



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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Pages 1 to 17

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., XOE ORO
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.
XOE 1JO
Phone (403) 360-7141 (Hamlet Office)
(Kitikmeot East)

Appaqaq, Mr. Moses, M.L.A.
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
XOA OWO
Office (819) 266-8860
Home (819) 266-8931
(Hudson Bay)

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.
XOA ONO
Phone (819) 939-2363
(Baffin South)

Ballantyne, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1091
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N8
Office (403) 873-8093
Home (403) 873-5232
(Yellowknife North)

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 and Government
Services

Cournoyey, The Hon. Nellie J., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1184
Inuvik, N.W.T.
XOE OTO
Office (403) 873-7959
Home (403) 979-2740
(Nunakput)
Minister of Renewable Resources and
Information

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

Erkloo, Mr. Elijah, M.L.A.
Pond Inlet, N.W.T.
XOA OSO
Phone (819) 899-8845
(Foxe Basin)

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)

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.
XOE OPO
Phone (403) 872-2246
(Slave River)

McLaughlin, The Hon. Bruce, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 555
Pine Point, N.W.T.
XOE OWO
Office (403) 873-7113
Home (403) 393-2226
(Pine Point)
Minister of Health and Social Services

Nerysoo, The Hon. Richard W., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
Office (403) 873-7112
Home (403) 873-5310
(Mackenzie Delta)
Government Leader and Minister of Justice
and Public Services

Paniloo, Mr. Pauloosie, M.L.A.
Clyde River, N.W.T.
XOA OEO
Phone (819) 924-6220 (Hamlet Office)
(Baffin Central)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 310
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.
XOA OHO
Office (819) 979-5941
(403) 873-7123
Home (819) 979-6618
(Iqaluit)
Minister of Education

Pedersen, Mr. Red, M.L.A.
Coppermine, N.W.T.
XOE OEO
Phone (403) 982-5221
(Kitikmeot West)

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 22
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.
XOA OVO
Phone (819) 252-3737
(High Arctic)

Sibbeston, The Hon. Nick G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 560
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO
Office (403) 873-7658
Home (403) 695-2565
(Deh Cho Gah)
Minister of Local Government

Sorensen, Mrs. Lynda, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2348
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P7
Office (403) 873-7920
Home (403) 873-5086
(Yellowknife South)

T'Seleie, Mr. John, M.L.A.
Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.
XOE OHO
Phone (403) 598-2303
(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

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.
Baker Lake, N.W.T.
XOC OAO
Office (403) 873-7962
Home (819) 793-2700
(Kivallivik)
Minister of Public Works

Officers

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

Law Clerks
Mr. Joel Fournier
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Mr. Rick Hardy
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant (Procedural)
Mr. Albert J. Canadien
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard
Mrs. Marie J. Coe
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant (Administrative)
Mr. S. James Mikeli
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Sergeant-at-Arms
Mr. Don Beaven
Fort Smith, N.W.T.

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FORT SMITH, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1984

MEMBERS PRESENT

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, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

PASTOR EVA NICHOL: Almighty God, from Whom cometh all wisdom and power, we the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, in session assembled, humbly beseech Thy blessing on our deliberations to the end that, inspired by Thy divine wisdom and setting aside all prejudices, private interests and partial affections, we may work to the benefit, welfare and happiness of the people and to Thy glory, O God. Amen.

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Mr. Clerk, would you please see if the Commissioner is ready to enter?

ITEM 2: COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly: It is my pleasure to welcome you to the second session of the 10th Legislative Assembly. I know that you will join with me in expressing our deep appreciation to the citizens of Fort Smith for their warm and kindly welcome. Many years have passed since the Legislative Assembly met in full session in Fort Smith in late August and early September of 1955 -- they have been years which have seen this community prosper and grow. I am certain that many members of this community also will recall that on June 21, 1974, the Members of the Assembly travelled from Yellowknife to Fort Smith for a one day session to mark Fort Smith's centennial. Present were two former Commissioners, Gordon Robertson and Ben Sivertz. As well, seven former Councillors were in attendance: L.C. Audette, I. Norman Smith, D.M. Coolican, L.A. Desrochers, E.J. (Scotty) Gall, Bob Porritt and L.H. Nicholson, a former commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It was a festive occasion which commemorated the historical contribution made by the residents of this community to the commercial, administrative and educational development of the Northwest Territories.

It is my hope that the deliberations of the 10th Legislative Assembly will provide the opportunity for the people of Fort Smith and area to view their Legislature in action. It has been the desire of both past and present Assemblies to hold sessions in major communities of the Northwest Territories to both ensure residents the opportunity to examine the workings of responsible government, and through this exposure, encourage their participation.

Appointment Of Deputy Commissioner Of NWT

It is my great pleasure to comment formally to this House on the recent appointment of Mrs. Agnes Semmler as Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Mrs. Semmler, who has resided for most of her life in the Mackenzie Delta, is an active and respected resident of the town of Inuvik and is well known throughout the Northwest Territories. Our new Deputy Commissioner brings to this position commitment and dedication to the needs of northern people, coupled with a full measure of common sense and extensive knowledge of the North. While Mrs. Semmler will not be a member of the Executive Council nor retain any portfolio responsibilities, she will, in my absence, undertake formal functions. I offer her my congratulations and very best wishes.

