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

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FORT SMITH, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, MAY 14, 1984

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, 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

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Thank you, be seated. Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Monday, May 14th.

Item 2, Members' replies. Item 3, Ministers' statements, Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On Official Languages In The NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I rise to inform the House that under the item, tabling of documents, I shall be tabling the sessional paper of the subject of official languages in the Northwest Territories.

As honourable Members are aware, the issue of bilingualism was suddenly sprung on the Executive Council some six weeks ago, by announcement by the federal government that it was going to introduce legislation in the House of Commons amending the NWT Act and introducing French as an official language of the Northwest Territories. The response of the territorial government essentially was, that while it was not against bilingualism in Canada, it felt that the responsibility of introducing bilingualism in the Northwest Territories rested with the territorial Legislative Assembly and any initiatives in that direction should come from the territorial government. The territorial government also stated that it saw the development, enhancement and preservation of aboriginal languages as its primary end and that it could not see those languages suffer as a result of any initiatives taken in respect of French.

On behalf of the Executive Council and subject to direction of the Legislative Assembly, I have been negotiating the question of bilingualism and appropriate funding for aboriginal languages and French with the Secretary of State, the Hon. Serge Joyal, and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Hon. John Munro. I have been advised that the federal government would be prepared to consider entering into a memorandum of understanding with the territorial government with a view to arriving at an agreement providing for appropriate funding for French and aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. In order for me to proceed further in this direction, and to bring the Members of this House up to date on the background and the present status of negotiations in respect to this issue, I will be tabling the sessional paper to which I made reference earlier on. The paper is intended to seek direction of this House on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my intention to introduce appropriate territorial legislation recognizing French as an official language of the Territories and recognizing as official aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 28-84(2): Turn-Air Licence

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first question is to the Government Leader and it is concerning the fact that the Turn-Air licence has been revoked. I understand that the Government Leader made a petition on behalf of Turn-Air to the federal minister and I think most of us agree that the decision to revoke the licence was unfair. I understand that Mr. Axworthy has said that at this point in time the decision stands and I wondered if the Government Leader intends any further action on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 28-84(2): Turn-Air Licence

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to indicate to the honourable Member that I did intervene on behalf of Mr. Turner in indicating to the Minister of Transport that the manner in which the licence was being revoked was unfair and that it required his intervention in a decision that was made by the Air Transport Committee. However, I also received a letter from the Hon. Lloyd Axworthy indicating it was really the responsibility of Mr. Turner to raise that particular issue before the Air Transport Committee so that they could be aware of the concerns and therefore, a decision could be made not to revoke that licence until a review had taken place by the Air Transport Committee. I have not contacted Mr. Axworthy since that communication was made to me and I have not heard what Mr. Turner is intending to do. He is aware of the letter. In fact, he has received a copy of the letter that I received from the Minister of Transport and is aware of the concerns that were expressed by the Minister in that particular letter.

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

Question 29-84(2): Increase In Old Age Supplementary Income

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to the old age supplementary income that is paid during the middle of each month. I would like to ask the Minister, at the last session a motion was passed to increase the amount. What is the progress of that motion that was passed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 29-84(2): Increase In Old Age Supplementary Income

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Subsequent to the last session, legislators and Members of Parliament across the country have been asking the federal government to do something about the elderly people in the country. During the budget speech, the Liberal government promised a \$100 increase to old age pensioners by increasing the GIS by that amount, phased in over two \$50 instalments. This will be done during the fiscal year. We feel that the money that we give out is a supplement to the GIS. So as the federal government has increased the GIS by that amount we feel it is not necessary at this time for us to raise our supplementary on top of that. However, I am going to ask people in my department to find out exactly how many people in the NWT will, in fact, receive the full \$50 increase which is being implemented.

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

Question 30-84(2): Translation Equipment For Regional Council Meetings

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Local Government. In the last several months I have attended two regional meetings of the Sahtu Regional Council and at each of these meetings the first item of business had to do with the translation. I would like to ask the Minister what is the government's policy with regard to providing simultaneous translation equipment to regional council meetings, whether or not the government provides simultaneous translation equipment?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Return To Question 30-84(2): Translation Equipment For Regional Council Meetings

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) When you receive the money for the regional council -- maybe we can set aside some money for that equipment. You can let us know and we can set aside some money for that equipment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 31-84(2): Economic Development Agreement Applications

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for Mr. Curley, the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism, and the question concerns the economic development agreement. I have had a number of complaints by individuals who have applied under the EDA and they find that the red tape and the bureaucratic procedure is very, very frustrating. I think that the Minister obviously is aware that in the first year of the EDA all the money designated was not utilized. That money can be utilized in subsequent years. I think it points out the fact that the procedures should be streamlined. I wonder if the Minister has looked into that, and if he has, does he have any solutions to this problem?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley.

Return To Question 31-84(2): Economic Development Agreement Applications

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to indicate to the Member that he is not the only Member in the House that has complained about the process involved with the applications for EDA. I am also pleased to report to the Assembly that the Economic Development Agreement Secretariat has now got a new manager, by individual name, Allan Hunt, I believe. He is determined to improve the delay factors that were obviously there, and my deputy minister has sent a letter urging the officials, the management committee, to shape up the process.

As far as the amounts that are concerned that were not spent, my information is that they will eventually be spent at the end of the program. The reason for the amounts that were not spent obviously is the fact that EDA's agreements were not signed until the middle of 1983, and as a result the program really did not get under way until December of 1983. I look forward to the report that I will be getting from the new manager of the program, and possibly by the fall I will be able to come out with a more comprehensive report on the status of the EDA agency.

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

Supplementary To Question 31-84(2): Economic Development Agreement Applications

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, one of the problems that has been related to me is that the actual committee or subcommittee that makes the decisions does not meet often enough. It only meets every two months, and they build up a backlog. Is there any desire on the part of the government to have this committee perhaps get together a little bit more often?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 31-84(2): Economic Development Agreement Applications

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I visited the EDA Secretariat, the information that I got from them was that the frequency of the meetings of the management committee was related to the number of applications that do come in. So I will again inform the secretariat to try and ensure that they do process these applications as quickly as possible. I had one individual who came in this morning from Fort Smith who had had his application in since April and still has not heard from EDA officials. I am not satisfied, that is the case and I will be informing the secretariat about your concerns.

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

Question 32-84(2): Funding For Pangnirtung School

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. I gave the Minister a letter concerning funding for a school in Pangnirtung. They have not requested any funding but I wonder if the Minister will be giving out some money to Pangnirtung people.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the honourable Member for notice of his question, but I wonder if I could take the question as noted and have a little more time to prepare an answer for tomorrow. (Translation) Is tomorrow okay? (Translation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that glass was thrown! Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Very weak arm if it was! I would like at this time to welcome grades one to nine from Peace Point school in Alberta, accompanied by their teacher, Mr. David Cambridge. Welcome.

---Applause

Oral questions, Mr. Paniloo.

Question 33-84(2): Concerns Of Baffin Central Constituents

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) This is another question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Local Government. We toured the communities together and I went with him to my constituents and they had some concerns, we heard the concerns of my constituents. I wonder what the Minister is going to do about the concerns that were expressed by the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Minister like to tackle that question?

Return To Question 33-84(2): Concerns Of Baffin Central Constituents

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We did have a very good trip in Mr. Paniloo's constituency, and the concerns that were raised at the community meetings in his constituency, I believe, have all been dealt with in a number of ways. Many of the concerns raised that were of a small, immediate nature were, I believe, dealt with by the regional staff that were with me. As far as the matters that were more difficult, these are presently being dealt with by my Local Government staff in Frobisher Bay and some of the matters are still in my hands. There were a number of concerns that did not involve our government but the federal government, with respect to local airports, and some of the concerns I have raised with the federal Minister of Transport already. So I would like to believe that the trip was very worth while and that we have dealt with many of the problems and are dealing with the problems that had arisen at the meetings.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. This appears to conclude oral questions. Are there any written questions? Mr. Appaqaq.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 34-84(2): Radio Society Of Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two different questions and I am going to ask them at the same time. The radio society of Sanikiluaq is experiencing some difficulty with its financial commitments. The radio station at Sanikiluaq is a vitally important information link to the people of the community. I have been approached by the radio society with one possible solution. If the Department of Information could extend the weekly bingo game broadcast from once a week to a twice weekly broadcast, this would generate some needed revenue. At the present time the radio society's licence permits only one weekly broadcast of this nature. Would the Executive Council Member responsible for the Department of Information look into this matter and report back to the House at the earliest opportunity?

Question 35-84(2): Social Worker At Sanikiluaq

At the present time the residents of Sanikiluaq have access to only one part-time social worker. The services are inadequate, resulting in people waiting for the local office to open. Further, the social worker is unable to cope with the case load imposed on his services.

The Department of Social Services in Frobisher Bay advises that a full-time social worker would alleviate these problems. However, the department is unable to assist us in this respect as they do not have the funding available to deal with this matter. Would the Minister responsible for Social Services please look into the matter of funding for a full-time social worker and report back to this House at his earliest opportunity?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 36-84(2): Cape Dorset Request For Arena

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister of Local Government. On a recent tour at Cape Dorset with the Minister of Local Government, the matter of an arena was discussed. The residents of the community feel that an arena would generate some local employment and would alleviate some of the juvenile delinquency resulting from idleness in the community. Would the Minister responsible for Local Government look into the matter of funding for an arena at Cape Dorset and report back to this House at his earliest opportunity?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further written questions? Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 37-84(2): School Fence At Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister of Education and a written question. The matter of a fence to surround the school at Cape Dorset was brought up at a recent hamlet meeting. The residents are concerned that part of the school ground is being used as an access road and endangering the physical well-being of the students. Would the Minister responsible for Education look into the matter of funding for a fence to surround the school before the next budget session? The residents are willing to erect the fence if the required funding is approved.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The moral of the story is you do not take the Legislature to areas where it has fences around schools. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, with reference to the honourable Member's written question I would like to inform this House that I have been designated on these matters Minister of "de fence". Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: That's a good try, but that's a written question. You will still have to give a written answer, Mr. Patterson. Are there any further written questions? That appears to have looked after that matter for today. Are there any returns? Mr. Butters.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Further Return To Question 13-84(2): Government Assistance For Pope's Visit To Fort Simpson

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in reply to Question 13-84(2) asked by Mr. Wah-Shee on May 10, with regard to the papal visit and that financial assistance should be provided for the visit. The Executive Council has approved an initial contribution of \$50,000 to be provided to the Fort Simpson Papal Visit Society to support the work of the core group in its preparations for the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to Fort Simpson. The Executive Council has also assigned Mr. Al Bourque and Mr. Rene Lamothe to work for the core group. Mr. Darryl Bohnet has been designated as the headquarters liaison officer for the papal visit, reporting to the Executive Council and vested with the responsibility of working with the regional director in bringing matters related to the visit before the Executive Council as required.

The federal government has set up a task force to specifically deal with the papal visit across Canada. This is comprised of a number of departmental officers and has been assigned a \$17.5 million budget for the provision of support services to the papal visit. Prior to the territorial government providing any additional assistance, a complete breakdown of funds from the various organizations, including the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the native organizations, will be provided to the Executive Council.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further returns? Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 10-84(2): Information On Diseased Caribou

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Pudluk on May 10, Question 10-84(2), in regard to diseased caribou.

To determine the incidence of brucellosis on Baffin Island, the Department of Renewable Resources has collected blood samples from caribou shot by hunters near several communities in the spring of 1983. The results of the analysis which were not received until February 14, 1984, confirmed that brucellosis had a fairly high incidence in a small sample; 30 per cent in approximately 50 samples. As a result, regional staff immediately held discussions with medical health personnel and within two days, two information programs were aired on CBC, Frobisher Bay. Each program was broadcast at least twice and in addition, Renewable Resources staff members gave interviews on the topic. All programs were in Inuktitut and English. Nunatsiaq News carried several articles on the brucellosis situation and the topic was discussed at the Baffin Region Hunters and Trappers Association meeting in March of 1984. Finally, I should point out that brucellosis will be discussed in the first edition of the Baffin Region Wildlife Notes which will be published and will be distributed to all Baffin Region communities within the next three weeks.

Brucellosis is not a new disease and is found in caribou and reindeer across the North. It was first reported as being present in the Kaminuriak herd in samples collected between 1966 and 1968 at a level about four per cent. It was probably present in other areas but never confirmed. In humans, brucellosis may cause symptoms similar to the flu such as weakness, aches, fever and possible stomach problems. These can be cured with medical treatment. Hunters have been advised to take care if they are handling caribou meat which they suspect may be infected, especially if they have cuts or sores on their hands. Complete cooking of meat will kill the bacteria and this is recommended if there is any doubt about the condition of the animal. The Department of Renewable Resources is continuing to sample the herds but no results are back yet, but we will keep the hunters informed of any new findings.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further returns? Petitions, Item 7 on your orders of the day, petitions. Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 7: PETITIONS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker. Petition 2-84(2), I wish to table a letter and a motion from the Inuvialuktun Language Commission, supported by petitions from Inuvik, Aklavik, Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour requesting funding to allow permanent language instructor positions in territorial schools and to note that the Holman Island petition will be coming at a later date.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further petitions?

