place. I did today formally ask the Executive Council Members whether or not they are prepared to entertain another location. Since they did not jump at that I think we are going to carry on with Yellowknife for the next four years at least.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I just want again to congratulate you as well for your very important role. I am sure you will be fair and that you will do an excellent job like you did in the Ninth Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' replies. That appears to conclude Members' replies for today. Item 3 on the orders of the day, Ministers' statements. Mr. Nerysoo.

### ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

#### Leader's Announcement Of Portfolios

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I arise today as the Leader of the Executive Council to do my first duty. First I would like to congratulate you, as my other colleagues have, on assuming the role of Speaker of this House. Secondly, I am going to make a significant and important announcement. I think that people will be quite happy, pleased and certainly my cabinet colleagues are quite happy with the kinds of decisions that have been made. People have been quite attentive in the kinds of portfolios that are going to be assigned. I would like to now announce the portfolios, the Executive Council responsibilities.

Myself, Richard Nerysoo, obviously I have been elected as Leader of the Elected Executive. I will assume the role of Minister of Justice and Public Services and I will assume the role of being responsible for the Executive Council Office.

The Hon. Tom Butters will continue as Minister of Finance, will continue as Minister of Government Services and will assume the responsibility for the Financial Management Secretariat.

The Hon. Tagak Curley will assume the role of Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. He will be responsible for the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat and the Public Utilities Board.

The Hon. Bruce McLaughlin will be the Minister of Health and Social Services and assume the responsibility for the Highway Transport Board.

The Hon. Nick Sibbeston will be the Minister responsible for Local Government, will assume the responsibility for the Ministry of Culture and will be the Associate Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development.

The Hon. Dennis Patterson will continue to assume the role of the Minister of Education. He will assume the responsibilities for the Ministry of the Status of Women and will be the Minister responsible for the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat.

The Hon. Nellie Cournoyea will be the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources and the Minister responsible for Information.

The Hon. Gordon Wray will be the Minister responsible for Public Works and will be the Minister responsible for reporting to this House on the NWT Housing Corporation. He will take on the additional responsibility for the Worker's Compensation Board.

The Commissioner, John Parker, will assume the role of being responsible for the Department of Personnel. But I will, as Leader, respond to questions of a formal nature in this House on behalf of the Department of Personnel.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is an important time and an important day in the sense of bringing into the Executive the Members that have been appointed and elected by the total caucus. We pledge our total support and our total ability to carry out the responsibilities on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. While we may have our own individual constituency responsibilities in the sense of the voicing of the opinions and concerns of our constituencies, we are committed to providing the best government possible for all residents of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Those people who have voiced concerns with regard to the possibility and the appointments that have been announced, I can assure you that if there are any concerns each individual here was prepared to address those particular issues. If those issues continue to exist, the total Executive Council and myself as Leader will respond to those concerns. If it means that we have to meet with individuals, municipalities or particular regions we are prepared to do that and I can express that is, in fact, the situation with all Members of the Executive Council, with this cabinet. Again I pledge on behalf of the Executive Council, my total cabinet, that we are prepared to work with all people in the Northwest Territories and are prepared to develop priorities and strategies and make the financial commitments according to those priorities and according to those commitments that affect all people and not our own particular constituencies. The programs and policies that we develop will reflect that. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude Item 3. Item 4, oral questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

#### ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 1-84(1): Executive Council Position Regarding Aboriginal Rights Conference

MRS. SORENSEN: Question for the Leader, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Nerysoo, we are all aware of the aboriginal rights conference that will take place on the 25th and 26th of January here in Yellowknife. I realize of course that the Executive Council has not had time to sit down and discuss our role, but I would like you to give the House an indication of what will take place at the conference and what the Executive Council does plan with respect to the position that it will take at that conference.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

##### Return To Question 1-84(1): Executive Council Position Regarding Aboriginal Rights Conference

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is our position that we will be taking what we consider the direction that was given by the last Assembly to the First Ministers' Conference. I would think that the position would not vary very much from this particular make-up of the Assembly and in fact would be a very important part of the decisions on the kind of position we take to the conference. We as an Executive Council have not determined who is going to be involved in the actual discussion. It is clear that the Minister of Justice will assume the premier responsibility in the sense of discussions at the conference and I have assumed that particular responsibility. Positions have been developed by the Department of Justice and Public Services by the former Minister. I will now have the opportunity to sit down with the specific department and the deputy minister to review the positions that have been developed and in fact come before the Executive Council prior to that particular conference to discuss their positions. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mrs. Lawrence.

Question 2-84(1): Tabling Of Report On Deninoo School, Fort Resolution

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a question to the Minister of Education. Will he table the report on the Deninoo School in Fort Resolution?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 2-84(1): Tabling Of Report On Deninoo School, Fort Resolution

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the appropriate point on the order paper today under Item 9, tabling of documents, I will table a report on the operation of the Deninoo School in Fort Resolution. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. That appears to conclude Item 4.

Item 5 on your agenda, written questions.

Item 6, returns.

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. Minister.

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 1-84(1), Report on the Operation of Deninoo School, Fort Resolution, submitted to me as Minister of Education by Michael Bopp, education co-ordinator, Dene Nation, and Kenneth Norton, manager, school program services, Department of Education, dated September 8, 1983. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further documents for tabling today? Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 8-84(1): Supplementary Old Age Pension

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on the appropriate day as set out in the rules, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. John T'Seleie, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that it consider increasing the Northwest Territories supplementary old age pension.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any other motions? Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Motion 9-84(1): Prime Minister's Peace Initiative

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on the appropriate day as set out in our rules, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that this Assembly endorse Prime Minister Trudeau's enlightened peace initiative and encourage the Prime Minister to be confident, strong and tenacious in carrying it out and further that this resolution be forwarded immediately by the Speaker to the Prime Minister and to the leaders of the opposition parties in the federal parliament.

MRS. SORENSEN: And that he run for re-election.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Please, please!

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any other notices of motion? That appears to conclude Item 10.

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

Item 12, motions.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills.

Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters.

Item 16, report of committee of the whole. Before we recess, does anybody wish to make any statements or announcements? Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: If I may, Mr. Speaker, I have been informed by the Tree of Peace in Yellowknife that if there are Members who wish to provide guests to the Legislative Ball with a reasonably affordable lunch of caribou stew and bannock during the day of the Legislative Ball, they would be prepared to hold such a lunch. I wonder if Members might let me know if they are interested in this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will advise. Are there any further announcements? Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, the standing committee on finance is meeting this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. in the caucus room on the second floor.

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, Friday, February 3rd, 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Oral Questions
5. Written Questions
6. Returns
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands recessed until 1:00 p.m., February 3.

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