It has been approximately 60 days since last we met in session. The Ministers of this government have used this short period of time wisely. Long hours have been spent familiarizing themselves with their portfolios and responsibilities. Ministers have travelled widely throughout the Territories attending conferences and meetings with local interest groups and municipal leaders. Much attention has been given to reviewing government programs and planning new initiatives. Your Ministers are to be congratulated for the dedicated manner and energy they have shown in accepting their new responsibilities.

In the last few weeks, your Executive Council has had to deal with the difficult situation of responding to the initiative of the federal government to introduce French as an official language in the Northwest Territories. Your Executive Council has taken the position that it was generally in support of bilingualism in the Northwest Territories and would seek the direction of the Legislative Assembly. However, the Executive Council stated that the preservation, development and enhancement of aboriginal languages was the government's highest priority, and any government initiatives in respect of languages in the Northwest Territories must include aboriginal languages. It further has taken the position that if French is to be introduced as an official language in the Territories, it must be done through territorial legislation as opposed to federal legislation. A detailed sessional paper will be advanced for discussion on this subject by the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Government Leader, during this session.

On April 1, 1984 the settlements of Holman, Cambridge Bay and Fort Norman were formally declared hamlets. Ministers of the government joined with the residents of these communities to celebrate this accomplishment. The change in status of these communities will result in increased authority, autonomy and responsibility for the new hamlet councils. There is no doubt that the establishment and evolution of strong, effective municipal government during the past 15 years is an achievement of which all residents of the Northwest Territories can be justifiably proud. I extend the congratulations of this House to the residents of the new hamlets.

I am pleased to note that the COPE final agreement has been approved by the federal cabinet as announced on March 28 by the Hon. John Munro, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. The ratification process is under way and it is anticipated that voting by eligible Inuvialuit will be complete by May 28. It is expected that formal signing of the final agreement by COPE, the Government of Canada and the Government of the NWT may be completed by June of this year.

Passing Of Distinguished Northerners

At this time I would ask the House to note with regret the passing of some distinguished northerners. Louie Mercredi, a well-known and respected elder of the community of Fort Smith, died on April 7 at the age of 100. Mr. Mercredi, in his early years worked as a deck hand and steward on the steam powered paddlewheelers on the Peace, Athabasca, Slave and Mackenzie River systems. He also operated, by dog team, the government mail contract between Fort McMurray and Fort Simpson. Mr. Mercredi, who retired at the age of 72, also served as an RCMP special constable and was a hunter, trapper and fur trader. Friends and colleagues from across the NWT were saddened to learn of the death of Norman J. Macpherson, who died in Edmonton on April 15 following heart surgery. Mr. Macpherson was a noted educator who, for 22 years, served the residents of the NWT with distinction as a high school principal, superintendent, director of Education, and senior executive officer.

Fred Carpenter, who was instrumental in establishing the community of Sachs Harbour, died on April 14 at the age of 77. Mr. Carpenter, who trapped on Banks Island during the period 1936 to 1945, moved permanently to the site of the present community of Sachs Harbour in 1950. Mr. Carpenter operated a store in the community and was most active in community affairs until 1969, at which time he was injured in a serious aircraft accident. His passing is deeply felt by all friends, family, and members of the community he founded. George Washington Porter, who was born on a

whaling ship at Herschel Island in 1895, died on February 17 this year. Mr. Porter was educated at a Methodist missionary school in the Aleutian Islands. His varied and interesting career included service in the US army in World War I. He came to Canada as a fur trader and in 1927 was sent to Gjoa Haven by the Canalaska Trading Company. Later he joined the Hudson's Bay Company and served that company for a great many years until his retirement. Mr. Porter was truly the outstanding pioneer of his community. He is survived by his wife and eight of their 14 children.

Early this week, a celebrated artist, Helen Kalvak, died in her home community of Holman at the age of 83. She was one of the first Inuit artists to gain international recognition. During her lifetime she produced over 1500 drawings, and was made a member of the Royal Canadian Academy in recognition of her excellence in Canadian art. Mrs. Kalvak was also a recipient of the Order of Canada. She lived all her life on Victoria Island and was one of the founding members of the Holman co-op in 1965. Monica Pascal died in April of this year at the age of 84. A respected elder of the Delta, she and her late husband Baptiste trapped for many years in the Arctic Red River area. A pioneer northern publisher, Ted Horton, died in Edmonton May 7 at the age of 76. Mr. Horton was editor and publisher of Yellowknife's News of the North from 1949 to 1967. For six years commencing in 1958 he also served as mayor of Yellowknife. Mr. Horton joined the territorial government in 1967 as director of Information, then after his move to Edmonton in 1970 served for three years as the government's liaison officer there.

The passing of each of these northerners will undoubtedly leave a void in their home communities. To their families we extend our sympathies. Their important individual contributions to the North and its peoples are acknowledged by all and will long be remembered.