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tabled Document 5-84(2), a letter written by our area service officer requesting an indoor hockey arena in Sanikiluaq. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further tabled documents? Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tabled Document 6-84(2), pursuant to section 60(10)(d) of the Northwest Territories Elections Ordinance, 1978, I wish to table the candidates' returns respecting election expenses for the following: Joachim Bonnetrouge, Cec McCauley, Joanasie Salomonie, Peter Fraser, Pauloosie Paniloo, Moses Appaqaq, James Karetak, Iola Metuq, William Lafferty, Peter Kritaqliluk, and Florence Catholique. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table two documents: Tabled Document 7-84(2), Purchasing Surplus Material from the Government of the Northwest Territories and Tabled Document 8-84(2), Selling to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Both documents are distributed by the Department of Government Services and available in English, Inuktitut, and Inuvialuktun.

---Applause

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: Tabled Document 9-84(2), Terms of Reference of the NWT Business Council.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 10-84(2), Territorial Hospital Insurance Services and Medicare, Annual Report for the period ending March 31st, 1983.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table Tabled Document 11-84(2), Sessional Paper, Official Languages in the Northwest Territories, dated May 10th, 1984.

Motion To Move Tabled Document 11-84(2) Into Committee Of The Whole, Carried

I move that this document be moved into committee of the whole for discussion as first item of business today.

AN HON. MEMBER: Second.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made a motion to move your report into committee of the whole. Is that correct, Mr. Nerysoo? Are you making a motion at this time?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. Do I have a seconder to this motion? Mr. Butters. As this will be an addition to the orders of the day, unanimous consent will be required. I will accept the motion on that basis. All those in favour? Opposed? Is there any opposition? Motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, you will add that item to the orders of the day. Tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 4-84(2): Alcohol And Drug Co-ordinating Council

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, May 16th, 1984, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, Mr. McLaughlin, that the chairman of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council be invited to the fall session to present his organization's position paper. I will be asking for unanimous consent of this motion at the appropriate time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Notices of motion. Mr. Wray.

Notice Of Motion 5-84(2): Appointments To NWT Housing Corporation Board

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, May 16, 1984, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that Mr. Steve Brooks be reappointed to the board of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation; and further, that the following be appointed as members of the board: Mr. Phillip Nukapiak, Rankin Inlet; Mr. Simonie Alainga, Frobisher Bay; Carole-Ann Bennett, Inuvik; Margaret Thom, Fort Providence; Mr. Gerry Cheezy, Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

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

Notice Of Motion 6-84(2): Appointments To NWT Public Utilities Board

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, May 16, 1984, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta that this House recommend to the Commissioner that Mr. David Fox of Frobisher Bay and Mr. Raymond Mercer of Rankin Inlet be appointed to the NWT Public Utilities Board in accordance with the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Ordinance. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for unanimous consent to deal with the motion at an appropriate time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Notices of motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Motion 7-84(2): Reinstatement Of Basketball To Arctic Winter Games

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Wednesday, May 16, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that this Assembly urge the Minister responsible for sport to do what he can to persuade the Arctic Winter Games Corporation to reinstate basketball as a sport in the 1986 Arctic Winter Games.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion, Ms Cournoyea.

Notice Of Motion 8-84(2): Appointments To The NWT Water Board

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Wednesday, May 16, 1984, I will be introducing a motion concerning recommendations for appointments to the Northwest Territories Water Board by the Commissioner in Council to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. At this time I would like to recognize and welcome the students from the Kaeser High School and their teachers, Mrs. McCallum, Mr. Grimard and Mr. Bates. Welcome to the Assembly.

---Applause

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

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 9-84(2): Official Languages Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, May 16, 1984, I will move that Bill 9-84(2), An Ordinance to Recognize and Provide for the Use of the Aboriginal Languages and to Establish the Official Languages of the Northwest Territories, be read for the first time. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to proceed with this bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Motion 3-84(2), Slave River Dam Concerns. Mr. T'Seleie.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 3-84(2): Slave River Dam Concerns

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories invite representatives of the Slave River Coalition, which is an organization of groups and individuals in the south Mackenzie area that are concerned about the effects of a Slave River dam, to appear before the committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. T'Seleie, your motion is basically in order. However, it is open-ended. I would prefer a motion of this nature to state whether it is this session or the next session. Give us a time schedule so that we know, otherwise it can get tossed around pretty badly. So I would recommend to you, and with agreement of the House, that you state a date, whether you want them this session or next session.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, my intention is that the Assembly consider inviting these people at this Assembly session.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Then it is understood. Proceed. Your motion is then in order.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, I realize that for a lot of Members, spring is a bad time to meet. However, the possibility of a dam on the Slave River has been of concern to me for some time and I know that it is a concern in some other Mackenzie River communities. I thought that it would be useful to hear what this group had to say about this dam. So therefore, I would urge other Members to support this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Seconder of the motion, Mrs. Lawrence, would you like to speak at this time?

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The dam that they are going to make, people all around the lake and all down the river -- we want to know how those people will react to the question when they come here and now we do not have enough time, but we still could invite them over. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

Amendment To Motion 3-84(2)

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to move an amendment on the second line, after the word "coalition" add the following words "or other organizations who wish to appear". Mr. Speaker, the other part of my amendment is after the paragraph, delete the period and add the following words, "at a time to be determined by the Speaker". Thank you. Mr. Speaker, my amendment is seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. SPEAKER: Your amendments are in order. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: A point of clarification. Is Mr. Curley asking that only organizations dealing with the subject of the Slave River dam be invited, or is he saying that any organization that wants to appear for any matter will be invited?

MR. SPEAKER: I am presuming that it is related to the Slave River dam, but Mr. Curley might wish to clarify that point. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, am I speaking with respect to my amendment?

MR. SPEAKER: Actually, Mr. Ballantyne asked the question whether or not your amendment was for other organizations which might wish to appear -- whether that was relative to the Slave River dam, and I assured him that that is what I assumed it was.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my amendment would be concerned with the effects of the Slave River dam. I would think that any organizations that are interested in appearing would have an interest in the proposed dam anyway.

MR. SPEAKER: The wording leaves a great deal to be desired after the amendment is in there, but I believe that the intention is fairly clear. It is always a problem with these motions taken off the floor. It does not really fit. The rest of that, following, should be changed. It does not really make that much sense. There is not even time -- I can suggest we have coffee while you clean it up. I wonder, Mr. Clerk, could you see if we can do something with the wording of this? Just one moment, please. Mr. Curley.

Amendment To Motion 3-84(2) Reworded

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: To clarify my amendment, I have earlier indicated that my amendment would be in between the words "coalition" and "which". I now would like to clarify that right after the word "coalition", remove the following words, "which is an organization of groups and individuals in the south Mackenzie area". Delete that sentence and put in the following words: "or other organizations who wish to appear" in between. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Will the House accept that as being a clarification of an amendment rather than an amendment on the amendment? Do you accept that as a clarification? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, it is not really a clarification because it says, "or other organizations". So are we to presume that if other organizations are invited, then the Slave River Coalition will not be invited? Should it not be "and"? It makes a big difference.

MR. SPEAKER: As usual, the schoolteacher is correct with regard to wording.

---Applause

So I will accept that you said "and" instead of "or".

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: All right, with that matter cleared up, are we ready then to accept the amendment? Mr. Curley, to the amendment.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important that, in order to hear from various groups, this House would make an opportunity for other organizations who have other concerns. I think it is an important subject that other organizations or groups who wish to appear should have the same opportunity as the Slave River Coalition, so I would ask that the Members be prepared to support my amendment. Also, I think it is important that you as Speaker would be prepared to make an appropriate schedule of appearance to these organizations and have your officials prepare this schedule if they wish to appear before this House. So I am urging all of you to support my amendment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The seconder of the amendment. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I just want to reiterate some of the comments that were made by Mr. Curley, in that if you are going to have a discussion on an issue that would affect the general public, that you should invite all those people that either have concerns about it or that are in support of the project, so that you can develop a position that would reflect the concerns and the issues that are raised by all people.

---Applause

We should not invite guests into the House that would create a bias on a particular development, or any issue, without allowing fairly detailed discussion on the item and the kinds of issues that may arise. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. To the amendment. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I thought Mr. Curley's amendment was correct. I like the business of getting a choice, quite honestly. However, since he has changed it I would see nothing wrong with them coming in. But to have these people appear -- I concur with what you indicated earlier, that it seems to be, to develop it -- if they were to appear before us, I wonder what the purpose of making an appearance would be, if it is to give their particular idea or come in and talk about their concerns is something else. As Mr. Nerysoo says, I am of the opinion that we should have people -- anybody who wants to come in and have a concern, but we are going to open up the door for anybody and everybody, organizations and/or individuals to come in and express an opinion about possible development that may occur because there is no proponent of the issue or of the project as yet.

However, I think if we are going to have one group come in, then I think it is only right to have others who have some concerns about it. But if it is just to appear without making any kind of statement or whether they are going to be here to answer questions of the Members, I would have thought we would have been able to do it in a better form in caucus meetings because that is what we have done with other groups in the past. However, I have no difficulty in listening to, or having people come in and asking them questions or make an appearance before us. So I would support the amendment.

Amendment To Motion 3-84(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. To the amendment. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

Motion 3-84(2), Carried As Amended

To the motion as amended. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Motion 3-84(2) has been carried. Now I believe that there are several people looking for unanimous consent today for motions. I am still on motions. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to ask the House for unanimous consent to proceed with my motion on the Housing Corporation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Wray.

Motion 5-84(2): Appointments To NWT Housing Corporation Board

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS vacancies now exist on the NWT Housing Corporation board;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that Mr. Steve Brooks be reappointed to the board of the NWT Housing Corporation;

AND FURTHER, that the following be appointed as members of the board: Mr. Phillip Nukapiak, Rankin Inlet; Mr. Simonie Alainga, Frobisher Bay; Carole-Ann Bennett, Inuvik; Margaret Thom, Fort Providence; Mr. Gerry Cheezy, Fort Smith. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may ask of the Minister how many members are on the board now and could he indicate with whom he had any kind of recommendations to have a representative

from Fort Smith on the Housing Corporation board, if that person is to represent Smith. I recognize that in speaking to the motion that I am asking the Member questions but I think it is for clarification for my own purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At present there are six people on the board of directors and these six people that I am proposing in the motion would bring the board members up to 12 which is allowed for in the ordinance. In terms of representations from Fort Smith, letters were sent to all Members of the House asking for names to be submitted and also caucus was solicited for names as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. If I accept your speaking as asking a question for clarification, I can let you speak again. If I do not, then you have had your say for today, Mr. McCallum. But I guess being on home ground I will assume that that was a question of clarification. You have the floor, Mr. McCallum.

Improper Consultation In Selection Of Board Members

MR. MCCALLUM: Well, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your rationale for allowing me. When I asked the question of clarification I was not speaking to the motion, as I had indicated, whether it is home ground or not.

I recognize that in making these recommendations to this Assembly for membership on the board I know that the rationale was to ensure that areas around the Territories are represented on the Housing Corporation board and I know full well that Members were asked to provide names. A letter that I received came from the present chairman of the Housing Corporation, the board of directors. I concurred with the individual and they submitted a name and it is not the name of the person that was recommended to represent Fort Smith on this particular board.

So I guess one of my concerns is that there is consultation with Members about whom they would like to have, but there is nothing that is going to take place with what is being recommended on the one hand by a Minister, and other Ministers do not get any consultation. I can respect then and appreciate having had the opportunity to put forth a name but I thought by doing so it might have lent some credibility to the process and that you would have accepted it or the government would have accepted that particular recommendation. It is my understanding that the recommendation to have the person that is now representing Fort Smith and the Housing Corporation, was made by a Member from another constituency. I am not sure whether that Member now regards the individual we are being asked to approve to run a corporation, to represent his constituency or mine or whether he is going to represent the Dene Nation because he is hired as a Dene housing co-ordinator.

If we are going to go through this process of consultation of members to boards, to be put on boards, then I would suggest that we use that consultation and recognize it. If it is only to be a sham that the Members do not, or the Ministers are not going to, or the government is not going to, accept the recommendations put forward, then why bother with it? So you have a government position, these are the people you want to do it, put it on but don't play the game both ways. So I would prefer that I would have the membership of these boards -- if MLAs are being asked to put forward names and we are the ones that have the final say on it, because this motion has to be passed in formal session. I think that the recommendations that we put forward should be the names that come forward here. I do not think that MLAs from other particular areas should be concerned with the representation that is my particular area. I am sure that if it were the opposite there would be problems. If I were to tell somebody from Frobisher Bay that they should have somebody else in there and the MLA from Frobisher Bay did not like it, he would tell me what to do and the same thing would happen in other places. So I think that when we are talking about this whole process of consultation and recommendations that there should be some credence given to it. I do not agree with what has occurred here.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair is having difficulty in that we are dealing with a motion to pass a certain number of names and not on the principle of how these names were arrived at. I have allowed the debate of one Member to continue on this vein, but from now on I wish to get back. The motion is to approve or disapprove of the names. We are not here to debate under this motion the method of appointment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 5-84(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move the motion that I gave notice earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: Inasmuch as we do not have copies in front of us, do you mind just quickly stating that again, what your motion was?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, earlier I gave notice that I would be asking for unanimous consent to move the motion to appoint board members to the Public Utilities Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Unanimous consent is being asked. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Curley.