Commissioner's Award

I am pleased to announce that Special Constable Abraham Pijamini of the RCMP, Grise Fiord, will be receiving the Commissioner's Award for public service at the highest level. Special Constable Pijamini will be retiring this year, after 28 years of loyal and dedicated service to the people of the North. I know that Mr. Pijamini will continue in his retirement his active involvement in community affairs.

---Applause

I would like at this time to acknowledge with thanks and admiration the long and dedicated service of two individuals who will soon be retiring. His Excellency Bishop Paul Piche of the Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese will celebrate three anniversaries in June. Bishop Piche who has served the North and its people with diligence, is particularly noted for the humane compassion he has extended to all northern people over the years. Through his work with Grandin College, Bishop Piche has provided training and counsel for many of the leaders active in the North today. His support and work in the North, although primarily spiritual, is also evident here in the museum in Fort Smith, in hospitals and in schools. It is indeed an honour to be able to congratulate Bishop Piche, who next month will celebrate his 75th birthday, his 50th anniversary as a priest, and 25th anniversary as bishop of the Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese.

Dr. Otto Schaefer will retire this year as head of the northern medical research unit of Health and Welfare Canada, based at Charles Camshell Hospital in Edmonton. Dr. Schaefer has provided invaluable health and research services to the North for more than 30 years. During the '50s, Dr. Schaefer specialized in tuberculosis control and was instrumental in co-ordinating the first comprehensive X-ray clinics in the far North. Dr. Schaefer's research studies amongst northern native populations have earned him worldwide recognition as a leading authority in the health field. His outstanding contribution to the health of northerners is appreciated. Dr. Schaefer's warmth, humour, and the practical application of his research will be missed.

On the morning of September 18th, His Holiness Pope John Paul II will be visiting the Northwest Territories. It is fitting that his meeting with Canada's native peoples should take place here in the Territories at a place where native peoples comprise a majority of the population and where they have gained a significant measure of control over their own destiny. Preparations are well under way in the host community of Fort Simpson for the papal visit. Many thousands of people are expected to flock to the "fort of the forks" and this influx will certainly strain all facilities of that community. The Government of the Northwest Territories is fully co-operating with the federal government and the Catholic church officials to ensure that all visitors are properly received and that the Pope's visit will be a safe and pleasant one.

Government Programs And Services

I will now turn my attention to the matter of government programs and services. Legitimate concerns are still held in many quarters regarding the fragile nature of both the territorial and national economies. It is evident that the process of economic recovery will be slow and must be nurtured with great care. The reorganization of the Department of Economic Development has been completed. This administrative restructuring was undertaken to improve the planning and program delivery capabilities of the department. The Minister of Economic Development and Tourism has taken steps to establish an NWT business advisory council. This council, composed of business leaders from across the Territories, will advise the government at a senior level on matters of economic policy and direction. The Department of Economic Development has stepped up efforts to follow up on major economic initiatives which received support at the last session of the Assembly. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development of the renewable resource economy.

A major restructuring of the Department of Education was concluded on April 1st of this year. This reorganization consolidated all GNWT training responsibilities within the Department of Education. This consolidation is very timely, considering the current atmosphere of restraint and the need for effective use of our training funds. The newly formed advanced education division will come to grips with a number of issues this year, not the least of which will be the requirement to develop consistent curriculum materials for use in adult education at the community level. As well, it is expected that communications between field staff of the Department of Education and college staff will be improved and that students leaving our academic upgrading programs will be better prepared to take on the rigours of college programs.

The further development of our college system will be of primary concern in the coming year and the strategic plan submitted by the board of governors late in 1983 will receive close attention. A decision has been taken to establish an Eastern Arctic campus at Frobisher Bay, where a teacher education program is already in operation. An assistant college director will be appointed to manage college programs for students from Baffin and Keewatin Regions who can take advantage of the post-secondary educational opportunities in a familiar environment with community support systems already in place.

Dealings With National Regulatory Agencies

During the intersession, the Executive of the government has been active in dealing with national regulatory agencies. On March 26th, the Hon. Tom Butters presented this government's position to the Air Transport Committee at the hearing into national air fares. While that hearing dealt with north-south routes, we are now awaiting the terms of reference for a second set of hearings to deal with the local routes serving our smaller communities. This second set of hearings, to our knowledge, is scheduled to begin in early June. We expect the committee to visit the Keewatin and Baffin Regions following the opening of the hearings in Labrador. The western portion of the hearings will likely occur in July.

The Minister of Government Services has also intervened in the application for a general rate increase made by NorthwTel. The intervention is made on behalf of the citizens of the Western Arctic and identifies the grave concern of this government that residents may not be receiving the same level of telecommunications service as other Canadians. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission has been asked to hold regional hearings so that small business and private citizens may present information without the expense of travelling to Whitehorse for the central hearing.

On February 17th of this year, the Hon. John Munro announced that Northern Canada Power Commission would be moved to Yellowknife within three years and that, beginning in 1985-86, NCPC would be regulated by a panel of the National Energy Board, with a panel member to be nominated by the territorial government. The issue of regulatory authority over NCPC was taken to the NWT supreme court by the territorial government, when NCPC indicated that it would proceed with a scheduled five per cent increase in power rates for 1983-84 without going before the NWT Public Utilities Board. The court action was withdrawn, however, after NCPC announced on April 19th, following a board meeting in Yellowknife, that they were not proceeding with the increase.