Motion 6-84(2): Appointments To NWT Public Utilities Board, Carried

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS there are presently two vacancies on the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that this Assembly fill these two vacancies 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 Mr. David Fox of Frobisher Bay, or Iqaluit, and Mr. Raymond Mercer of Rankin Inlet be appointed to the NWT Public Utilities Board in accordance with the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Ordinance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent of the motion that I discussed earlier, and I will read it at your pleasure.

MR. SPEAKER: Give us an indication of your motion again and I will put it to the House.

MR. BALLANTYNE: You want to know what the motion is about?

MR. SPEAKER: Give a similar precis to that Mr. Curley gave, just so that you refresh our memories. We do not have copies of these in front of us.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I would ask unanimous consent. The motion is to invite the chairman of the NWT Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council to come to the fall session.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? You have unanimous consent, Mr. Ballantyne. Go ahead with your motion.

Motion 4-84(2): Alcohol And Drug Co-ordinating Council, Carried

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS a committee motion was made at the first session of the 10th Legislative Assembly inviting the chairman of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council to appear in committee of the whole at the May session;

AND WHEREAS the report to be made by the chairman is not complete;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, Mr. McLaughlin, that the chairman of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council be invited to the fall session to present his organization's position paper.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your motion is in order. You may speak to it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mr. Ballantyne, do you want to speak to it?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Well, just very briefly. It is just that we discussed it in caucus and we thought it was more appropriate that when the report is final, it would give a lot more substance to the chairman's discussion with the Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. It appears there is nobody else asking for unanimous consent today. It seems to be the day.

Item 13, first reading of bills. I understand the decision was made not to proceed with first reading today. We will come back anyway by unanimous consent.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: sessional paper, Official Languages in the Northwest Territories, with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

ITEM 15: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER TABLED DOCUMENT 11-84(2): OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order, please. The committee will come to order, and before we proceed we will take a coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come to order. The committee is dealing with the sessional paper, Official Languages in the Northwest Territories. I would like at this time to ask the Leader of the Government if you wish to introduce this paper to the committee.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wish to read into the record the total sessional paper on Official Languages in the Northwest Territories.

Background

The present issue of official bilingualism in the Northwest Territories arose as a result of a traffic ticket case in the Yukon Territory. In that case, a Yukon man, Daniel St. Jean, challenged a speeding ticket which he had received pursuant to a Yukon statute on the grounds that the ticket

was printed in the English language only. Having been convicted in the territorial court, Mr. St. Jean appealed to the supreme court of the Yukon. The essence of his argument was that he was denied the right to communicate with and to receive available services from an institution of the Parliament or Government of Canada contrary to section 20 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The Government of the Northwest Territories prepared to intervene in the St. Jean appeal. Prior to the case being heard, the federal government introduced Bill C-26 which contained amendments to the Northwest Territories Act and the Yukon Act making English and French the official languages of both territories and making the provisions of the Official Languages Act applicable to both territories. Bill C-26 received first reading on March 21, 1984.

The hearing of the St. Jean appeal was adjourned indefinitely at the request of Mr. St. Jean's counsel. Counsel indicated that in light of the tabling of the proposed legislation, he would await the outcome of the parliamentary proceedings and if the bill were passed, he would not proceed with the case.

Federal Position

It is believed that the federal government's position is based on the fact that if Mr. St. Jean were ultimately successful in his appeal, there would be a danger that all ordinances of the Yukon Territory could be declared invalid if challenged. The federal office of the commissioner of official languages had adopted the view that the territorial court and the Council are federal institutions because they are created by a federal act and therefore fall within the ambit of section 20 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Since the Northwest Territories operates in a constitutional framework similar to that of the Yukon, the arguments used to show that the provision of French services was required in the Yukon Territory would have equal applicability to the Northwest Territories.

The federal government has, on the professed assumption that a legislative vacuum could result in both territories if the respective courts and governments were deemed to be an "institution of the Parliament or Government of Canada", instituted a legislative change to provide a phasing in of government obligations to provide certain services in French. The proposed amendments to the Northwest Territories Act would require all ordinances, regulations or other proclamations which are required to be published in the Northwest Territories Gazette to be printed and published in both official languages by January 1, 1988.

GNWT Position

The Government of the Northwest Territories takes the position that it is not an institution of the Parliament or Government of Canada within the meaning of subsection 20(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is a duly elected body and is empowered by virtue of the Northwest Territories Act to pass legislation in the same manner as the provinces. Effective control of territorial matters has resided with the elected Members of the Assembly for many years. The territorial government is not controlled by Ottawa and therefore cannot be said to be an institution of the Government of Canada.

The Government of the Northwest Territories adopts the stance that under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories has the same obligations and privileges as a province. The Charter, by subsection 16(3), provides that "Nothing in the Charter limits the authority of Parliament or a legislature to advance the equality of status or use of English and French." By section 30 of the Charter, the word "legislature" is deemed to refer to the appropriate legislative authority of the Northwest Territories, that is, the Legislative Assembly. Therefore, the Government of the Northwest Territories of its own volition may pass legislation to advance the use of the French language in the Territories, but in the GNWT's view any requirement for bilingualism would have to be incorporated into the Charter as has been done for the province of New Brunswick. To do so now would necessitate a constitutional amendment under Part V of the Constitution Act, 1982, requiring the consent of the federal government and at least seven provinces.

The Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Government Leader, in a press release dated March 19, 1984, indicated that the territorial government was prepared to provide French language services in the NWT, but that rather than having it imposed from Ottawa, the GNWT would develop its own program. He also

stressed that in any discussions concerning funding required by the Territories to implement bilingualism, there would have to be a recognition of the North's priority requirements in the area of funding the development of aboriginal languages.

Options Available To Federal Government To Force Bilingualism On NWT

There may be several options available to the federal government to compel the adoption of French as an official language in the NWT. The first is the route which has already been initiated, that is, amendments to the Northwest Territories Act. The Northwest Territories Act is a federal statute and at law, its amendment falls outside the legislative purview of the Legislative Assembly of the NWT. As has been previously mentioned, it is felt that in the area of language rights the federal government could not move unilaterally to install French as an official language without a constitutional amendment. However, that proposition would be subject to judicial determination.

A second avenue available to the federal government could be a constitutional amendment which would spell out that both French and English were to be the official languages of the NWT in the same manner as section 16(2) of the Charter now does for New Brunswick. Unfortunately, the NWT and the Yukon are not entitled to a voice in the amending formula prescribed in section 38 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Therefore, it would be possible for the federal government to initiate an amendment to the Constitution, and with the support of at least seven of the provinces having at least 50 per cent of the population of all the provinces, pass the amendment into law.

The federal government could use its power of disallowance to pressure the GNWT into passing legislation making French an official language. For example, should the Legislative Assembly enact legislation granting certain special rights and privileges to aboriginal languages, the federal government could disallow that legislation until such time as the GNWT complied with the wishes of Ottawa to introduce legislation granting French official status.

Finally, the federal government could pass contrary legislation to that of the GNWT. By section 13 of the Northwest Territories Act, territorial legislation is subject to any other act of Parliament. If the federal government enacted legislation dealing with aboriginal languages, the GNWT might be precluded from entering the field with legislation of its own.

GNWT Alternatives

The GNWT could adopt one or more of the following alternatives. It could, for instance, refuse to pass the necessary territorial legislation to carry out the wishes of the federal government in respect of the introduction of French as an official language. This would probably result in federal legislative action imposing French on the NWT. The GNWT could, of course, question the validity of any such federal amendment imposing French as an official language in a court of law. However, the ever-present uncertainties of litigation make the outcome of such a case unpredictable. In addition, as the foregoing has shown, the federal government may at least legally have other means at its disposal to attempt to impose bilingualism on the Territories.

The Executive Council sees the preservation and enhancement of aboriginal languages as being of prime importance in the NWT. This is especially so, because in addition to aboriginal people being the Territories' first citizens, the number of people whose mother tongue is an aboriginal language far exceeds those who presently reside here and count French as their first language. But to provide services in more than the English language requires extensive funding. Although the development and provision of services in aboriginal languages of the North has been a priority for several years, the process has not advanced as quickly as hoped due to limited financial resources.

The Executive Council sees this as a good time to begin negotiations with Ottawa to obtain long-term funding arrangements concerning the entire question of languages, including French and the aboriginal languages. The government proposes that it approaches the federal government with a package consisting of draft legislation, an implementation schedule and a detailed statement of the financial requirements necessary to implement the services to be provided in a Northwest Territories Official Languages Ordinance.

Legislation

The Constitution Act, 1982, by section 16(1), entrenches French and English as the official languages of Canada and guarantees that each has equality of status in all institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada. The Constitution then goes on to spell out what practical

consequences flow from that designation. A person has the right to use English or French in a debate or other proceedings in Parliament; statutes, records and journals of Parliament are to be printed and published in both languages; either language may be used by any person in a court established by Parliament, which would include the supreme court of the Northwest Territories; a person has the right to communicate with and receive available services from any head office of an institution of Parliament and government, and has the same right with respect to any other offer of such institution where there is significant demand or where, due to the nature of the office, it is reasonable that such services would be available in both languages.

It is recommended that these charter provisions would serve as the basis for an NWT Official Languages Ordinance. French and English would be spelled out as the official languages of the Northwest Territories. Ordinances, regulations and other statutory instruments which are printed in the Northwest Territories Gazette would be published in both languages. Members of the Legislative Assembly would have the option to use either French or English during debates and simultaneous translation services would have to be provided. Persons using the courts would have the right to use either language in their pleadings and in court appearances. Any member of the public would have the right to communicate with, and to receive available services from any head or central office of the territorial government in English or French and he would have the same right with respect to any other territorial government office where there is a significant demand for communications with and services from that office in that language. The extent to which the territorial government would be able to provide such services in both official languages will, of course, depend on the federal funding available to it.

Over the last several years, substantial progress has been made in the preservation and enhancement of aboriginal languages. The indigenous language development fund has been instrumental in creating an awareness of the importance of the development of aboriginal languages and among other things, in allowing native northerners to initiate systems designed to ultimately lead to bilingual educational curriculums. The development of aboriginal languages is seen as a priority by the Government of the Northwest Territories and official language legislation should provide for the recognition, in law, of indigenous languages.

Aboriginal languages are presently being used to communicate with and provide services to many residents of the Northwest Territories. The Government of the Northwest Territories, under the direction of the Legislative Assembly, has accorded the highest priority to the preservation, development and enhancement of aboriginal languages. It is the policy of the government to continue to enhance the aboriginal languages of the Northwest Territories so that they may, at the appropriate time, be used for all or any of the official purposes of the Territories. The Government of the Northwest Territories sees it as its duty to promote and develop aboriginal languages so that they may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories and to secure their enrichment through the indigenous language development program. In keeping with this aim the Government of the Northwest Territories proposes that sufficient funds be provided by the federal government.

The Government of the Northwest Territories proposes that the NWT Official Languages Ordinance should recognize the northern aboriginal languages as the indigenous languages of the Northwest Territories. The ordinance would contain an enabling provision which would allow the Commissioner, on recommendation of the appropriate Executive Member, to implement the provision of designated services in appropriate regions as the advancement of the language and the government's capability evolved. In this manner, services could be phased in in an orderly manner and the nature and scope of those services would be decided on a dynamic basis. The services provided in aboriginal languages may differ from, and indeed, even exceed those services offered in the official language of French. The important point is that the Government of the Northwest Territories would be in a position to respond to the needs and requirements of its residents through its own legislation and with its own programs.

Presently the Constitution of Canada declares English and French to be the official languages of Canada. Under the Constitution Act, 1871, the constitutional responsibility for providing administration, peace, order and good government in the Territories resides in the federal Parliament. The federal Parliament does this through the Northwest Territories Act which, in turn, establishes the territorial government and gives to the territorial Legislature the authority to enact ordinances. However, all legislative authority of the territorial Legislature is subject to the Northwest Territories Act and all other federal acts. The Constitution of Canada is the supreme law of Canada. Unlike the provinces, the Territories are not given the power to exclusively make laws amending the constitution of the Territories.

The result of this constitutional position of the Territories is that legislation intended to declare an aboriginal language as an official language in the Territories may be found to be invalid as contravening the Constitution or any proposed amendment to the NWT Act or the federal Official Languages Act declaring French and English as the official languages of the Territories.

In view of this constitutional position of the Territories, the government proposes two avenues to be followed. Firstly, it is proposed that the Official Languages Ordinance of the Territories provide for the aboriginal languages to be adopted for any or all of the official uses of the Territories. Secondly, the government proposes to seek the eventual entrenchment of aboriginal languages in the Constitution as the official languages of the Territories at par with French and English. The government will pursue this aim in conjunction with the aboriginal organizations through the process of the First Ministers' Conferences on the Constitution of Canada.

Recommendations

Mr. Chairman, I would like to read the recommendations.

A) It is recommended that appropriate directions be given to the Executive Council to adopt official language legislation based on the following concepts:

1. English and French to be recognized as the official languages of the Territories.

2. The rights and freedoms flowing from the recognition of the official languages are to be based on those rights and freedoms contained in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and would include the following: a) French or English could be used in the debates and other proceedings of the Legislative Assembly; b) ordinances, records and journals of the Legislative Assembly would be published in both languages; c) French or English may be used by any person in any court established by or pursuant to territorial legislation; and d) a person would have the right to communicate and receive services from the head or central office of the government in both French and English.

3. The aboriginal languages which are indigenous to the Territories would be recognized in law. The preservation, development and enhancement of the aboriginal languages be expressly declared as the aim of the government so that they may, at the appropriate stage, be used for all or any of the official purposes of the Territories.

4. By regulation pursuant to the Official Languages Ordinance, the manner, nature and extent of services to be provided in the aboriginal languages would be spelled out.

B) It is further recommended that the Executive Council, on an urgent basis, continue negotiations with the appropriate federal Ministers to arrive at suitable funding arrangements to allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to pursue its committed goal to preserve, develop, enrich and enhance aboriginal languages for official purposes of the Territories.

C) It is further recommended that the Executive Council, on an urgent basis, continue negotiations with the appropriate federal Ministers to arrive at suitable funding arrangements and an appropriate implementation schedule to allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to introduce French as an official language in the Northwest Territories and to provide services in French as outlined in this sessional paper.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the content of the sessional paper, and certainly I would like to get into discussing the recommendations and seeking support and approval from my colleagues in the Assembly. Mr. Chairman, I would also like approval from the Legislature to ask Mr. Stien Lal to be present as a witness with me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We have Mr. Stien Lal as a witness. The committee at this time would like to recognize Monsieur Denis Gadoury, the directeur general de L'Association Culturelle Franco-Tenoise.

---Applause

Would you please stand up, please? Thank you. He is the director of the French Cultural Association of the NWT. Excuse my pronunciation. As well, the committee would like to recognize the students of grade 11 and 12 from Paul William Kaeser School along with their teachers Mrs. Steed, Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Shone.

---Applause

At this time, is it the wish of the committee to have general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does anyone wish to proceed with general comments? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are dealing with a very important issue, an historic issue, and I hope the committee generally is willing to discuss it thoroughly and to take time with it. For myself I would like a bit of time, maybe a little longer time than the rules allow, because in the past I was strongly opposed to the Official Languages Act and strongly opposed to the entrenchment of a Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including a charter of language rights. I had what I felt were good reasons for opposing the bills. Yet today I will support the government's position as outlined in the paper we just heard in its entirety. I owe an explanation to my constituents and I would like to have the time to do that adequately. I intend only to speak once, so I hope that Members will understand that.

Two Issues

There are really two issues here. I guess the first is as to whether or not this Assembly should accept French as an official language of the NWT or whether it should regard what is happening as an imposition by the federal government that is serious enough to be resisted. And the second issue is when we are dealing with languages and official languages in the NWT, as to whether we should attempt at the same time to give official status to the aboriginal languages of the NWT. And I will deal with the first issue first.

I opposed the Official Languages Act and first of all, the entrenchment of rights generally because I believed that would bring about a very significant change in the nature of this country; that it would present us with a very static view of rights and it would impose upon us a legalistic society, much more legalistic than we had enjoyed in the past, and I did not want to see that happen. In the matter of language rights particularly, I believed that the entrenchment of a charter of language rights would alter the nature of the country linguistically, and I was not especially opposed to that happening, but I did not at all like the manner in which it was handled.

With respect to the question of language, it is clear from the resolutions that were passed at the Quebec Conference in 1864 that French was not to enjoy equal status with English throughout Canada. There was one single clause, clause 46, in reference to languages in those resolutions, and it simply said, "Both the English and French languages may be employed in the general parliament and its proceedings and in the local legislature of Lower Canada and also in the federal courts and in the courts of Lower Canada." And that was the sole mention at the Quebec Conference with respect to languages; those resolutions from the Quebec Conference formed the basis for the BNA Act which was passed in 1867 and became the Constitution of Canada. I think it was section 133 in which language rights were outlined and that section of the BNA Act essentially duplicated the resolution that had been passed in Quebec and did not add a single thing to it. Moreover, the English version of the BNA Act was the official version, not the French version, and when the provinces of PEI and Newfoundland and British Columbia and Alberta and Saskatchewan were all brought into Confederation, none of them had to use French as an official language because it was understood generally by legislators in the federal Parliament at that time that that was not intended to be the nature of this country. It is simply clear that in history and in our Constitution French and English did not have equal status across the country and were not intended to have.

View Of Politicians In Past 15 Years

So my biggest concern was not that someone should come along and say, "Look, times have changed and perhaps we should have a country that has a different nature. Perhaps if we are going to remain together, we ought to have equal status across the country." Therefore the federal government

would start to encourage the use of French across the country and provide funding for schooling in the French language and so on. If that had been the approach that was adopted, I would have supported it, but it was not the approach that was adopted. Rather, I believe that in the past 15 years Canadians generally were sold a bill of goods and generally had the wool pulled over their eyes. They were told that the nature of this country had been from the very beginning intended to be different; that is, that it had always been intended that there should be equality of status and that that intention had never been fulfilled, and a guilt trip was laid on Canadians in many parts of this country making them feel that if they did not support the view of the country that was being advocated by Mr. Pearson, Mr. Trudeau, Mr. Chretien, that they were wrong, that they were anti-intellectual, that they were red-necked. Generally people did not know how to respond to those accusations and therefore tended to be silent about the issue and to accept what the government was doing. Because of that kind of approach, many Canadians were forced to a situation where they felt they had no alternative but to accept what the federal government was doing.

The view that brought about the very significant changes in our country in the past 15 years is summarized very neatly in a quotation I found in the Globe and Mail on Thursday, April 5th, a quotation from Brian Mulroney, the present leader of the Conservative Party. He made the statement that his view of Canada was, and I quote: "Confederation represented an oath of alliance to extend minority language guarantees so that French and English-speaking Canadians would feel at home everywhere in the country." Now that vision of Canada was shared by Mr. Trudeau and by Mr. Chretien and by many others who were in powerful positions, but I say that that was an erroneous vision of the country, that it arose in the minds of those people and did not have an historical or constitutional basis. That was why I challenged what was happening during those years and would not accept it.

I say that my view of what the country really was like, the nature of the country, has substance, that it is not my view alone. I would like, if I may, to turn to Hansard of the House of Commons, July 5th, 1905. Those were the months just before the time when Alberta and Saskatchewan were going to become provinces. At that time there was a strong French-Canadian nationalist in the House of Commons named Henri Bourassa who attempted then to ensure that French would become an official language in Alberta and Saskatchewan. In fact he introduced an amendment on this day, July 5th, to try to ensure that that would happen when those territories became provinces. Once his amendment was introduced, the then Prime Minister, Sir Wilfred Laurier, who was French-Canadian and the first French-Canadian Prime Minister of Canada, challenged the amendment and disputed the position that was taken by Henri Bourassa. I would like to quote a little of what Mr. Laurier said at that time. He said, quote: "The honourable Member for Labelle knows that there is a principle which all Liberals, and particularly French-speaking Liberals, have always held sacred, and that is the absolute right of the provinces to make their own laws. It is an historical fact well-known to all that if we have today a federal instead of a legislative union that is due to the persistent efforts of the French-Canadians who in order to secure self-government, in order to be in a position to legislate for themselves and to settle all questions of internal economy, have insisted on having that division of powers implied in a federal union. Well, among the rights embodied in section 92 of the Constitution there are some which are perhaps more important than all others. I mean property and civil rights. The language question is one of civil rights. I deny the statement which has just been made by the honourable Member for Labelle that under the Constitution enacted in 1867 -- I am mistaken", said Laurier, "to which we freely gave our assent in 1867. The French language was put on an equal footing in the various provinces."

He goes on to insist that what Mr. Bourassa is asserting as a right was not an historical or constitutional right and had never been intended to be. He says at one point, and I quote again: "If my honourable friend were able to point out in the Constitution a single clause stating that the French language shall have official recognition in every province, I would be ready to agree with him, but he will seek in vain in the whole British North America Act a provision dealing with the French language in the same way as schools are dealt with." He was merely referring there to the fact that there were allowances for separate schools, and that provision specifically was made in the Constitution. So that was the position of the first French-Canadian Prime Minister of Canada. It was a position taken 38 years after Confederation when what was intended was well within the memory of the federal legislators living at that time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. MacQuarrie, your time is up. You may proceed if the Members agree. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members. And when that matter came to a vote Mr. Laurier's side had 140 votes and Mr. Bourassa's side had seven votes and Mr. Laurier's side had many names voting with him such as Beuparlant, Dubeau, Ethier, Fortier, Geoffrion, Lemieux, Prefontaine and Rousseau. Thank you, I've got to try learning. At any rate it was obvious that many French-Canadians at that day saw that it was never intended that French would have equal status with English across the country.

Challenge Of Trilingualism

Now, knowing that, knowing something about history and other constitutional facts, I opposed the Charter because I opposed the manner in which it was being introduced. I remember saying in this House specifically that if it were accepted that we might run into difficulties with respect to attempting to do something to give status to native languages and I warned at one point that if that Charter were to be put in place that many of our children in the Territories would one day be forced, if they wished to rise to the highest levels of government in Canada, would be forced not to be bilingual but to be trilingual. Because they would come to schools speaking their native language, they would then have to learn English and, if they hoped ever to rise to the highest levels of government, they would then have to learn French. And that is quite a challenge.

I attempted to oppose that formally, introduced a motion into this House challenging the manner in which the federal government was attempting to entrench a charter. I know that Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Butters and Mr. Fraser supported me. No one else did. And I must admit too that across the country those who took the same side as I were evidently outnumbered. Polls were taken and it appeared that 80 per cent of Canadians wanted that Charter to proceed. It appeared that the majority in this House wanted that Charter to proceed and I know that the Inuit, for example, are proud of the fact that they helped the federal government to patriate the Constitution and entrench that Charter. Personally, I regarded it as an imposition despite knowing the poll results because I felt people generally were not clear on what the issues were. But nevertheless, it was done; the Charter is entrenched and so now there is a fact which we must all live with and accept, and that is that a new Constitution has been proclaimed and it includes a Charter of the Rights and Freedoms, including a language charter as well. In fact the nature of Canada has changed.

In the past few years we were not playing merely a word game as so many think when constitutional matters are raised. There was a great deal of substance to what was happening. The fact is that we now have a different country than we had before the Charter and I say that it is a country whose nature will not revert back to what it was before because we have an entrenched constitution which will be immensely difficult to change and it is apparent in the leadership of all federal parties that there is a political will to retain the nature of the country as it is now. So faced with that fact -- I know I have sometimes been thought of as someone who stands on principle to no good effect, but I believe an examination of the record would refute that and show that I do come to terms with political reality and I do so now. We are faced with an enormous political reality.

Impositions On This Territory

In view of that fact I say let us deal with it the best way we can. If the country is officially bilingual -- and it is -- then we should try to see what is happening now, not as an imposition, but as an opportunity, an opportunity to bring the country into greater harmony than it has been, an opportunity to provide service to Francophones in these Territories, an opportunity to bring our children into the mainstream of Canadian life. The matter of an imposition is still there and certainly it is an imposition. What the federal government announced in March is an imposition. But the question, is it an imposition that should be resisted with all our strength or should it be pre-empted if possible? I have come to the conclusion that we ought to pre-empt it rather than resist.

The area of languages is evidently a matter that provinces ought to determine for themselves but we are not yet a province. For example, we daily live with impositions because we are a territory. In a sense, the Commissioner is an imposition but it is one that we live with and try to make the best of, looking forward to the day when we will not have to suffer impositions at all. It is always galling to be outpowered and imposed upon and I know I certainly felt that very strongly over the past few years, but my opinion now is that the major imposition occurred not in March but some years ago and we are now simply having to deal with the natural outgrowth of that major imposition.

Therefore, I feel that, given all of the legal complexities that exist and all of the practical political problems that we are faced with, I believe our government has taken the wisest possible course to deal with this matter. It is very thoughtful. It is very thorough. I would like to commend the government on that. I know when I first heard the government position -- because I still feel galled about what has happened in the past -- I was kind of angry, but when I sat down for a few days and thought it over, I came to believe they are taking the best course. In taking that course, I think that this government can make it clear that we do not regard ourselves merely as an institution of the Government of Canada within the meaning of subsection 20(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982, but that we can, by enacting our own legislation, indicate good will, put that legislation in place and make irrelevant whatever might be done later on the part of the federal government. I believe our government is right in deciding to make English and French the official languages of the Territories, and I believe our government is right in attempting to take advantage of this opportunity to promote and develop the aboriginal languages of the Northwest Territories to the greatest extent possible.

Conditional Support For Legislation

There is no question in my mind that the aboriginal languages ought to take precedence over another official language, but as I said earlier, we have some legal realities that we have to live with. I believe that the legislation that the government intends to introduce will, to the greatest extent possible, help the recognition and the development and the strengthening of the aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. My support for what the government is doing is conditional. In other words, I can agree that we ought to accept the recommendations that the government has given to us in its sessional paper, that we ought to be prepared at least to introduce legislation that will reflect that sessional paper and that we ought then to sit down with the federal government and seriously negotiate funding for the introduction of French, and not only at the official level. I feel that we should be insisting as well that funding for French in our schools be strengthened as well. We ought to be insisting that native languages in the Territories be given adequate recognition and that funding be put in place for their development as well, and only on those conditions should we then proceed to the final step of passing and proclaiming an Official Languages Ordinance in the Northwest Territories. So, as long as those provisions are adequately taken care of, as I said, I will support the government's position and again commend the government for a very rational and wise approach.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mahsi cho, Mr. MacQuarrie. At this time we would like to recognize the first and second year students of the teacher education program and the principal, Miss Loague, and Mrs. Bolduc.