Reports Of Progress From Departments

I am pleased to advise you that the Minister of Health and Social Services will in the near future be introducing to the Executive Council options for changes to the supplementary health programs. A committee made up of the NWT Association of Municipalities, St. John Ambulance, Health and Welfare Canada, and the territorial Departments of Health and Local Government, has been struck to review the matter of ambulance services and will report their findings within six months. In addition, the government is actively looking for a solution to the referral problems experienced in Montreal by patients travelling from Baffin. The Department of Social Services is pleased to announce that an agreement in principle between the federal government and the GNWT respecting implementation of the Young Offenders Act has been signed. This agreement provides for the first instalment of the implementation grants. A study on the correctional needs for women has been undertaken. The study group is comprised of persons associated with the federal and territorial corrections systems, Women's Bureau, and native women's associations. The fine options program will soon be under way in Inuvik. Several other communities have expressed an interest and it is expected that several pilot projects will be under way in the next few months.

The NWT Housing Corporation has planned an active program for the fiscal year 1984-85. Under the home-ownership assistance program, 58 clients will receive assistance to build their own homes. Material packages are ordered and early delivery dates are anticipated. This year the corporation will be assisting 16 qualified individuals to build owner-occupied units in nine Arctic communities above the tree line. Under the auspices of the rural and remote home-ownership program 118 units will be constructed in five different communities. Five of these units are slated for Frobisher Bay. This is the first time this program has been introduced above the tree line. The NWT Housing Corporation has sold 26 units under the northern rental purchase program this year. There are many people who view this program as an alternative to rental housing. The corporation will commence this year to build 103 detached rental housing units in 10 northern communities. In addition, a total of 144 small family accommodation units will be constructed in nine different communities. The 144 units will be located in 16 separate buildings -- each building containing eight individual one-bedroom units and one three-bedroom unit. In addition to the construction program, the Housing Corporation will undertake an extensive rehabilitation program to upgrade existing units.

In June, celebrations are planned in Fort Nelson, Fort Liard and Fort Simpson to mark the official opening of the Liard highway. The new highway will provide not only a vital transport and communications link for people of the southwestern NWT, but will also allow easier access for visitors from the South. The anticipated increase in the number of tourists should bring substantial economic benefits to the people of the Mackenzie Valley.

The Minister of Local Government reports substantive progress in the development of the proposed local government legislation. Recently the Department of Local Government has been conducting working sessions with representatives from hamlet, settlement, band and regional councils to assist in the drafting of those sections of the new ordinance which would affect them. In May, the department will hold meetings with councillors and administrators, from cities, towns and villages in the NWT, seeking their input into the proposed legislation. This consultative approach promises to produce effective and highly relevant legislation.

The Arctic Winter Games returned to their birthplace in Yellowknife March 18 to 24, and I am proud to report that the NWT was the unofficial "winner" of the eighth games. Our territorial athletes won 49 gold medals, 34 silver, and 30 bronze for an overall total of 113 -- the highest team total. The NWT Arctic sports, hockey, curling, soccer and badminton teams put on especially strong performances. But more important than the medal totals was the spirit of friendly competition and the sharing of northern cultures that the games engendered. In that sense, every participant and the host community came up a winner.

The Minister of Public Works is pleased to advise this House that negotiations with the federal government are nearing completion for the transfer of the highways reconstruction program for intra-territorial roads. Discussions are expected to result in assumption of program responsibility by your government this fiscal year. I should advise this Assembly that the Minister of Renewable Resources will be making a statement during this session, describing the initiatives the Department of Renewable Resources will be undertaking to further the development of the renewable resource sector of the territorial economy.

Legislative Program

During this session a legislative program comprising eight bills will be introduced for your consideration. Additional expenditures for two fiscal years are contained in Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 4, for the fiscal year 1983-84, and Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1, 1984-85. A Temporary Borrowing Authorization Ordinance will provide interim borrowing authority. An amendment to the Wildlife Ordinance will change residency requirements in certain instances. Amendments to the Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, the Science Advisory Board Ordinance, the Public Utilities Ordinance, and the Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance will also be introduced. Your Ministers consider each of these bills to be necessary for the efficient conduct of government business and I recommend their passage.

I now commend to you for your earnest and wise judgment the business of this House as I officially declare open the second session of the 10th Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Orders of the day for Wednesday, May 9th, Member's replies. Mr. Nerysoo.

Sympathy Expressed To Quebec Assembly

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, as Government Leader, I rise on a matter of urgency to request that you on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of the NWT express our deepest sympathy to our colleagues in the National Assembly of Quebec and that you ask the Speaker of the National Assembly to convey our condolences to the families who lost their close relatives at the recent tragic event in that Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I further request that you direct our Assembly and persons present here this afternoon to rise and observe a minute's silence as a mark of our respect.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe our colleagues would agree. We will then call for a minute of silence at this time with respect to our colleagues in Quebec. I would advise the House that on Saturday and Sunday we spent time with Mr. Guay, the Speaker of the Quebec Assembly. How quickly things change. And he reported at that time that things in his area seemed to be in a stable condition -- or in a volatile situation politically, and it is very regrettable that people must resort to force, or do resort to force, in matters of this nature.