---Applause

Also the committee would like to recognize Bertha Allen, president of the NWT Native Women's Association.

---Applause

General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this subject is one that we have all grappled with, and it is an extremely complex and difficult subject. I too am supporting first reading of the government's proposed legislation. Some of the factors that I took into consideration, some of the basic premises on which I made my decision, were as follows. I think, first of all, all of us agree that the federal government was wrong in attempting to unilaterally impose French as an official language of the Territories. Secondly, I think there is a basic consensus within this Legislative Assembly that it is a priority of our government to protect and to strengthen the use of aboriginal languages in the NWT. Thirdly, I think the government dealt very well with a very difficult situation in so far as there are constitutional and legal realities that we as a Legislature must recognize in any legislative initiatives concerning aboriginal languages by this government.

I think that Mr. Lal, the Executive Council, and his staff should be commended in the way that they did come to grips with these very, very difficult problems. Sometimes we feel that we are right, we want to do things, but there are laws and we must recognize that we are not quite as strong constitutionally as some day we would like to be. That is a reality I think we all must face.

Political Risks In Opposition

There is another political reality, that there are political risks in opposing French as an official language in the Territories. I think, from every indication that we have, if we as a Legislature oppose French as an official language of the Territories, that the federal government would unilaterally impose it upon us. I think they would have support right now from all three parties in the House of Commons. I think it is a reality. There is an election coming up. Those seats in Quebec are important to all parties. I think that if we are to take a principled stand in this matter, it should not be on the matter of French as an official language, because we would not get very much federal support if we did.

Another aspect that has not been talked about, something that I think is important to me, is we do not want a situation where the Francophone community in the NWT is caught between the territorial government and the federal government in a constitutional struggle. I think we see some of the problems in other areas of the country where there are some very ugly repercussions; that because of the emotional nature of issues people are alienated from their governments and from each other. I know from my conversations with the Francophone community, that they have been very reasonable in their approach to this whole matter and I think we must keep that in mind; that this issue should not become one whereby Francophones in the NWT feel alienated from other northerners.

Now, I think this legislation really attempts to deal with this complex problem in a very pragmatic way. Firstly, it will be our initiative and not a federal government initiative. I think that is important symbolically and more than symbolically. As others have said before, all indications are that if we oppose French it will be imposed upon us. By us taking the initiative I think we are demonstrating to the federal government and to the people of Canada that we can take a responsible, reasonable approach to these sorts of problems. In doing so we can ensure some measure of support across the country and in the federal government.

Enshrinement Of Aboriginal Languages

There is also every indication that the federal government is prepared to amend their proposed Bill C-26, which is the federal government initiative to impose French as an official language, to incorporate the spirit of our legislation. I think the practical results of passing this legislation will be to enshrine aboriginal languages into territorial law and if Bill C-26, the

federal bill, is amended, as we are led to believe that it will be, we will in fact see territorial aboriginal languages enshrined in federal law also. This will be a first in Canada and it provides double protection. It really means that the legislation, the protection of aboriginal languages could only be overturned with the consent of two legislatures, both ours and the federal Parliament. So though it may not achieve everything that we want we are in fact leading the way in Canada. I think for that aspect of it we can be quite proud.

Support For First Reading

The other practical, financial reality of what we are trying to achieve is that I would support first reading of this bill but there are certain responses from the federal government that I would like to see evident before I could support second or third reading or proclamation of the bill. I think by passing first reading of this legislation that we are demonstrating good will on our part but I would like to see, number one, that in fact Bill C-26 is amended to incorporate the spirit of our legislation. Number two, I would like to see that adequate funding will be provided for the Territories to provide French as an official language. But probably most importantly for me to support the final passage of this bill, I would have to see adequate funding in order to support the development of aboriginal languages to their full potential, in every aspect of official and unofficial life in the NWT now. If those realities come about I can support this legislation. If in fact Bill C-26 is not amended to enshrine the spirit of our legislation, if we are not given adequate funding to provide French as an official language, and most importantly, if we are not given adequate funding to provide for comprehensive aboriginal language development, I would find it very difficult to support third reading. So at this stage in time I would like to commend the government. I think we are starting off with a good bargaining position. I think the Leader and his staff and the Executive Council will be getting back to us because I too do not want to see this bill passed today until we get some practical answers to the questions that we are asking. So that is all I have to say. I will be supporting first reading of the bill today.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak in Inuktitut regarding this. The day before yesterday John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs, came to Yellowknife for one day and then he just informed us that the NWT is under federal legislation. When we met him he told us that the NWT official languages would be English and French because according to the Constitution, NWT Act, that is what the federal government can do. So the Inuit people of the NWT, I would like to inform them that I was not very concerned on this, because when I was a child I was told that I am an Inuk. I will learn to speak English when I go to school. You will eventually learn to speak English but you still have to learn your own language. Prime Minister Trudeau is the head for the NWT and he has always told me that you will be able to learn to speak English but not right now. I did not like his comments. I felt like saying, take a look at Canada; there are not many places where government bodies are having English and French. For example, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan are not using bilingual languages. They have not really recognized the two languages that they have to speak according to the Constitution. They have not really recognized French. I would like to say that as an Inuk they used to tell me when I was a child that you will eventually learn to speak English but not right now. You have to still go to school some more and that is exactly what the Prime Minister is saying right now. Maybe he will eventually learn to speak Inuktitut. But he is saying now that we will give you some more money but he does not seem to be making sense. I just wanted you to know that there are not very many French-speaking people in the NWT at the present time, and they have to really learn to speak the aboriginal languages too, even though it is not put into law. So for that reason I was concerned about this for the future because for the people that are working for the government -- there are not very many Inuit people working for the government, and for the future, they will not be able to teach employees in French. (Translation ends)

Consultation Before Imposition Of Act

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to put it on the record because this is an historic moment. If I had the right to introduce such legislation, as the federal Minister of Indian Affairs, I would have wanted to ensure that a federal consultation takes place in the North and that we be given a federal, even one year consultation before we impose the Official Languages Act in the Territories, but I do not have that privilege, as I said in Inuktitut.

When I was a young student growing up, I used to hear the federal officials telling me at that time that I had a lot of potential but I had to learn a lot of things first. I then, at that time, realized this was just an excuse for me not being given an opportunity to actually get into a responsible position. It seems to me that the federal government is doing the same thing today, that we, as a native people with native languages, do have the potential to be of service to the public in the institutions for which this government is responsible. There is an opportunity but "You guys are not ready yet." To need to be hearing that from the federal government is really an insult to my culture. Because of this historic nature of the debate, I wanted to put it on the record, because I believe that the consultation and co-operation can take place without having a double-barrelled shotgun in federal Parliament posing on me, because that is what Bill C-26 is all about. It indicates that unless you do something, the federal government has the ability to change the NWT Act and it is going to impose it anyway.

I think we learned earlier, during the last three years, from the negotiations when the Canadian government dealt with the Canadian Constitution, that we did not have a threat from the United Kingdom, that if we did not come to an agreement Great Britain was going to change the Canadian Constitution. We did not have that imposition placed on us. Therefore, as a native individual I was a bit disturbed that the federal government came on -- I say it was a bit too early. Maybe because the leadership convention was going on. Maybe some of our old friends from the federal cabinet were going to eventually, maybe, have another role after the election, I do not know. But I felt very concerned that the native language, my culture, was not for sale. I felt at that time when John Munro came around to tell me that if we do not do anything he was going to impose it, that it meant to me as a native individual -- which some of my honourable friends, as white persons, cannot really feel -- I felt that I had to let go of my birthright. I had to settle for something as far as the federal bill is concerned, that said to me in the last paragraph, the last section of Bill C-26 that the only consolation I can get in this one was that nothing in Bill C-26 prevents the Commissioner in Council with the Government of the Northwest Territories from granting rights in respect of providing services in any language of the aboriginal peoples of Canada. After all, it took about 45 clauses to enshrine the rights of the official languages. We had to settle with only one clause. To me that was not sincere enough. That was not strong enough.

Therefore, for the record I wish to say that I felt since the NWT government is very much part of the patriotic institutions of the federal government that we could have afforded to wait a little longer, even a year or two, to allow some discussion to take place before we actually force official languages on the Northwest Territories. So, Mr. Chairman, although the spirit of the bill that we will be dealing with here I think is possibly the best that the provinces or federal government have ever come out with, I really feel still that it was a bit early at this stage because of some of the apprehension that does exist in the native communities throughout the Territories. Because the federal government is insisting that it has no choice, there are many native people that do feel that they have no choice but to concede and not say anything further. I say as a democratic member of Canadian society that it is unfair for the federal government to do so, because even though we respect the law, and as a native people we respect the Canadian law, we should not be threatened by the federal government that unless we do something they are going to go ahead anyway because that is not fair justice for the original aboriginal peoples of the Territories. As we have no choice, like many of my colleagues I have no choice but to go along with recognizing the bill but I would urge the Members that the issue of the native languages is more than just exchanging...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Curley, your time is up. What is the desire of the committee? Agreed to continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Proceed, Mr. Curley.

Provisions In Bill For Native Languages

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I feel very strongly that if we are sincere about developing the native languages we could deal with it as we normally deal with any other important matter and continue to develop it further. We should not jump to the conclusion that we ought to trade any other issues with the federal government and we are going to receive a whole lot of money just for conceding our

point. I think the principle of the native languages is quite important. Since we can use them in this Assembly, we should also have a clause in any bill that we will be introducing that the native languages should also have the same rights in some parts of the institutions of the Territories. Even though they may not be as official as French and English, I really believe that in some part we should have provisions where native languages can be used. I do not believe that we should ignore the reality of the fact that as particularly the Inuit language is now used in this Legislature and in many of the municipalities and even in the court system, we should have some reference as to how far the native language can be used. Otherwise it is going to be pretty confusing as to where the native languages can play a role in the territorial institutions. Qujannamiik. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Gargan, general remarks.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did read the draft ordinance that was given to the Members. One of the main concerns I have with the ordinance is that as far as the French language goes, it is pretty well carved in stone, but as far as the aboriginal languages go, it is pretty vague. It is not as strong as I would like to see it. This is one concern that I would like to express. Just as the English and the French languages are going to be official languages of Canada, I would like to see put in this ordinance that the Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the aboriginal languages as official languages of this government in the Territories. Mr. Chairman, also, in order for me to support the English and the French languages as official languages in the Territories, I would also have to see...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Gargan, it is important at this time that you make reference to the sessional paper we are addressing at this time and not the proposed bill, which has yet to be introduced to our House. Thank you.

Stronger Position On Aboriginal Languages

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, referring to the sessional paper again on the official languages of the Northwest Territories, in order for me to support it I would have to see a stronger position taken by this government with Ottawa with regard to the aboriginal languages. Certainly I am also in agreement with a lot of the suggestions that came from other Members. Certainly we have to give this careful consideration and careful consultation with the Government of Canada, ensuring that the native languages in the Northwest Territories are considered as part of this government as far as jobs and that go. For native people to get into government positions, I think that the aboriginal language would be one of the assets, rather than just only English and French. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Does the committee wish to continue or have the coffee break? Coffee break for 10 minutes. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come to order. I would like at this time to remind Members to confine their remarks to the sessional paper, "Official Languages in the Northwest Territories" and that no reference at this time should be made to the proposed bill, which I assume will be introduced at some point. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would want to add some comments to the sessional paper that was put forward by the Executive on this whole issue of the recognition of languages, but prior to doing so, I would want to preface my remarks with a couple of questions of the House Leader. First and foremost, I would want to know whether in fact Members of the Executive have agreed to bring forth a unified position on a proposed position of the government which, if we accept their recommendations will form the basis of any kind of proposed legislation. Secondly, I know that there is a concern obviously expressed by the present Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Munro, and this government, on the government's interpretation of its legality, if you like, the legality of the territorial government. That is, I believe and agree with what has been said in the paper regarding the interpretation of the government, that the Government of the Northwest Territories is not an institution of Parliament and as such, because it is duly elected and empowered by an act, though it is a federal piece of legislation, is able to pass legislation in the same manner as provinces.

So my second question, before I get into some comments on it, would be of the Government Leader. Without going to the courts to determine this, has there been any move on the part of the present Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to recognize the position that is put forward in this paper? So those are two questions I have. First, is the government coming with a unified position on this or are the individual Members of the Executive free to vote as they wish? Secondly, what is the status of the present discussions with the federal Minister on this interpretation as to whether we are or are not an institution of the federal government, because that was Mr. Munro's rationale when he appeared at the Liberal convention three or four weeks ago?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, certainly the suggestion of the sessional paper and the recommendations that are being made, is the position that was taken by the Executive Council so that we could at least receive some direction from all Members in this House or a majority of the Members in this House. Certainly there was no decision to suggest that no Executive Council Member could make opinions known on the principle of the issue and the manner in which it was being dealt with, and we did not as an Executive Council make any commitment that no Member could not make comments.