Back to your orders of the day, Item 3, Members' replies. Mr. McCallum.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. McCallum's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the motion of appreciation to the Commissioner for his Address to this House, and in doing so, I wish to welcome you and other Members of the Assembly to my constituency and wish you well during your stay in Fort Smith. The Commissioner in his Address has already made reference to the last sitting of the territorial Council here in 1974 and the reason for it, and noted that the Council had previously sat nearly 30 years ago in Fort Smith. For some of you, I dare say it is a return home -- especially in this building -- to a place that some of you recognized a few years ago as students. We were in a different relationship at that time.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, we in Fort Smith, notwithstanding the last two or three days, enjoy a very good climate. We take pride in the beauty of our town, and if one takes a good look around, you can see why we lay claim to being the garden capital. You would also recognize that citizens of the town take very seriously their responsibility in the conservation of energy and the use of alternate forms -- for example, wood. I would like to draw your attention, Members of the Assembly, to the initiative of the town council and its staff in regard to the use of wood products as a source of energy for the operation of their water treatment plant, and I am sure that the mayor and the town council would extend an invitation to Members to visit that facility. I think it would be well worth while.

Mr. Speaker, later on during the course of this session, the mayor and his council will host an evening at the Northern Life Museum. If there are Members who have not visited that particular facility, let me assure you that you are in for a treat. For Members who have visited previously,

I am sure that you will enjoy a second look. It is a pride of the town and its citizens and a true reflection of the dedication of a great number of people, notably Brother Serreault, Father Ebner, Bishop Piche, and many others, such as Darrell Clarkson and the late mayor, Paul Kaeser. While on the subject of my good friend, Bishop Piche, the Commissioner has already noted the anniversaries that the bishop will have this coming summer. These events will recognize a very significant achievement and accomplishment and one that will be recognized by the town and by its citizens in a very significant way.

Thebacha College

Mr. Speaker, we are very justifiably proud in Fort Smith to have Thebacha College located here. It is the only higher education facility in the Northwest Territories and one that has grown considerably over the last few years in recognition by both the students and the faculty and the government. Many improvements have been made to the college over these years in order to provide a better education for northerners. I note within the Commissioner's Address that there were other particular initiatives being undertaken by the department as regards the college system, and I welcome that particular news. The faculty has grown. The enrolments reflect the need for more courses at a higher level than in the past and there is even a greater demand for more up-to-date programs. However, in spite of the advances made, there is an even greater demand for more adequate resources to operate the college. Members, especially Mr. Patterson, will hear the request being made of government for better facilities, and in point of fact, to adopt the recommendations of the recently completed Resource Management Consultants' report as regards new capital construction. I intend, during the course of this particular session, to query the Minister on just what the status of that report is in regard to the Executive Council. In addition, I am sure that not only Mr. Patterson, but other Members of the Executive Committee, will be approached for their views by both students and staff as well as interested citizens of the town.

I should like to draw attention to the fact that the town and various organizations in the town, notably the Chamber of Commerce, are concerned and have pledged their support individually and collectively to the betterment of a facility for the benefit of all students. As Members can see we are entering, and in fact I guess we are already there, a very serious situation. The government and the Legislature have spent a great deal of money in setting up Thebacha College, and we must recognize that we shall have to spend even further money to keep abreast of the requirements of an education for the future. The demands are there for our graduates of the college. There is a need for properly trained and educated people to ensure that we in the Northwest Territories take our place in the development of the country. To meet these needs we must place sufficient resources to the forefront to ensure our commitment to the principle that education and training is a priority of this government.

Constituency Concerns

That issue is but one that is taken seriously in my constituency. There are others and I would like to comment, Mr. Speaker, very briefly on some of them. Notable is the concern with forest fire suppression, and especially now that we in this area are beginning to feel the effects of the low water level on the Slave River and the prospects of a very dry summer. It brings back memories of 1980 and 1981, and if the climatic conditions of the area continue we in Smith will experience a very hot summer in more ways than one. There is little left to burn in surrounding areas; nevertheless, it is significant enough to cause alarm and as a result part of the livelihood of people of this area would be gravely affected. What little trapping is carried on would be further curtailed and this, together with the low fur prices now in evidence, would cause further hardships for trappers. A new, maybe not so new approach to the issue is required. We in the Territories must take the initiative. We have to take on fire suppression and action all fires, not just the ones that possibly will threaten communities, or else if we fail to do so, a resource that is vital to our well-being will be destroyed and eroded, and not just because of the actions of those who campaign against trapping, for whatever reasons.

Along with fire suppression is the issue of land management, and one area of concern is the lack of an agricultural policy that would be approved by the Assembly. In the past the Assembly has refused remote agriculture. Land is available for more than market gardens and in this area agriculture could be viable. With the recent initiatives in Alberta, I would hope that the Minister involved will see that there would be more land available for agriculture and that we would embark upon a program whereby we encourage agriculture.

A primary concern in this constituency, Mr. Speaker, is the question of the development of the Slave River hydro potential: yes or no? At the present time it seems to be on hold. Very little is being said openly although there has been no indication from the Government of Alberta that they have taken the possibility of such a project off their priority list. Contingent upon this issue are related issues, transportation for one. I need not go into detail with the pros and cons of road construction save to say that the town council and everybody else is concerned with a new route to the South. It is vital that we in this constituency participate in the greater development of tourism. If the hydro development does go ahead, there is an even greater need to upgrade our highways and construct new ones. Over the past two years an experimental project was carried on with part of Highway 5 around the town, with hard surfacing. I believe that government now has the knowledge to proceed with further hard surfacing of this highway. The area around the town has had one or two coats. The area that has had only one coat shows some kind of deterioration. What has had two coats is holding up, and I think that is the kind of information the government needs to continue with more hard surfacing of highways, not just in this area, but other areas. I trust that the Minister involved will take note of the experiment and the success of it, and will look toward the means of doing even more hard surfacing throughout the Territories.

Another issue, of course, of similar concern throughout the Territories, is the issue of housing. As I have indicated earlier, home-ownership is widely accepted in Fort Smith. There is a great demand for more housing of this type. The resources are here -- the expertise, the lumber, the logs, the willingness. As Members will move around the town they will note the numbers of new buildings and new homes that have gone up through the use of locally harvested resources at a very reasonable price. The desire is here, the need is here for more of that. The results of earlier efforts should indicate to the Minister involved that he should continue with that particular policy. I hope that there would be further housing started in the community. According to the Commissioner's Address to the Assembly today, he notes that there are a number of new units being started. I would trust that there are some available for my constituency. I am concerned as well with not only getting these homes in our community but where people have these homes on lands that are held in federal reserve, those federal reserves should be turned over so that people can acquire the land. Some of the people that have homes now are living on land reserved by the federal government and I think it is time that block transfers within municipalities should be made so that people can obtain this particular land and therefore give some kind of credence to the fact that home-ownership is viable.

An issue which must be settled by the government is that of financing the proposed friendship centre here in Fort Smith. Local officials of the centre have spent many hours and much energy in establishing the rationale of need as well as initiating discussions for adequate plumbing. They have approached two levels of government -- the local government and the federal government, and have been successful. They now await the decision of this government, obviously favourable, so that they can begin to see the fruition of their efforts. I shall be directing questions to the Minister involved during this session and, if not successful in getting a favourable response, then I as well as others will take the advice that he has given to other communities in the Territories and become very nasty, mean, raise hell to get results.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. McCALLUM: This aspect is something I find repugnant and distasteful but nevertheless if that is what he wants, that is what he is going to get and that would be a first from me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to touch on an issue that should be of great concern to all residents of the Territories; that of the Canadian Constitution and obviously the offending provision to people of the Territories that will stymie aspirations for political development. I refer especially to sections 42(e) and (f), and support any move by the existing Executive Council to have these and other offending provisions removed from the Constitution. I think we in the Northwest Territories should be able to aspire to the same level of responsible government as other Canadians. Anything less is undemocratic and foreign to Canadian constitutional history.

Sports Hall Of Fame

Mr. Speaker, on another note, I believe it is time if not past time that we in the government acknowledge the national and international achievements of our athletes as well as those who have worked so diligently to promote sport in the North. We have had national champions. We have

international stars. We have excellent athletes in many areas, not the least of which are those involved in the Northern Games. Some of these athletes and builders have left us. Some are retiring, and yet there is no lasting memory to their achievements. Everywhere these citizens have been acclaimed but not in the Northwest Territories, save for recognition at the moment. I know Sport North recognizes various people yearly, but what I am talking about is a lasting recognition. I am talking about the establishment of an NWT sports hall of fame, not to be confused with the establishment now located in Yellowknife.

---Laughter

Also, Mr. Speaker, when the orders of the day allow, I shall give notice that I will move for the establishment of a Northwest Territories sports hall of fame, and talking to many people all over the North, there is wide interest in the establishment of such a facility.

(Speaks in French, no translation)

---Applause

French is a language that is recognized throughout the rest of Canada. I support the Leader's contentions that such legislation is a prerogative of this government, not the federal government. I welcome this legislation, especially here in Fort Smith, because this town has and has had many French speaking citizens. That is not to say that all things need such bilingual recognition, but certainly our legislation should. I welcome the news as well since it will give an impetus to the development of our own distinctive native languages and the recognition that these languages so justly deserve. The formation of a linguistic centre for the Northwest Territories in addition to the one that is now in place in the East is long overdue, and such an institution would be a very welcome addition to higher education in the North.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I know that you will enjoy your stay in Fort Smith. I am confident that the citizens of the town will make each and every one of you welcome and do their utmost to ensure a successful visit. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to draw attention to the back table that is enveloped in a flag of the town. This is a carving that will be presented by the mayor of the town of Fort Smith, Mr. Vogt. It is done by a local artist, is distinctive to the North, the result of over 140 hours of work and tender loving care by Mr. Sonny MacDonald. This will be presented as I say by the mayor to the Assembly for perpetuity, in recognition of this particular visit and recognition of something peculiar to the area. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Are there any further replies today? I understand the seconder is not prepared to speak today so that will conclude Item 3 of the agenda. I would like to thank Pastor Eva Nichol for acting as chaplain today to this Assembly. She is the first lady I believe to act in this capacity for this House so congratulations and thank you very much.