Now, with regard to the whole question of the institution as defined in the Constitution, I think that that is one area on which we would have argued a case in a court of law, that we are not in fact an institution as defined in the Charter of Rights and in fact with regard to section 30 of the Constitution Act, it refers to "A reference in this Charter to a province or to the legislative assembly or legislature of a province shall be deemed to include a reference to the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, or to the appropriate legislative authority thereof, as the case may be." I believe in that particular clause it is pretty clear that we have the authority to pass legislation with regard to languages or all those issues that relate to the Charter of Rights, so in that sense clearly that is an argument that is in our favour.

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

Unified Government Position

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Government Leader. I guess the concern that I have on both these questions would be that if the government is going to use the basis of these recommendations in this sessional paper -- or the acceptance by this House of those recommendations -- to give it direction, then I would hope there would be unanimity on the government's side. Not to have that and then expect those of us on this side and over in the corner to go ahead and support a government position without having a unified government position would seem to me to be rather ludicrous, and I would hope that government Members will recognize that. To ask us to do something that they themselves may have some difficulty with I think is just a bit much.

The second question I put to you because I firmly believe that what you have indicated here is the position that we should be taking as a government. That is, we may pass this legislation but to make it a requirement, there would have to be a change or an amendment under Part V of the Constitutional Act, 1982, such as occurred in another province. I think you made the reference to that in your paper and I referred to New Brunswick. So I think we should accept that responsibility and in so doing we indicate that we have some kind of muscle; maybe not well-developed, but we should be able to flex it.

I want to indicate to the government my acceptance of the very pragmatic approach that has been taken to this whole bill. I think that your taking the initiative indicates that we do take our responsibilities seriously and that we are attempting to come to a proper decision as regards this whole business of English and French across the country, as well as the recognition and the furtherance of the native aboriginal languages.

I need not go into any great amount of detail; it has been well-covered by previous speakers, as to why the government should be taking this approach and why we as an Assembly should be accepting the recommendations that are put forward. I think that those things that have been touched on previously by Members, about making sure that other things are in place, are issues that we have to ensure once we get into the actual proposed legislation that will come through. It seems to me in your sessional paper to arrive at that position, because you say that there were certain particular

options that the federal government have, but there were alternatives -- you put forth a couple of alternatives -- I have a little difficulty in recognizing them to be alternatives. In point of fact, if we refuse to pass the necessary territorial legislation then there is an action -- I am not too sure that is an alternative -- the federal legislation -- the Minister made very well -- the validity of the federal amendment -- being pushed on us and then being questioned in the court, the track record of decisions that favour the constituent parts in the last while suggest that we are not going to get very far. You simply have to think of what happened with Newfoundland and its offshore. And so to go through the cost and the experience of doing that, I do not think is much of an alternative. So I think that, as I say, the approach that has been taken is the only pragmatic one and it is one that we as a group should recognize. It allows this government to exert itself in a proper form, in a proper manner. I think there are a great number of things that are concerned with this course of action and the recognition of it.

The cost of recognizing both English and French will be quite expensive. It will cost this government a great deal more money just to provide people with access to government papers, regulations, etc., the whole thing. I believe that any time we get into a situation where we have to take on federal government initiatives or we have to take on certain things from the federal government, it is contingent upon this government to insist that the funding will be there. I agree as well that this action presents the Government of the NWT with the ideal opportunity to do something to enhance its particular recognition or its efforts to do more for native languages. Now, that may be the only club that we have on it, but I think it is a substantial club and one that has to be put forth very seriously on behalf of the government through the Executive Council and the Government Leader.

Again, as I say, I do not want to go into much concern with what goes on. I think that it is important enough for us to do so recognizing our limitations, but nevertheless recognizing by doing it on our own, that is the government doing it on their own or this Assembly doing it on our own, we will be able to make sure that not only the French community recognize, and so it fits in across the country, but again establish the fact that the constituent parts of the country should take that initiative themselves. In so doing if we do it in one language, one of the two official languages of Canada, then obviously we would be able to do something with our own aboriginal languages as well. So I would commend the government for putting forth these particular recommendations and recommendations that I would certainly support. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Erkloo.

French Not A Priority

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have any questions but I just wanted to comment on the legislation that is being imposed upon us. To recognize the French language I am not totally happy about because in the smaller communities in the North we do not see very many French-speaking people. I am not totally happy about it as well because the curriculum and staff who can speak in the aboriginal languages are not being fully implemented. So because of that, well, if we are going to use French as a recognized language we are going to have to spend a lot of money in schools in order to teach people the French language. I feel apprehensive because I think our first priority should be to include the aboriginal languages because to develop them is very important. I also support the idea of the government's position. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. Mr. Appaqq.

Community Consultation Needed

MR. APPAQQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also wish to speak about this because I am concerned. I am in agreement with this subject we are talking about but we are all aware that the French language is not used very much in the North; take for example, CBC uses English as well as an aboriginal language. We were totally unprepared for this presentation from the federal government. At least they should have given us some advance notice so that we could discuss it and so it would give us a chance to speak to them. The way it is, it could eventually cause problems and the consequences we cannot see right now could be bad. We are also going to have to teach and hire many people to teach the French language and because of this legislation people are being forced into this position. We have many people and organizations and associations that can support our cause. I see there is going to be very much concern about this. I cannot therefore totally

agree to this but I can accept it though I am still a little apprehensive. I think I would like to get back to our communities, to our constituents and speak about this more. I will conclude that while we are here we are going to vote. I cannot totally support it before I get back to my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) When things like this come to us, the government makes all these papers for us but then they never, ever give us any chance to think about things like that. They just come without giving us any advance notice. But we speak the aboriginal language so I think we have the right to say what we feel. When it comes to us, they make decisions for us. (Translation ends)

More Time Required

Especially when I speak my native language, it is difficult for me to accept French when it has no relevance to my constituency, but it seems we have no other choice but have to accept what is put in front of us. It seems that is always the case. I suppose I have to support the first reading on condition that changes will be made to guarantee that our native languages are treated like any official language, like English and French. Recognizing and protecting our native language is not good enough. That is what is stated, "to recognize and protect our original language". And some words are so vague, like "may", and it is not guaranteed that our languages will be given serious consideration. Just recently, thanks to the Minister of Education, they have started to establish native languages in schools and it is just recently that they started. At this time I just feel that we do not have that much time, and we are not given that much time. As far as I am concerned, I need more time to work on this very important issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see this debate as pretty historic, because I think it gives those of us that represent majority aboriginal people the opportunity to really give our languages the ability to move ahead. I represent a majority aboriginal constituency, and the majority of the people that I represent speak the Dene language, and the way that I am looking at this debate is that it would be ludicrous for me to go back to my constituency and say that I have agreed to the official use of French and at the same time say that I have not been able to do anything about our own language. I do not think that I would be able to get away with that. I think in the Northwest Territories, here, I do not see the possibility of aboriginal languages going away or not at some point having to be dealt with, because I see the aboriginal languages as developing and as ultimately having to be dealt with one way or the other. And I think in the Northwest Territories here, it is unique, it is different than the other provinces of Canada, where the aboriginal people do not make a majority, but in the Northwest Territories aboriginal people are in the majority. And I think that rational kinds of arguments could be made that would convince the federal government that we have a unique situation here in the North. My position on this is that at some point I would like the opportunity to make some amendments to the bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. T'Seleie, I think your remarks should be confined to the sessional paper at this time.

MR. T'SELEIE: I have a couple of questions on the sessional paper. On page seven, the first paragraph states that the government proposes that it approaches the federal government with a package consisting of draft legislation, an implementation schedule, and a detailed statement of the financial requirements necessary to implement the services to be provided in an NWT Official Languages Ordinance. My question to the Government Leader is, how far along is this work and does he have any more detail than what is contained in that one sentence to provide to us today?

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

Basis Of Approach To Federal Government

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I believe the whole purpose of the sessional paper and the recommendations and approval of this House will determine the basis on which we approach the federal government. Also, approval of the legislation, or at least an approval to first reading, will give us a basis on which we could provide the legislative proposal. Now we have talked to the

federal government to date, but it is still important that the Members of this House be a part of the final position, or at least a position that we would bring forward to the Government of Canada by which we would negotiate. That is the reason that the whole debate is taking place now. Certainly there are still other issues that have to be resolved. I am not sure if many of you have read the legislation that is before the House of Commons, but in the legislation it states that the coming into force of such legislation will not take place until January 1st, 1988. So the argument that we do not have time to work out all the issues with regard to finances -- if we cannot work them out in four years, then I am curious as to how long it will take before we conclude the discussion and the issues that are outstanding. So there is that leeway, and I think that for people to use the argument that we do not have time to work those issues out -- I believe that the legislation is clear on that. Now we have approximately three and a half years to resolve this issue.

What is most important, I believe, is to ensure that the legislation that is before the House of Commons recognizes the position that this Legislature puts forward, and any bill or any amendments that would take place with regard to the bill that has been introduced in the House of Commons would reflect the position and the legislation that we agreed to and we suggest should be the basis on which any amendment might take place to the Northwest Territories Act or legislation that would be recognized in a general clause that would apply to the legislation. I do not want to get on any further than that, but there is also the possibility, and certainly an issue that I have raised with the Ministers of State and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and that is to get a political commitment from them, either through a memorandum of understanding or a memorandum of agreement on how we would develop the implementation process, what would be the agreements and commitments on the part of the federal government politically to resolving this particular issue. I do not believe that we should be discussing an idea of whether or not it is right, a moral question. There is no question that we all recognize that we have an obligation to French and English according to the Constitution.

We also have an obligation as an Assembly to ensure that we protect the aboriginal languages of the residents of the Northwest Territories. That is obviously a political obligation on the part of this House. I think that if we can get all those things in place, there will be no question. I think the very reason that we are suggesting that we can table the document or the bill before this House, only to first reading, is to ensure that we do not make a political commitment or a legal commitment in this House through approval to third reading and assent, or with regard to proclamation. So I think that we do not want to proceed further than the obligations that we can keep and at the moment, whether it is to the French or whether it is to the aboriginal people, we cannot keep those obligations until we resolve the questions of finances, whether or not we resolve the questions of the process of implementation of the French language in the Northwest Territories. I believe even the French Cultural Association of the Northwest Territories has supported that there has to be a process by which we implement the French language in our institutions. They also support the protection of aboriginal languages. So I suggest to you that it is important to ensure you retain that support, and at the same time, that you support the kind of commitment that we might make to the French community in the Northwest Territories because it is important.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. T'Seleie, do you have any further comments? Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not being an aboriginal person, Mr. Chairman, I feel somewhat uncomfortable in recommending that we take steps to entrench an official language, namely French, which is spoken by so very few residents of the Northwest Territories, and I know that I do not have the depth of feeling over the issue of recognizing and protecting aboriginal languages that native Members must feel. I also sympathize with Members who say "This is rushed; we have not had time to consider it." But I would like to explain that those who have developed this position that we are presenting to you today have felt just as uncomfortable and just as rushed as some Members have expressed in this House. This initiative is not an initiative of the Government of the Northwest Territories; it results from an initiative of the federal government. It is something that will not just go away if we take more time or go back to our constituents, because the federal government has advanced a bill in the House of Commons which is before the House of Commons. We cannot just ignore the issue, although perhaps we all wish it would not have arisen in this manner, and I can sympathize with that. Because our position was difficult to determine, because it is a complicated subject with far too many legal problems associated with it, we have had to delay the presentation of this paper due to translation, and I apologize for that. But we have worked as quickly as we could and we ask Members to sympathize with the problem that we are now faced with.

Support In Negotiations With Federal Government

I would like to just respond a little bit to what Mr. T'Seleie had to say, because I do not agree that he needs to feel after this session that he has to go home to his constituents and say "French will be official and I have not been able to do anything for the native languages." It must be understood that our position is only that we approve the first reading of legislation which, if passed and proclaimed, would make French official and give certain, I think, significant recognitions to the aboriginal languages. We want to use your support for this paper and the proposed legislation as a way to do some very hard negotiations with the federal government, to undo the years of neglect that the native languages have suffered in the North. I would like to emphasize that if this position is approved by this Assembly, it will only be the beginning of the work for this government. With your support for this government, we will go to the Government of Canada and say, "You have promised to help develop the aboriginal languages. Here is what it is going to cost; we want significant sums from you to do that work." If our negotiations are not satisfactory or we find that the promises that have been given to this government cannot be fulfilled by the federal government, then we are going to have to call the House back and report to you that our strategy has not worked out the way it should have, and we may well decide not to give a final reading and proclamation to the legislation which would give effect to this paper.

So please, Members should understand that we are not proposing to implement official bilingualism. We are, rather, proposing a plan to implement official bilingualism with certain very strong conditions about support for aboriginal languages. And I would like to say that I think, of all the departments of this government, I am most keenly aware of the tremendous concerns about developing aboriginal languages in the communities in the Northwest Territories and perhaps particularly in the Athapascan communities where the Dene languages have been ignored and neglected, not just by government but by other institutions, which has resulted in their disuse and their not being given the same attention that has been given to English and now French.