Recognition Of Guests In Gallery

I wish to say welcome to all of the people in the gallery, people of Fort Smith, to His Worship the Mayor and the municipal councillors. You always find on occasion of the sitting of the territorial Assembly that mayors and municipal councillors are always in evidence. I, having acted in that capacity, know the politicking that goes on and that is one of the reasons that the Assembly has moved around the country in the past, to give the local political people a chance at the Members at the Assembly. So good luck in your endeavours.

We have also as a guest Mr. Norm Weiss, the MLA for Lac La Biche and Fort McMurray representing the Alberta government here today. We really are very fortunate to have such good neighbours south of us and they are very well represented by Norm Weiss who has made several trips into this particular area on mutual concerns to the Northwest Territories. Welcome to this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Weiss.

It is my intention to recess for a coffee break. However, I would ask that Members remain seated and that gallery members remain seated for a presentation by Mr. McCallum and His Worship the Mayor, both of Fort Smith. This House now stands recessed for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call the House back to order. Will the Members please take their places? Continuing with the orders of the day for Wednesday, May 9th.

Item 4, Ministers' statements. Item 5, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 5: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 1-84(2): Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 11, 1984, I shall move that Bill 1-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Ms Cournoyea.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 2-84(2): Science Advisory Board Ordinance

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 11, 1984, I shall move that Bill 2-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Science Advisory Board Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, notices of motion.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 3-84(2): Wildlife Ordinance

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 11, 1984, I shall move that Bill 3-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Wildlife Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Nerysso.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 4-84(2): Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 11, 1984, I shall move that Bill 4-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 5-84(2): Temporary Borrowing Authorization Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 11, 1984, I shall move that Bill 5-84(2), An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds on a Temporary Basis, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 6-84(2): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 4, 1983-84

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 11, 1984, I shall move that Bill 6-84(2), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the 1983-84 Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills, Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 7-84(2): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No.1, 1984-85

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 11, 1984, I shall move that Bill 7-84(2), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the 1984-85 Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Curley.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 8-84(2): Public Utilities Ordinance

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I give notice that on Friday, May 11, 1984, I shall move that Bill 8-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Public Utilities Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. That appears to conclude that item.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

Item 7, oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 8: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 1-84(1): Hay River Reserve Senior Citizens Home

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This written question is for the Minister of Local Government. When the Hay River Reserve became a reserve, the responsibility for providing services shifted from the town to the federal and territorial governments. The reserve is now part of my constituency of Deh Cho. When the town of Hay River was building its case for a new senior citizens home, it included statistics from the reserve and I do not think this is proper. The reserve wants a senior citizens home of its own and this is threatened by the town of Hay River's bid for a senior citizen's home. Will the Minister of Local Government look into this situation and assure himself and me that his department is observing the separate nature of the Hay River Reserve?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a fairly good argument for questions, Mr. Gargan.

---Laughter

Are there any written questions please?

Item 9, returns. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will use the Slavey language. (Translation) This is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Petition 1-84(2), Facility in Fort Providence. We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of the NWT for the establishment of a community residential facility in Fort Providence which will provide the following services: 1) Day care for the children of working parents. 2) Care for the children of parents whose employment may keep them away from home for several days at a time. 3) A home-like environment within the community for young offenders that require care and supervision while in custody. Because with the Young Offenders Act the people are concerned about these new laws and breaking them is a concern with the kids and the parents. Mr. Speaker, that is all of the petition; how they should have care and supervision while in custody.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: The press is not getting any sound, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Microphone, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I have just received word from the press that they are not getting any sound in their microphones. So I will leave it in your capable hands.

MR. SPEAKER: Well normally the press hears far more than it should, evidently. My sound system is working all right. I got the translation. Did anybody else have difficulty? It did change frequency -- you had to get on the right frequency to get it but it was there. I believe it was on channel three. Are there any further petitions?

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 1-84(2): Appointment To NWT Public Utilities Board

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 11, I will be making the following motion. Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this House recommend to the Commissioner that Mrs. Beulah Phillpot of Yellowknife be reappointed as vice-chairman to the Public Utilities Board for a period of three years. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for unanimous consent later to move the appropriate motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Notices of motion. Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion 2-84(2): Establishment Of NWT Sports Hall Of Fame

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 11, I will move a motion, resolved that the GNWT establish a sports hall of fame institution, and further that the Department of Justice and Public Services bring forth legislation that will recognize the institution.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices of motion? Item 13, motions. Mr. Curley, are you going to try your luck?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Yes, I would like to try my luck and would ask that you give me consent to move.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Members' consent is being requested to deal with Mr. Curley's motion. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Curley. It's a good omen.