I was pleased, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. T'Seleie himself spoke favourably of the indigenous language development fund at the last budget session. I was pleased to hear that. But I recognize that the work that has been done there over the last two years is only the very beginning. We have only just made a start. We need to develop writing systems for some of the Dene languages. We need to develop dictionaries and agree on standard orthographies. We need to sit down with older people and preserve those languages and all the richness of those languages, while the most fluent speakers are still alive. And I feel very encouraged at the prospect of, through this strategy, being able to finally get some federal support for aboriginal languages because since the beginning of my holding this portfolio I have been terribly frustrated when I have talked to the Secretary of State for Canada. If we wanted to educate native people in French as a second language there would be all kinds of federal support under the official bilingualism program. But when I went to the Secretary of State and said, "Well, we have a different situation in the NWT. We have people who want support given to aboriginal languages in the schools. Is there a program that can help us?" The answer, sadly, was that until recently there has been no possibility of any federal moneys for development of aboriginal languages.

Prospect Of Federal Funding

Finally, after having worked without any real success on the Secretary of State to try and have programs developed, I see now a meaningful offer from the federal government to give us the support we need, and believe me, one million dollars a year sounds like an awful lot of money but it is what we have been able to spend in the last two years. This work of developing and preserving languages is very costly work and we have at least seven and probably more aboriginal languages that we should be worrying about. We need much more than one million dollars a year and I say we need money from the federal government because it is not fair to rob the educational program or other departments of this government to meet this priority. As Members may know, our indigenous language fund is scheduled to terminate at the end of this coming fiscal year. I am confident that if we do not have federal help we will somehow be able to readjust our priorities and I am sure with the support of this House be able to scrape up more money to continue this work. But it would be much more progressive if we could get support from the federal government. And I think it must be understood that the strategy we are recommending to this House will, if successful, permit significant funds to be advanced for the aboriginal languages. This is the only condition on which I can support the entrenchment of French -- if there is equal, if not greater attention, paid to the aboriginal languages.

I think if Members are concerned about appearing to support a language that their constituents will not use they should understand that this is only a strategy; that we are proposing to see significant funds provided for the languages that are of importance to the vast majority of our constituents. I would just like to briefly mention, Mr. Chairman, that I have Francophones in my constituency, one of the larger populations of Francophones in the NWT is in Frobisher Bay and they too are very reasonable. They are not demanding that French be made officially bilingual in the NWT. They are interested in developing the cultural aspects of French: music, art and generally the promotion of the French culture and the joie de vivre, if you like, in my constituency and in the NWT. So I feel my Francophone constituents and the Frobisher Bay Francophone association have also taken a reasonable stance and they support the primacy of aboriginal languages in the NWT. So I appreciate having the opportunity to express my viewpoint on this question and to try and explain that we are not just aiming at making French official in the NWT. A handmaiden to that initiative would be significantly enhanced support for the work that we have begun in aboriginal languages. If we do not get that from the federal government then we go back to square one and we reconsider whether that legislation is to be advanced and I think you can tell your constituents that this is a negotiating point; it is not a fait accompli by any means. I hope that helps ease some Members' concerns, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Pudluk.

Recognition Of Aboriginal Languages First

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) I would like to make a short comment regarding this. First of all I would say that the territorial government legislation is good and I will be in support of it but also we, the Canadian people, we should not be fighting against languages. There are a lot of French-speaking people in my community too; some of them do not even know how to speak English. This is a very scary issue if we are going to protect ourselves. This is going to be safety for us. I cannot really go against your comments because the aboriginal people of the NWT have to agree with each other but I would not like to see the French language introduced first here to the NWT. I would like to see the aboriginal languages in the Territories officially recognized first by the federal government. They have not recognized them officially as yet today.

Today people are using the two languages and they use all different kinds of aboriginal languages too. So for that reason we will always be using the languages that we are speaking and for the future -- and I have a feeling that the aboriginal languages are going to be introduced or used even now in the NWT because there are a lot of people now starting to travel all over the place, and when we went to meet in Ottawa with the leaders, we were using the Inuktitut language. Mr. Chairman, I cannot really go against the federal government wanting the French language recognized officially in the NWT. So for the legislation that is going to be introduced by the territorial government, the ordinance on which the briefing was given to us a little while ago, I will be in support of this paper for the recognition of the native languages also. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Qujannamiik, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the sessional paper, I think I can appreciate the circumstances under which this issue has arisen and that we are more or less forced to address ourselves to this particular issue. I do not have difficulty with the circumstances and the manner in which we are approaching it. I think it is a very controversial issue. I must commend the government's coming forth with their proposal in regard to how they plan to deal with this whole issue.

Seeking Support Of Provinces For Constitutional Change

I do have a question of the Government Leader. If we are going to officially recognize the French language, then I think that it is equally important that we get some sort of official commitment from the federal government that they will support our initiative as representative of our Legislature, that we want to get the support of the federal government to have the aboriginal languages officially recognized within the Constitution. As well, if we are going to be successful in having the aboriginal languages recognized, then the process would require that we also have the support of the majority of the other provinces.

I would hope that if we do recognize the French language, that the other major provinces will appreciate the concern that we have, that we are accommodating the language issue as a compromise. I feel that if we are going to go that route, then I would like to see some serious lobbying take

place with the other provinces to ensure that we gain the support of the other provinces so that we can have the native languages at least in the Northwest Territories recognized within the Constitution. I am not too clear in regard to how the other aboriginal languages across Canada will be recognized, but it may be easier, I suppose, if we were to have the aboriginal languages recognized on a regional basis, particularly if it pertains to the Northwest Territories. On a national level, I am not too sure what approach we may be taking, but I would not be surprised if the other aboriginal groups would want to get the support of the Northwest Territories in trying to get their aboriginal languages recognized. So I would like to ask Mr. Nerysoo if, when you are discussing this issue with the federal government -- that it would be very important that we get a commitment from the federal government that they are going to pursue this, supporting our aspirations in having the aboriginal languages recognized.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. No doubt that once we get direction from the House and once we get a political commitment on the part of the federal government as to how we wish to proceed with regard to negotiations, that particular issue, the commitment of the federal government to aboriginal languages, can be part of that discussion. The only problem I see with the federal government making a political commitment with regard to amending the Constitution of Canada is a point that you raised, and that is that the provinces have to be involved in amending the Constitution of Canada. However, we still can approach the federal government to see if there is any way in which we could work together in trying to convince the provincial premiers and the provincial governments on the process. I believe the process is probably under section 35 of the Constitution, that we discuss the whole question of languages and their official recognition in the Constitution. That is again an issue that must receive support of at least seven provinces. Certainly we can pursue that and see if we can get the federal government to try to get commitment on the part of the provinces to deal with that.

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

Indigenous Languages In The Public Service

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the other comment I want to make is that even though we have only begun in the language development that pertains to the Dene languages, I think in the future, once the major research has been completed, I would like to see some serious commitment on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories that we come up with a policy to ensure that the aboriginal languages are used not only by the aboriginal people but also by the public service. I think if we are going to be serious about this issue, then we are going to have to make a serious commitment that in the future when we hire public servants in the Northwest Territories that they should be required to take aboriginal language courses, just like if you apply for positions within the federal public service then you are required to take French, if you are going to advance within that line of work. I feel that we are going to have to request that kind of commitment, and to ensure that the aboriginal languages -- at least the aboriginal people have always been required to compromise. We were basically required to learn English. We also took a little bit of French. The aboriginal languages, I feel, in the long run are going to have to be given that kind of support. I am very pleased to see that in the long run we will be pursuing having the languages have the same status as French and English.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WAH-SHEE: However, I think that it is not going to be an easy task because at the last constitutional conference, when we were dealing with aboriginal rights, we were not very successful. I would hope that this would have a little more success than the previous aboriginal conferences that we have attended. Thank you.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. Certainly I would like to thank the Member for the kind comments. There is no question, I believe, of the commitment of this government to ensuring the recognition in law of the aboriginal languages because at the moment there is no recognition. While we do use the aboriginal languages in the work place in the communities, there is no legal recognition of the languages, and I believe that it is important that we all realize that. The other point I certainly commend you for raising is the point of using aboriginal languages in our own government

work place. I think that that is important in that it has really helped enhance, I believe, the French language in this country because of the commitment of the federal government to utilize that language. I believe to enhance the language of the aboriginal community in the Northwest Territories -- and there are some seven languages that we are talking about -- to enhance those languages in the areas where they are being utilized, there is no question that we have to make a commitment to utilize those languages in those particular regions.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few comments. I too obviously will be supporting the passage of the legislation to first reading. I must admit that in February of this year when I was sworn in as a Minister, the last issue I thought that would occupy most of our deliberations in those two months was one of bilingualism. It was something that had not occurred to me at the time. When it was dropped on us, a lot of other things went by the wayside because, I think as Mr. Patterson has indicated, many, many hours have been spent on this issue by the Executive and by officials to try and come up with a position that would put us in a position of strength. Until we developed the sessional paper we were really dealing from a position of weakness. We had no comeback to the federal government. We had no bargaining tool. We had no leverage with them.

Hard Line Approach Could Destroy Native Languages

Of primary concern to all of us, and to the six of us in the Executive representing native constituencies, was what does this mean for the native languages? Is it going to mean a deterioration in level of service? Is it going to mean that French will now take priority over them in our school system, in our government system? I do not think any of us would agree to that happening, because there are certain realities in the North, and that is that French is not used as extensively as native languages. Native languages are the primary languages of the North and therefore we have to gear our efforts toward enhancing them. The only problem was that if we took that position outright and made no move to show the federal government that we were going to be willing to compromise, any attempt by us to convince the provinces of a constitutional amendment, any attempt by us to convince the federal government that more money should be made available for native languages, would quite frankly not have gone anywhere. Any hard line approach by us, I generally felt, would mean in the long run probably the destruction of the native languages because the support would not be there and that we had to be very, very careful in how we tackled this issue.

Like most of the Executive Members and the individuals who have spoken around this table, my support is conditional. I am willing to see the legislation tabled and go to first reading, but then I want to see the reaction of the federal government because, quite frankly, if the federal government is not willing to move to raise the status of aboriginal languages and to give us the funds for us to do that ourselves to at least at some point in time be equal with French, then I have no hesitation in saying I will not support it and I will fight it all the way. I think that morally most of us would have to do that. When the issue came up I really tried hard to think if I had any French constituents, and I think I have got three or four out of about 1500. So obviously people know where my priorities must lie in terms of a political commitment to my constituents. But I think it has to be understood by the people around this table and by the media and the people in the North that in forming this position we are only saying, "Give us the negotiating power. Give us something to bargain with," because if you do not, quite frankly I am scared of what might happen.

The political will in the South which we so much depend on, whether it be a Liberal government or a Conservative government -- I would not care to bet on my honourable colleague, the Minister of Education's chances of going to Ottawa to get any money for aboriginal languages if we were opposing French at some point in time, three or four or five years down the road. The political will is not there in the South. Neither the Conservatives nor the Liberals could support us in that position and would never support us in that position and we would never get any money. I think many of us agree with the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre's comments about making aboriginal languages a condition of employment, and that is something that we have talked about. It is something that we want to move on. We want to move on furthering the implementation of native languages in the school system at all levels of government, but to do that we need the money and we need the facilities to do it, and it is a massive job. We are not talking about a million dollars a year to do that. We are talking many millions of dollars, and we must have a bargaining lever to get that kind of money to do for the native languages what the federal government is proposing to do for French.

So what I am saying is that yes, I will support this sessional paper and I will support the legislation, but like the rest of the people around here, my support only extends to that point in time where the federal government comes back to us with an answer, and at that point in time we might have to make some very difficult decisions and we might have to relook at our whole position. But right now we do not have a position and we have to take one and we have to have one that we can go to the federal government with which will allow us to talk to them about equality of status for aboriginal languages. Hopefully we will be given that mandate and over the next three or four years we will be able to make major improvements and major strides for the aboriginal languages of the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had mentioned that I realize the situation the government is faced with, but before we go any further I do not see why we could not get some kind of guaranteed commitment from the federal government to elevate the aboriginal languages to the same, equivalent status of official languages, that is, accepting the official languages but we should be able to bring our aboriginal languages as well to the same, equivalent status.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Nerysoo, would you like to comment on that?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I did not hear the question. I would like her to ask again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I believe it was just a comment that was made. General comments, anyone? Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be in support of the sessional paper we are talking about, and I believe that my constituency would like to get some more funding to use for native language development. But regarding the French language, if I am going to be recognizing it as a priority, my constituency will be worried about losing development of their own language. So what I had in mind was, if we will be in support of the French language to be recognized in the NWT, I would also like to include to be recognized as well the Dene languages and the Inuktitut language. I believe we ourselves will be able to develop the languages that will be used in the government and in the schools. So my question was, could we deal with this together, the French language and the Inuktitut language and the Dene languages?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Nerysoo, did you get the question?

Recommendations Cover Both Issues

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, I guess I am confused about the question raised because we are trying to deal with those two issues, the French language question and the aboriginal rights question, in our position. I think we would not deal with only the French question, have that answered, and then afterwards deal with the aboriginal languages question. It has to be done in conjunction with one another, and certainly the kind of support and the position we finally present to this Assembly will be dependent upon the response we get from the federal government in those two areas. That is, I believe, the very reason we are coming before you; to get an indication from the Members of this Legislature on the position that we are taking to the federal government, and that position is the recommendations that are on page 11 of the document, going to page 13, in which we take into consideration all those issues that relate to the French language question and the issue of the aboriginal language question.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to put my support toward the sessional paper too before the federal government response is received. I know that a lot of native people are not fully in support of French language being the official second language in the Northwest Territories but I do not believe in giving the federal government a hard time in what they want to do. I believe that we might be more successful after we find out. I do not think I have too much to say; I just want to throw in my support for the sessional paper.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After listening to the comments being made -- I am not too aware of the sessional paper but according to what I have understood, I would like to support this sessional paper. But I am aware that my constituents will not be in support as

have more understanding. I will be in support, but I know that my constituents will not be in support as long as they do not understand the sessional paper. I am not asking a question, but I would just like to say that I will be in support.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Any further general comments? Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, with my colleagues I also support the sessional paper before Members at this time and I would reiterate the comments of Mr. Wray to indicate that the Executive Council has spent hours, and laborious hours, developing this particular line of approach and strategy. I cannot think of any item within the last four years that has eaten up as much Executive Council time as this particular matter and, as Members are aware, it was dropped on us very suddenly a month and a half ago. I do not think that there is any argument, as Mr. Nerysoo pointed out in his initial reaction in the press release, that the Official Languages Act is alive and well in Canada; it is a federal act which overrules and supersedes territorial legislation and I do not think this is the argument. The argument is the manner in which it was brought to us and the indication that we would have very little opportunity to respond to the federal initiative. However, I believe that the Executive Council has responded in the only way it can which is to indicate to the federal government that while we accept the reality of the Official Languages Act, we also believe that as an emerging provincial jurisdiction we have a right and a responsibility to provide legislation and service to our own people at our own pace. I think that this is recognized by other provinces in Canada and by our Constitution.

I think that this is the position that our Leader has taken over the past two months and I think it has been accepted and recognized by those individuals with whom he has communicated. I would also compliment Mr. Nerysoo for his patience and his maturity in approaching what is a very, very difficult problem. It is not one that will be resolved easily because it is one that appeals to the heart and to people's emotions and when that occurs we do not think rationally, we do not think in terms of a pragmatic solution or a pragmatic approach. Mr. Nerysoo has done this and I think it is to his credit and to the credit of the Council of which I am a Member that we have responded in a similar manner. I do not think that I am particularly blowing our own horn. I think each and every one of us recognizes how important are the languages of the Territories to northern constituents. Where language is culture is, and language is of extreme importance to the people of the NWT.

Provisions Of Official Languages Ordinance

I would like to ask the Leader through you, sir, because I have heard over the last two or three hours some suggestion by Members of this House that there is really little or nothing being done for native languages. I think if people have this concept or this expectation, it is not correct. I think while the paper passes over that matter very quickly there is a tremendous amount that is being proposed to be done for the enhancement, the development, the protection of aboriginal languages and their use in an official sense, in an official way throughout the Territories on a regional basis. Now, I would direct the Leader's attention to page nine and I would just read to him one comment which I would like him to expand on a little bit further than the text does. I read now: "The ordinance" -- and this is the NWT Official Languages Ordinance -- "would contain an enabling provision which would allow the Commissioner on recommendation of the appropriate Executive Member to implement the provision of designated services in appropriate regions as the advancement of the language and the government's capability evolved." I wonder if the Leader might take some time to just indicate what it is that is envisaged in that particular sentence because I think that is the meat of the strategy being advanced by the Executive Council.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I did not want to get into discussing the legislation. However, I think the question requires some response and I can refer to Part I of the legislation on aboriginal languages and where Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, Loucheux, North Slavey, South Slavey and Inuktitut are hereby recognized as the official aboriginal languages of the NWT. Then for the kinds of services and programs that would be required and would be used in this Assembly, the Commissioner, through the recommendation of the Executive Member, could designate the particular language for use in the Assembly, he could designate that language for use in a court of law, he could designate that language as a criterion by which an individual might be recruited for a particular job. So he could also designate that language for use in publications such as posters,

documents that go through this House. I believe that at the moment many of the documents that come before this House that have been tabled are in fact tabled in English and in Inuktitut and there is nothing that is any different that will occur in the future.

There will also be the possibility of a regulation that would allow for use as part of the curriculum in the schools, as part of an educational tool, so there are many things that could be utilized. There is no doubt that if you wanted to utilize it in the same manner as English and French certainly legislation, the laws of the NWT would have to be interpreted into the languages that are the aboriginal languages. At the moment one of the reasons I believe that we are designating the use of the aboriginal languages the way we are, is because of the level of development even in the aboriginal languages in the NWT. There is a wide margin in the kind of use in the Inuktitut community because we can translate that language in the House here because of the development that has occurred. There are also other languages that are now being worked on. Slavey is being worked on. I would hope that at some time we can have documents in this House in Slavey. I believe it is something that we all have to work on. I would hope that even Loucheux would be a language we could use in this institution. So those are many of the options that are available to us.

In reviewing areas of services where we might use aboriginal languages or any language, either English or French, there are 55 areas alone in the territorial government in which we have to use those languages if we have in fact made available all the services that GNWT provides. So it is a massive undertaking on our part and I think that the general public has to recognize that in order for us to accomplish that work we have to ensure that there is a political and legal commitment in the sense of an agreement to ensuring that the necessary financial resources are available to us so that we can develop the human resources and the necessary resources that are required to ensure that those services are provided in all languages.

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

Process Of Amending Northwest Territories Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: A supplementary, Mr. Chairman. Earlier this afternoon Mr. Ballantyne put his finger on a very important element of the strategy as well, which would be that if our legislation, or the legislation that would be put forward is adopted by this House, it would be enclosed or included in the federal legislation -- that is, in the Northwest Territories Act. I think he mentioned it would be the first time where such a situation would occur where aboriginal languages would be referred to in federal legislation. My question is to the Government Leader, in his many discussions with the federal Ministers, Mr. Joyal and Mr. Munro, did there seem to be any reticence on their part of taking our legislation and putting our legislation into the Northwest Territories Act in place of their own wording for Bill C-26?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, there has not been any reticence with regard to amending the bill in the House of Commons at the moment. Now, that is a question I have to resolve and the manner in which that amendment takes place. I think I would like to certainly have the present bill as it refers to the NWT withdrawn and a new bill introduced with regard to the Territories. Just prior to the discussion taking place in this House, I was speaking to members of Serge Joyal's office and we were talking about what the process might be and how we might approach the amendment process. I indicated to them that unless they are prepared to make changes in their bill -- major and significant changes -- probably we would have a difficult time in convincing the Members of this House on that particular amendment, particularly if we are taking the time to develop our own legislation that would recognize French as an official language in the Territories and taking the time to debate in this House the manner in which we utilize that particular language as well as how we were trying to protect the aboriginal languages.

I have not to date received any firm commitment of acceptance of the amendment, mainly because I do not have a position you might say that I could forward as a position but on which I could bargain. That is the whole reason as to tabling the legislation. They seem extremely supportive of the idea of resolving this question very quickly. Now, I assume I am going to have to call them after the debate is over to indicate whether or not we can meet, but I have requested a meeting with Mr. Joyal and they will be getting back to me on how we can develop that process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Any further general comments. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: There are a few sort of technical questions before we get into it. I wonder if we could be informed, on page six of the sessional paper it mentions that the number of people speaking the aboriginal languages far exceeds those speaking French. Do we have any figures on how many would be affected by the legislation of French being an official language?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I am not quite positive. I believe it is between 2500 and 3000, somewhere in that area.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you. I think later on I might have some proposals on page seven, the government's approach to the federal government with draft legislation and financial requirements. Before that I would like to clarify, on page eight there is a reference to "any head or central office" and on page 12 it says "the head or central office". At what offices do we see the services in French being provided, please?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, I believe that in our discussions and certainly from the review that I have taken, that the legislation would consider regional offices as government centres as well and also headquarters being a regional centre, so one of the problems I believe in my analysis and probably the analysis of the staff of the GNWT has been that there has been this focus on the idea of providing services only in Yellowknife. I believe that that is a misconception and a misunderstanding of the nature in which the French-speaking community is spread out in the NWT. Those are the kinds of issues I believe that need to be raised during the negotiations so that we are sure about what we are talking about and the kinds and types of services we are going to provide.

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

Aboriginal Languages Already In Use

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you. I would like to echo Mr. Butters' words that this is a really emotional issue and I am sure it is to all of us, particularly those that represent constituencies where the aboriginal languages are spoken, and I would like to compliment the Executive on having achieved a lot of sound reasoning in their sessional paper on a very emotional issue. I think we should not get too hung up on the word "official" because to me that one word is not as important as what we actually do. There are many official things that are not being implemented. So I think what we achieve is the important thing, and I think we should not forget, for instance, that without any guarantees of aboriginal languages we have in fact achieved a great deal. I do not think there is any jurisdiction that uses as many languages as we do, even though these languages do not in law have any recognition. Even the progress in this session can be seen on a paper that we had on May 10 that lists channel 1 for Inuktitut, channel 2 for English and channel 3 for the Dene language; and on May 14, today, we have channels 1, 2, 3, 4 -- Inuktitut, English, Chipewyan and Slavey. That is pretty good for languages that are not being recognized.

I think we should realize that we are doing this because that is what we want to do, because of the good will within the Legislature and the pressure that our constituents put upon us. The additional strength of the recommendation A3, on page 12, for instance, where it says "The aboriginal languages which are indigenous to the Territories would be recognized in law" I think is a tremendous strengthening of the position which we already have. Perhaps we could look at it as the responsibility of the federal government to decide which are the official languages for the nation, for Canada, just as they have a responsibility for other things -- I do not think we would be that anxious to get into foreign affairs with them -- and let it be our responsibility to decide what we do, how we use the official indigenous languages within the NWT. So I think that the position paper that is in front of us is very well thought out and I certainly have no hesitation to support it, conditionally -- as Mr. Wray pointed out very well -- to a stage of first reading, and then conditional upon the response we get from the federal government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Perhaps to end on as positive a note as possible, I would ask a question of the Government Leader so that his response can be on the record. Federal politicians and officials will certainly be reading the transcript of the proceedings this afternoon, and the public will hear about it through the media and I guess everyone will notice that none of us is entirely happy with what is happening; there have been negative comments. Nevertheless, it should be clear that the general approach that is being taken is positive and co-operative and that the government is indicating that it will not just table legislation, but that it would like to give first reading to an ordinance and in doing that show commitment to what is happening, to show good faith with respect to the federal government. We have heard from a couple of Ministers of what might happen if the negotiations that are planned are not successful, and indeed most of us would agree that that is what ought to happen if the negotiations are not successful. But I think the negotiations will be approached optimistically. I think most here would like to co-operate with the federal government, and I think that the Government of the Northwest Territories has a plan and a timetable, tentative though they may be, with respect to those negotiations. So could I ask the Government Leader, if the negotiations are successful, what plan and what timetable could the government foresee for bringing about second and third reading of the ordinance and proclamation with respect to languages in the Territories?

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, I would hope that all the outstanding issues that are required to be resolved, such as signing of a memorandum of understanding, having a political commitment, recognizing or developing the strategy of implementation, could be worked out within the next two weeks. In speaking to Mr. Joyal's office today, in fact that was the reason I was not in the House -- they are keen on trying to resolve the particular issue. I would hope that we could try to resolve the problem within the next month or so. And if that were the case, then, it would depend on the decision of the House whether or not we could come back and go to second or third reading -- but I am optimistic about that. I am hopeful that I can resolve the question within the next two weeks as well. That depends on the Speaker and the manner in which we decide on either adjourning or proroguing this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Does committee at this time agree to report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 11-84(2), OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering the sessional paper, Tabled Document 11-84(2), Official Languages in the Northwest Territories, and wishes to report progress.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion is carried.

---Carried

Is there any further business of the House for today? Are there any announcements from the floor?
Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if there were any scores for the hall of fame from Saturday's games?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum, I think, wanted to reply to that. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind Members that the mayor and the town are hosting a wine and cheese party at 6:30 in the museum, which is just down the street. I would be remiss, I think, on behalf of the people in the community if I were not to thank Members and the support staff of the Legislature for their turnout and participation at events that took place over the weekend, and I trust that all came away fairly satisfied -- save for our side. And just one further comment. I am not too sure if the News/North reporter is here, but I would just like to correct a report that was in the News/North, Friday's paper. The display, the carving -- these are loons, not ducks.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. That is closer than the news usually gets to reporting what goes on around here anyway. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think, as a proud member of the Whimps, we should put something on the record. History will show that officially the Leader's Delights defeated the Whimps 11 to nine, but as everyone knows, there is more to baseball than one part and I want to assure the Speaker and the public at large that in every component of the baseball game except for pitching, we were far superior. And I think that it is important to recognize, though we will pay off our debt of honour, in the hearts and the minds of the people of Fort Smith I think we in fact were the winners. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further announcements from the floor? Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): There will be a meeting of the standing committee on legislation at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Members are reminded of the tour of Thebacha College tomorrow morning, starting at 10:00 a.m. A bus will leave the Pelican Rapids Inn at 9:45.

ITEM 18: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, May 15, 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: Sessional Paper, Official Languages in the NWT; Appearance of the Chairman of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Third Reading of Bills
18. Assent to Bills
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 15th.

---ADJOURNMENT