---Laughter

ITEM 13: MOTIONS

Motion 1-84(2): Appointment To NWT Public Utilities Board, Carried

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS there is presently a vacancy on the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that this Assembly fill that vacancy in order for the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board to conduct its business;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this House recommend to the Commissioner that Mrs. Beulah Phillpot of Yellowknife be reappointed as vice-chairman to the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board for a period of three years.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order, Mr. Curley. To the motion. Secunder, do you wish to speak to the motion? No. All in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

First reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Bills 1-84(2) to 8-84(2).

MR. SPEAKER: Consent is being requested to proceed with first reading of bills. Would you give me the numbers again please, Mr. Butters?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Bills 1-84(2) to 8-84(2).

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 1-84(2) to 8-84(2) for first reading. Are there any dissenters? I take it then that you have the consent. Proceed, Mr. Butters.

ITEM 14: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 1-84(2): Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 1-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 1-84(2). To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 1-84(2) has had first reading. Ms Cournoyea. Bill 2-84(2).

First Reading Of Bill 2-84(2): Science Advisory Board Ordinance

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 2-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Science Advisory Board Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 2-84(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

Bill 3-84(2). Ms Cournoyea.

First Reading Of Bill 3-84(2): Wildlife Ordinance

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 3-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Wildlife Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried. Bill 3-84(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

Bill 4-84(2). Mr. Nerysoo.

First Reading Of Bill 4-84(2): Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 4-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 4-84(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

Bill 5-84(2). Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 5-84(2): Temporary Borrowing Authorization Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 5-84(2), An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds on a Temporary Basis, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion on the floor. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 5-84(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Butters, Bill 6-84(2).

First Reading Of Bill 6-84(2): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 4, 1983-84

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 6-84(2), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the 1983-84 Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 6-84(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

Bill 7-84(2), Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 7-84(2): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1, 1984-85

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 7-84(2), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the 1984-85 Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I have a motion on the floor. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 7-84(2) has had first reading.

---Carried

Bill 8-84(2), Mr. Curley.

First Reading Of Bill 8-84(2): Public Utilities Ordinance

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 8-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Public Utilities Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 8-84(2) has had first reading. That concludes readings of bills for today. Item 15, second reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I would have unanimous consent of the House to give second reading to Bills 2-84(2), 3-84(2), and 4-84(2).

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought, but not required. Are there any nays for Bills 2-84(2), 3-84(2), and 4-84(2)?

ITEM 15: SECOND READING OF BILLS

You have consent, Mr. Butters. Bill 2-84(2). Ms Cournoyea.

Second Reading Of Bill 2-84(2): Science Advisory Board Ordinance

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 2-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Science Advisory Board Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Science Advisory Board Ordinance in order to establish the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 2-84(2) has had second reading.

---Carried

Bill 3-84(2). Ms Cournoyea.

Second Reading Of Bill 3-84(2): Wildlife Ordinance

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 3-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Wildlife Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Wildlife Ordinance to prevent the holders of hunting licences from losing their status as residents of the Northwest Territories during any period they are absent from the Territories attending educational institutions provided they return immediately afterward.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Ready for the question. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 3-84(2) has had second reading.

---Carried

Bill 4-84(2). Mr. Nerysoo.

Second Reading Of Bill 4-84(2): Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 4-84(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance to provide for a minimum length of service of six years.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the principle of the bill. Ready for the question.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 4-84(2) has had second reading.

Second reading of bills. That appears to conclude second reading of bills for today. We have no matters for consideration in committee of the whole. Item 17, report of committee of the whole. Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. Gargan.

Fort Providence Students To Lester B. Pearson College

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like my colleagues in the Assembly to acknowledge and join me in congratulating two young men from Fort Providence, Michael Nadli and Richard Lafferty, who have been accepted by the Lester B. Pearson College in British Columbia. Michael and Richard have been attending the Paul W. Kaeser High School here in Fort Smith for the last four years, and they will graduate from grade 12 this summer. With the assistance of the counsellor and a junior high school teacher, Mr. Ron Allen, the boys applied for a two year program and were accepted. It is the first time that two candidates from the high school have been accepted into a program and certainly the first time for two candidates from one community. The people of Fort Providence are very proud of Michael and Richard and are very supportive of them. The Lester B. Pearson College operates with the intent of demonstrating that education can be a force to unite rather than divide nations. Young people from all over the world attend the college, and it promotes international understanding in addition to excellence in academic programs. Ladies and gentlemen, Michael and Richard from Fort Providence.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr. Gargan. Are there any further announcements from the floor? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Translation) I would like to recognize two elders from Fort Smith, my grandparents, Germaine and Alizette Tourangeau, and also my aunt, Maria Brown, from my constituency of Tu Nedhe, the principal from Resolution school, along with Jim O'Reilly and students from the Deninoo school from Fort Resolution who have come in to observe the opening and the procedures of the Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Any further announcements from the floor? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): There will be a meeting of the standing committee on legislation at 9:30 tomorrow morning in the caucus room. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance at 10:30 tomorrow morning in the caucus room.

ITEM 18: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, May 10th, 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: Bills 2-84(2), 3-84(2), 4-84(2)

16. Report of Committee of the Whole

17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 10th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT