



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1980

Pages 1 to 22

Speaker: The Honourable Robert H. MacQuarrie, M.L.A.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1980

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories was convened in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, at two-thirty o'clock p.m., on Thursday, January 31, 1980, for the first session, 1980, this being the second session of the Ninth Assembly.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Arreak, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Curley, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Fraser, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. McLaughlin, Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Noah, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Tologanak, Hon. James Wah-Shee

SPEAKER (Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie): Before we proceed, I will ask the Assembly's chaplain to lead us in prayer.

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

REV. JAMES ORMISTON: Oh Lord, our God to Whom we look for direction and inspiration, prepare our minds for the business of this Legislative Assembly that we may conduct ourselves with courtesy and honour, cause us to be just and honest in our dealings. Let our motives be above suspicion. Let our word be our bond. Preserve us from the error of depending upon personality, ingenuity or position to solve our problems. Help us to remember that we are not owners but tenants in a world of Your creation and that all that we have and are is of Your making and design. So be our guide and counsellor in chief this day we pray, oh God. Amen.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. I would like to begin my remarks this afternoon by extending a very warm welcome to all of you who have come here to witness the opening of the second session of the Ninth Assembly. It is characteristic of democracy that people should keep themselves apprised of the deliberations and the actions of their elected representatives. I know that on opening day traditionally there is a large group of people and, of course, tomorrow and on subsequent days the numbers attending will be much smaller. I know that that does not indicate a lack of interest on the people who do not attend tomorrow and on subsequent days but, rather, the simple truth that many, many have other tasks and activities that require them to be elsewhere carrying on with the productive activity of human beings, but of course the eyes and ears of the public are still on the deliberations and activities of the Assembly here through the fine representation given by the press.

It is characteristic of democracy too, that elected representatives more than any other segment of society carry out their work under the vigilant eye of you, the public, and I think that is a good characteristic and a very good one even though it is perhaps a little trying for those of us who are elected as your servants.

Recognition Of Honoured Guests

We have chosen this afternoon to honour some of those who serve you in a capacity other than as territorial Members by seating them on the floor of this Assembly and also honouring other special guests as well. On the floor of the Assembly this afternoon we have the chief territorial judge, J.R. Slaven. We have the Hon. Chris Pearson, government leader of the Yukon, and Mrs. Pearson. We have Mr. Douglas Bell, the administrator of the Yukon Territory, and Mrs. Bell. We have Her Worship, Cynthia Hill, mayor of Inuvik, His Worship, M.A. Ballantyne, mayor of Yellowknife. We have had invited as well, the leaders of other city governments and of bands in the Territories and for a variety of reasons these people were not able to make it. More than anything else this afternoon I would like to call your attention to our guest of honour at the ball this evening and for all the activities on the opening day of this session and that is the esteemed Chief Johnny Kay from Fort McPherson for our guest of honour.

Many of you will have the chance to meet Chief Kay this evening, tomorrow, and I am sure you will find it a distinct pleasure if you are able to meet him. There are others who are not seated on the floor but who I have reason to believe are with us in the Speaker's gallery, many, many good people have been invited, especially to sit in the Speaker's gallery and among them my own esteemed friends. We cannot call attention to everyone but certainly there are a few people that I would like to take note of particularly who may be in the Speaker's gallery today and they include first of all -- would you stand, please, if you are in attendance -- my predecessor and the first Speaker of the Assembly of the Northwest Territories, Mr. David Searle. Is Mr. Searle in the gallery? Mr. Sam Raddi, president of the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement. Mr. Raddi, yes. Mr. Gordon Lennie, president of the Metis Association. Mr. Lennie. Brigadier General Clayton Beattie, commander Northern Region Headquarters and the special guest of our own Clerk, the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, Mr. Patrick Michael and Miss Jan Moodie who is accompanying him.

Message From Former Commissioner

I would like at this time to read a message that I received just a little while ago: "Dear Mr. Speaker: Greetings and best wishes to Members of the Legislative Assembly from the international community. As the world enters this new decade the road ahead seems to be fraught with problems, disagreements and dangers similar in nature to bygone days. The nation's attention is now being focused on issues much different from those of the last decade. You and the Legislative Assembly will be called upon to shoulder responsibility and make decisions much different and more difficult than those faced by your predecessors. Your strength and support must come from within but the courage and leadership needed rests with the Members of the Assembly. As you enter this new decade your friends, no matter where they may be, wish you well and good feeling. As always I have the honour to remain your obedient servant, Stuart M. Hodgson, chairman Canadian sector, International Joint Commission."

Former Sergeant-At-Arms

Finally as a token of recognition another former officer of this House, Members who knew him will be perhaps concerned to learn that the Assembly's former Sergeant-at-Arms Captain Fred MacKay was admitted to Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, B.C., for surgery and perhaps you would want me to wish him well on your behalf.

Mr. Clerk, would you please see if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is ready to address the Assembly?

ITEM NO. 2: COMMISSIONER'S OPENING ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly: It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to the second session of the Ninth Assembly. This occasion marks my first opportunity as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to address a winter session of this Legislature.

It is your first opportunity to deal in depth with issues of concern to us all, and to examine and debate the programs of this government. By custom, the winter session of the Assembly is the major budget session at which the spending and revenue estimates for the forthcoming fiscal year are presented for full consideration by the House.

It is a session of hard work, demanding a great deal of energy and long hours on the part of Members in order to accomplish the business of the House. Having observed, however, the energy and determination which you displayed in taking up your responsibilities at your first session last October, I look forward with anticipation to a most fruitful and productive session.

It is a great pleasure to see, gathered here today, friends and acquaintances from each and every constituency in the Northwest Territories. Your interest in the processes and business of the territorial government is greatly appreciated as is the support which you offer your Members through your presence here today.

I have visited many of your communities since my appointment last April and I want you to know that your warm welcomes, your friendship and your co-operation have meant so very much to me.

Your concern for your children, your communities, your cultures, never fails to impress and please me. The rapidly increasing capacity and willingness of northern people to manage their own affairs bodes well for the future.

Our visitors from the Yukon, the Hon. Chris Pearson, government leader; Doug Bell, administrator of the Yukon; and Patrick Michael, Clerk of the Yukon legislature, who are present today are most welcome. I am confident that the avenues of communication recently enhanced through a visit by our Executive Members to Whitehorse will be mutually beneficial to both territories.

Reflections On Past Decade

We are today one month into a new year and a new decade -- the decade of the 80's. As we stand on the threshold of a new era, it is an appropriate time to speak of some of the challenges which I see facing the Northwest Territories during the next ten years. Before doing so, however, I would also like to pause and reflect for a moment on the decade which has just passed into history. 1979 was certainly a year of significant change in the Northwest Territories and indeed, it closed out a decade which saw momentous change in our growth and development. It is both illuminating and worth while to note briefly some of the indicators of change drawn from the decade which has just ended.

As the 70's began, there were 54 elementary and four high schools in the Northwest Territories. Ten years later there are 64 elementary schools and seven high schools, and a thoroughly modern vocational and trades complex just completed in Fort Smith. Many of the elementary schools now offer classes to grade nine.

Our apprenticeship program had a total enrolment of 59 persons in 1970, whereas today the enrolment in the regular trades is 376, with a further 165 trainees in housing maintenance, a trade which we officially recognize.

In 1970 there was one city, three towns, and three hamlets in the Northwest Territories. As we enter the 1980's there is still one city, but there are four towns, two villages and 19 hamlets -- a tremendous growth in local government in the North in the past ten years.

In 1970, the infant mortality rate in the Northwest Territories was 68 deaths per 1000 live births. In 1980 that number has been lowered to 24, and improvement continues at about nine per cent per year.

As the last decade began the Sixth Council of the Northwest Territories met for its seventh session in Yellowknife and was composed of 12 members, five of whom were appointed and seven elected. There were two native members on that Council, one elected and one appointed. The Executive Committee comprised three appointed officers; the Commissioner, his Deputy and his Assistant.

Today, as the decade begins, I am addressing a 22 Member, fully elected body, presently with five, and perhaps before long, seven of its Members serving as Ministers on an Executive Committee. The majority of the Members of this House are native persons, reflecting, as it should, the population make-up of the Northwest Territories as a whole. The demonstrated competence of Members of this Legislature is a clear indication of the ability of the residents of the Northwest Territories to handle their own affairs.

Commissioner's Award For Stuart M. Hodgson

The 1970's began with Stuart M. Hodgson as Commissioner. The last year of the decade saw him leave the post of Commissioner after 12 years of dedicated service to the people of the Northwest Territories. As we reflect on the many positive changes that have taken place in the North during the 70's, I know that you join me in paying tribute to Stuart Hodgson, to whom belongs much of the credit for the realization of these achievements. I wish to announce now that I will be presenting the Commissioner's Award for outstanding public service to the Northwest Territories to Stuart Milton Hodgson, in recognition of his remarkable contribution to the people of the North.

While the accomplishments and achievements of the past decade are many and noteworthy, we dare not be content to rest on the successes of the past as we face the challenges of the future. Just as the decade of the 70's brought with it its own particular blend of problems and complex issues, so the decade of the 80's will bring with it new and unique problems and fresh challenges with which the Legislature and all northern residents must grapple. Yet, along with these problems and challenges, the new decade brings with it renewed promise and great potential for the building of a strong and vigorous northern society.

As we move into this new decade, then, let us accept the challenges which lie before us and set ourselves fresh goals and appropriate new directions which will guide us through the 80's and beyond.

Unity Necessary To Meet Challenges

In equipping ourselves to handle the challenges that face our northern society, the need for and the importance of unity becomes abundantly apparent. Let me say at the outset that unity does not mean that we all must think alike on every issue which faces us -- there is room for healthy divergence of opinion in the North. The dictionary defines unity as follows: "A union of parts forming a complex whole." Certainly there are many diverse parts making up northern society today and there will continue to be many different parts in the future.

The union of those many different parts will form a complex and unique entity, but the entity can be formed. What we need as northerners in the 80's is the will to form that whole -- the will to live together in harmony as a unique society in the Canadian mosaic, sharing the strengths that flow from our diversity. Unity means commitment to a process of working together to find the answers to the problems that confront us. In this regard the unity committee, formed by this Legislature as one of its first acts, is a key towards unlocking that process. The Legislative Assembly has shown great foresight and wisdom in establishing this committee and I pledge today the administration's full support of its work.

It is in this spirit of unity that I address this Assembly today, and I would encourage your consideration, in that same spirit, of three major challenges requiring your leadership as we move into the 80's.

Position Paper On Constitutional Development Important Resource

The first is the challenge of political and constitutional development. I begin this decade as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, but I am sure that when it closes, the office of Commissioner will have changed radically from the role which I fulfil today. What replaces this office, and the system of government which it represents, will largely be determined by the work which the Ninth Assembly carries out in the field of political and constitutional development. That work has already commenced. In your first session in October, you agreed that you wished to study further the ideas and positions adopted by the Eighth Assembly on constitutional development, and thus set aside, for the time being, the position paper which that Assembly had produced on this important subject. In part to lay the groundwork for further consideration of political and constitutional development, you established the unity committee and I encourage that committee to foster a process of meaningful dialogue among all northerners on constitutional development. The position paper of the earlier Assembly will become an important resource document for the broad work of the unity committee.

I look forward to the early release of the report of the Prime Minister's special representative for constitutional development in the Northwest Territories, and a full discussion of that report in this House. Mr. Drury's work has been long and thorough, and it too will be of major importance to the unity committee and to all northerners.

Responsibility For Solution To Constitutional Development

I also look forward to a full discussion by this House of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada's policy paper entitled "Political Development in Nunavut." The ideas and principles embodied in this paper represent the views of many native northerners, and must receive the full and frank consideration of this House. All serious proposals for political and constitutional change, whether put forward by a native association as part of its land rights proposal, by a committee of this Legislature, or by a special commission of the federal government, must be fully discussed by this body as the duly elected Legislature of the Northwest Territories. Having reviewed, in the spirit of unity, the options, proposals and alternatives open to the Northwest Territories for political and constitutional change, it will be your solemn responsibility to put forward your recommendations to the Government of Canada as to how constitutional development should best take place. Quick and easy solutions will not be readily forthcoming, but if the will can be maintained to work out our future together, I am confident that a satisfactory formula will be found. We in the North have a unique opportunity to demonstrate to all of Canada that it is possible for Canadians of many languages and cultures to live together in a harmonious and productive society.

Before leaving the subject of political and constitutional development, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your choice of Members for the Executive Committee, and to commend the Members of that committee on the hard work and commitment to their responsibilities which they have already demonstrated since taking up their tasks in November. Each of them has shown a great willingness to work with other Members as an executive team and I look forward to our continued working together over the months and years to come. I would also like to encourage the Assembly to give careful consideration to filling the two vacant positions for Executive Committee Members at a reasonably early date, as the knowledge and perspective which Members from the eastern parts of our Territories could bring would be a most welcome and helpful addition to the work which the Executive Committee has before it.

The second major challenge concerns the settling of what has been termed land or native claims, or what native people at times refer to as aboriginal rights. Setting aside for now the important discussion on terminology, for the purpose of these remarks I will use the words "aboriginal interests" and "claims" more or less interchangeably.

Land Claims Can Be Divisive Force

In the context of discussing constitutional and political development challenges for the 1980's, it is impossible to ignore the outstanding aboriginal interests of the native peoples of the Northwest Territories. The settlement of these interests will demand a major part of our energy and attention as northerners during this decade. To all northerners I would urge that they be dealt with in the spirit of unity. We have already heard, during the first session of this Ninth Assembly, that land claims can be a divisive force in the North. I would urge that we all give thoughtful priority to developing a process by which the satisfactory resolution of aboriginal interests can be a unifying force in the Northwest Territories. This Assembly has a large role to play in fostering such a process and again, I commend you for already having commenced this process by agreeing to review the position of the previous Assembly on claims. I urge you to continue on in this process. This Assembly has also indicated that one of its priorities will be a review of the role of the territorial administration in claims negotiations and to this end a sessional paper will be tabled later in the session.

The sessional paper will present what I believe to be a fresh and exciting approach to constitutional development and aboriginal interests -- a concept which has emerged from discussions on this subject in Executive Committee. This concept, which draws on the experience of past Councils and from native leaders, is based on the growing awareness that we must find our own solutions to our own problems, and further that these solutions must be developed by northerners in the North if they are to meet with success. The negotiations and approaches of the past eight years have borne little fruit. Clearly, a fresh and different direction must be taken.

All Northerners Have Interests

The concept, in essence, is a simple one -- constitutional development, political development, and the resolution of outstanding aboriginal interests could more appropriately be addressed in an acceptable joint forum. Each is too closely intertwined with the others for them to be advanced independently. This is not a new idea, but it is one which, until now, has not been addressed in such a positive manner by all groups concerned.

The secret of success lies in the realization that all northerners have interests and claims of one sort or another, whether they be to land, to hunting rights, to a particular way of life, to a job, to the free enjoyment of the country, or to an advanced form of government. Many of these aspirations are common to all groups of northerners.

Our challenge is to work together in a co-operative and positive fashion, drawing on the many strengths which we possess, with the intent of finding accommodations between factions, and step by step reaching agreements, eventually to achieve the goal of responsible government by and for all of the people of the Territories. This Legislature, with its expanded membership and fully representative nature, provides the most appropriate venue in which that work can take place, in my view. Later in the session, the Hon. James Wah-Shee, in tabling the sessional paper on this topic, will have much more to say about this concept.

Higher Degree Of Fiscal Autonomy Needed

The third major challenge which I wish to address today is economic development. Over the last decade, much discussion has taken place over the ways and means by which the Northwest Territories could achieve responsible government and a greater political power for its residents. In large measure, and I believe the Canadian experience bears this out, the degree of political power gained by the Northwest Territories in the next decade will be related to our ability to pay our own way. Thus, if we wish to obtain greater control over our own lives in the political sense, we will have to achieve a higher degree of fiscal autonomy through development in the economic sense. We must reduce the level of our economic dependence on the taxpayers of southern Canada.

A further and perhaps more immediate reason for expanding our economic base is our growing requirements for jobs for our own northern young people who will be entering the work force in ever-increasing numbers during this decade. In a recently completed study, Dr. Louis-Edmond Hamelin, a former member of this Assembly, predicts a need for 5000 new jobs for northern young people by 1985.

The energy crisis which confronts us, as it does all Canadians, may result in the creation of the expanded economic base which we seek. As part of our northern heritage, we have today abundant reserves of oil, gas, uranium, and undeveloped hydro-electric power. We require and will use some of these resources but southern Canada and the world have a greater need and they will become valuable exports. In the long run, we will find that we are in a most favourable position with regard to energy.

The events of the past decade have also taught us that the North is no longer isolated in terms of standing apart and unaffected by international events and crises. We are part of a world wide energy community, and we must therefore participate as responsible citizens of that community.

Economic development, therefore, must and will take place during this decade. But this Assembly must play a key role in fostering and furthering that development, keeping its pace and size wherever possible to a level northerners can comprehend and handle, and always seeking to gain maximum benefits for northern residents as owners, business people and employees. Therefore, let us accept this challenge and not allow economic development to become an issue which divides us, but rather seize upon it as an opportunity for co-operative effort and advancement.

Notable Events Of Past Year

I would like to spend a few minutes reviewing some of the notable events which took place in the Northwest Territories in 1979.

The very special relationship between the Territories and the royal family continued with a visit to Yellowknife by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness officially opened the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre on April 3rd, and was honoured at a dinner hosted by Commissioner Hodgson that evening. Over 15,000 persons have visited the Heritage Centre since that time.

In May, I had the honour of accompanying His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, Edward Schreyer, as he visited 12 places in the Eastern Arctic and the Arctic islands, including the Lorex camp at the North pole.

In November, a long time northerner, Robert S. Pilot, was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. His understanding of the people of the North and broad experience in government have prepared him well for this position and I am confident that he will continue to serve with distinction.

In the education field, the year saw construction start on new schools at Coral Harbour and Fort Norman, and the completion of the large trades complex at the Adult Vocational Training Centre in Fort Smith. An Eastern Arctic teacher education program, designed to respond to the special needs of students from that area, began in Frobisher Bay. This program complements the existing teacher education program in Fort Smith. The Department of Information continued its program of providing satellite-fed community radio and television services to communities that do not qualify for such services under the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation program. Coral Harbour, Arctic Bay, Fort Liard, Pelly Bay and Chesterfield Inlet received this service in 1979. In the health field, a new health care complex at Fort Smith was completed during the summer. A pharmacare program for senior citizens was introduced, providing free prescription services for our citizens over age 65. Broughton Island took a major step up the ladder of local government and became a hamlet on October 1, 1979.

The Arctic "B" and "C" airports program is nearing the half way mark, with major airport construction having now been completed in 14 communities. Six airports are presently in the construction stage. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has attempted to respond to criticism about house design by offering six different designs to fit the needs of specific communities. In one region, the Keewatin, a design committee was formed and reviewed the corporation's building plans for 1980, recommending various design changes which they saw as appropriate to their regional needs.

A significant event for the Inuvik region was the opening of the Dempster Highway on August 11 by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, the Hon. Jake Epp. This new road link to southern Canada promises positive economic benefits for the Delta area.

Tribute To Mr. Tornow And Dr. Cass

I would like to pay tribute at this time to two long-time northerners who passed away in the past year; Rudy Tornow and Dr. Elizabeth Cass. Mr. Tornow had lived in Aklavik for 20 years and had an outstanding record of public service; he was the mayor of Aklavik at the time of his death on September 22. Dr. Cass was a well known and highly respected ophthalmologist who had lived in the Northwest Territories and served our people since 1958. She travelled extensively throughout the Mackenzie area and was greatly admired for her personal attributes and her skill as a physician.

Tribute To Mr. Adrian

I would also like to pay tribute to a well known territorial public servant, Len Adrian, who this month left the territorial public service after 23 years in the North, both with the Department of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources and later with the Government of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Adrian was the territorial government's first fire marshal and chief of the safety division in the Department of Public Services. He was a highly regarded member of his community, serving a number of community organizations. I know that this Assembly joins me in extending to Len and Laurie Adrian our very best wishes as they take up residence in Edmonton.

---Applause

Earlier in my remarks I informed you that Stuart M. Hodgson is to receive the Commissioner's Award in recognition of his outstanding service to the North. It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Lyall of Spence Bay are to be similarly honoured for the roles which they have played as energetic, progressive leaders in their community who have provided a vital link between the old ways and the new.

---Applause

Legislative Business

During this session, the administration will be placing a total of 16 bills before the Assembly for consideration. As noted earlier, by far the most important is the main Appropriation Ordinance which provides for expenditures totalling just over \$338 million for the 1980-81 fiscal year. The deputy chairman of the financial management board, the Hon. Tom Butters, will be introducing this bill with appropriate remarks. There are four routine financial bills which are related to the budget, including a Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance. In line with my remarks made earlier regarding fiscal responsibility, there are two bills which will increase taxes on cigarettes and petroleum products. The increases are not major in amount but are intended to match, more or less, the taxation levels in the provinces.

An amendment to the Pharmacy Ordinance will prevent persons without a licence using the title of pharmacist. An amendment to the Defamation Ordinance will be introduced to re-establish the fair comment defence in defamation actions based on the publications by publishers and broadcasters of the opinions or comments of other persons. The other purpose is to give the same protection to fair and accurate reports of proceedings in the territorial Legislature as are given in respect of all other legislatures in Canada. A Legal Questions Ordinance will provide a means for the obtaining of legal opinions from the supreme court of the Northwest Territories which will have the force of judgments. Amendments of a housekeeping nature affecting six ordinances will also be introduced.

Development Of Energy Policy

I have already made reference to a sessional paper on constitutional development and claims which will be tabled during this session. The matter of energy policy for the Northwest Territories will be the subject of a discussion paper to be introduced at this session. The federal government has given high priority to the development of an energy policy for the North which would lessen our dependence on southern sources of energy. The Northwest Territories has been invited to participate in the development of this energy policy, and we have commenced work in this regard. It is not sufficient, however, to leave in the hands of the federal government the total responsibility for determining energy policy for the Northwest Territories. Such a vital issue as energy must be addressed by this Legislature, and your standing committee on finance has already taken initiative in this field, identifying the need for a Northwest Territories energy policy. This work will receive the full support of the administration, and I applaud the leadership shown by this body in this critical area.

In closing, I would like to remind you of an event of historic importance which took place 11 years ago today. Chief John Tetlich, speaking on behalf of the other committee members, David Searle and Air Marshal Hugh Campbell, presented the report of the flag committee recommending to the House the design of a new territorial flag. That design was accepted, and our territorial flag flies proudly throughout our land as one important symbol of our unity.

---Applause

And now, with full confidence in your wise judgment, I commend to you for your earnest consideration the business of this House as I declare open this second session of the Ninth Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. I will call something to your attention now which I should have noted earlier. Those of you who have the electronic devices for translation purposes, if you want to hear the Inuktitut translation in English it is on channel six. In a little while there will be Inuktitut spoken and the translation to English will be on channel five.

Opening day is largely ceremonial with the Commissioner's Address and two replies. We do, however, have to begin the serious business of the House as soon as possible and consequently there will now be a series of notices of motion which are required by our rules so that we can begin to consider these bills in due time.

So, moving along the order paper perhaps, Item 3, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 3: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1-80(1).

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 1-80(1): Appropriation Ordinance, 1980-81

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 1-80(1), An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1981, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Bill 2-80(1), Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, the Hon. Tom Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 2-80(1): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1979-80

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I give notice on February 1st, 1980, I shall give notice that Bill 2-80(1), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the Current Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 3-80(1).

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 3-80(1), Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1980

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 3-80(1), An Ordinance Respecting a Financial Agreement Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 4-80(1), Loan Authorization Ordinance, Hon. Tom Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 4-80(1): Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1980-81

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 4-80(1), An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds from the Government of Canada and Make Loans to Municipalities or Other Persons in the Northwest Territories During the Financial Year 1980-81, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 5-80(1), Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 5-80(1): N.W.T. Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance, 1980

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 5-80(1), An Ordinance to Authorize the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to Borrow Money, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 6-80(1), Tobacco Tax Ordinance, the Hon. Tom Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 6-80(1): Tobacco Tax Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 6-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Tobacco Tax Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 7-80(1), Income Tax Ordinance, the Hon. George Braden.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 7-80(1): Income Tax Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 7-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Income Tax Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 8-80(1), Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, Hon. Tom Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 8-80(1): Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 8-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 9-80(1), Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 9-80(1): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services (Amendment) Ordinance, 1980

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 9-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 10-80(1), Pharmacy Ordinance, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 10-80(1): Pharmacy Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 10-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Pharmacy Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 11-80(1), Defamation Ordinance, Hon. Tom Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 11-80(1): Defamation Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 11-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Defamation Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 12-80(1), Legal Questions Ordinance.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 12-80(1): Legal Questions Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 12-80(1), An Ordinance Respecting the Resolution of Legal Questions, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 13-80(1), Arbitration Ordinance, Hon. Tom Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 13-80(1): Arbitration Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 13-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Arbitration Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 14-80(1), Creditors Relief Ordinance, Hon. Tom Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 14-80(1): Creditors Relief Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 14-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Creditors Relief Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 15-80(1), Exemptions Ordinance, Hon. Tom Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 15-80(1): Exemptions Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 15-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Exemptions Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 16-80(1), Various Ordinance Amendments, Professional Fees, Hon. Tom Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 16-80(1): Various Ordinance Amendments, Professional Fees

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 16-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend Certain Ordinances with Respect to Professional Fees, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 17-80(1), Elections Amendment Ordinance, 1980, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 17-80(1): Elections Amendment Ordinance, 1980

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 1st, 1980, I shall move that Bill 17-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Elections Ordinance, 1978, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege I rise to request of the House unanimous consent to move second reading of Bill 17-80(1).

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent requested with respect to Bill 17-80(1), An Ordinance to Amend the Elections Ordinance, so that it can be proceeded with. Does Mr. McCallum have unanimous consent? Do I hear no? You do not have unanimous consent. We will be unable to proceed any further with that bill today.

Next item on the order paper, Item 4, tabling of documents. Mr. Butters.

ITEM NO. 4: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I table the 1980-81 Estimates at this time because it is on our desk.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Are there any other documents to be tabled? We will move now -- Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, just on a point of privilege perhaps I had indicated that I wanted to move second reading. I want to make sure that when I asked for unanimous consent, I meant to get unanimous consent to move first reading today.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I thought that was what you had moved. Did you say second reading?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I did say second reading. I meant first.

MR. SPEAKER: So there is no confusion at all, Mr. McCallum, would you raise the matter again?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request of the House unanimous consent to move first reading of Bill 17-80(1).

MR. SPEAKER: Does Mr. McCallum have unanimous consent? Are there any nays? I believe, Mr. Curley, you had -- are you going to object again?

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, since Mr. McCallum has explained this is first reading I approve of the introduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Does that mean there is unanimous consent to introduce the bill?

MR. PATTERSON: No.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, there are two nays required to prevent the matter from going ahead. We can check the rules.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe that is not so when the matter is raised to waive the rule that unanimous consent is required and one nay is sufficient to prevent it. Unless I was mistaken once first reading has been managed after that two people could prevent it, not just one. Am I right, Mr. Clerk? So we will not proceed then any further with Bill 17-80(1) today.

Item 5, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Do I have a mover of appreciation for the Commissioner's Address? The Hon. Member for Keewatin South, Mr. Curley.

ITEM NO. 5: REPLIES TO THE COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Curley's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, it is my pleasure to move that this Assembly express its appreciation to the Commissioner's Opening Address.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say I know that everyone will not be able to come in every day but during the time we sit here those of you who are from far away distances are welcome, although Yellowknife is not your community. I would just like to say that it is my pleasure to respond first of all to welcome remarks from Members of the far Eastern Arctic and all over the Territories, from the Mackenzie Delta. We realize that they have no

convenience of coming into the chamber to hear their representative speak but I would like to assure them that they are welcome here. I hope they are. Some of us never have been too comfortable in this part of the area but I hope they will not be feeling the same as we do. So without further remarks I would just like to get on to the serious substance of my remarks.

I would like to remark to the Commissioner's Address that there will be many other replies by different Members. We from the East who have not seen -- we know these things are going to be very difficult to deal with but there will have to be more than discussions.

We in the Northwest Territories have a serious problem with regard to leadership as far as the regional areas are concerned and the authority to deal with business in the Eastern Arctic has not been forthcoming and I do not believe that playing at psychological impact will work. We have attempted to do our thing. This Legislature appeased the Eastern Arctic people. In order to have a community you must accept the fact that a few token measures have been set up.

As a Member of the unity committee I must say that the unity committee itself will not solve the interests of the Eastern Arctic and the Western Arctic in terms of political structures. As a Member of the unity committee I can say the fact that the objectives of the unity committee were not to speak to all northerners but certain sections of the northern population, mainly the native organizations.

Achieving Unity

I believe that unity is important but it cannot be achieved without trading off some of the authority vested in the administration and in the Commissioner's hands. I say that because I come from the far region and I have come from a community that expressed or feels isolation with the Government of the Northwest Territories. I say that with respect to the desire to have a strong government, but presently without the impact of devolution it just cannot work. Even the smallest item that the administration needs must have the approval of the Executive Committee and at this moment I say it is frustrating for me to feel a part of the whole establishment, particularly at this moment it is impossible to see how the Executive Committee structure can actually work for the Eastern Arctic without having a full accountability, or pass it on to the region.

My first remarks concern that particular area because there has been a call by the Commissioner to join the gang because you cannot beat the system. I believe as a Member who has been given the mandate to represent my people, I can say to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories this is one job, I mean joining the Executive Committee, this is one job that I can refuse. Unless the Commissioner and the Executive Committee or this Legislature makes provisions and conditions to what I have in mind it will be difficult for me to accept a position in the Executive Committee.

I can give you one example of how the smallest administrative matter might be given to the Inuit Members of the Executive Committee. I would be embarrassed to have to sign a letter that says unless you know your priorities in your community and you know exactly what you have in mind it would be premature to give you the responsibility. The letter would be signed by certain Ministers. Even if it is responsibility for renewable resources that many of our people in the Eastern Arctic have had lifetime experience in handling, I would not be able to sign such a letter that would so embarrass my people that they cannot be given responsibility if they do not know how to spell out the management of the game and wildlife affairs. That is one example.

Changing With The Times

The Inuit -- so they can get their money and they can have certain authority to be able to manage their own affairs in their communities, they have to have approval from the headquarters. It seems hopeless and if they are not going to be approved why should they even be approached by the government? We ask for a proposal and it could be turned down. I think it would be very difficult, if I agree with this unity and agree with them in Yellowknife. I think we would have to look at different things, not only through the session. Times are changing and we should be changing with them.

In terms of the political control, another problem that we have is a fairly successful regional operation that is being carried out by the regional directors and their staff. Every segment of the departmental programs are operating in the region, but as one who has to deal with a regional staff I find it frustrating to have to deal with the regional directors from time to time and case officers when they do not have any policy control or any role in policy planning within the region. So again this is another problem that we see, many of our people, organizations, agencies, whether they be housing associations, hunters and trappers or education committee members, continue to accept experience and frustration and therefore lack of respect for the government and as a result they feel isolation from the government that is supposed to work for them. So, I do not wish to be negative about those but I must say as one who has been given the mandate to represent the people, I must speak on their behalf.

A few years ago we were elated to hear that this government, the administration, was eventually going to be successful in a devolution policy. There were many statements about who is in charge of the operation, but somehow that seems to have disappeared and today the policy of devolution is not existing and I believe that must be one of the priorities if we are ever going to have or expect the people to be united in terms of their government and having a sense of involvement within the governmental affairs.

Government Must Open Up To The Public

There was a motion by my fellow Member. I do not mean to bring down anyone. Unless there are some concrete changes to ensure that the various organizations, all the way from local government, can be given some community control, it would be pointless for many of us, like myself particularly to have to join in this Executive structure. Really if I were going to be so secretive about even the smallest detail then I believe this government first of all must open up to the public and to the regions because it is really not involved in the national security and I do not see any reason why many of the smaller segments in planning stages should be so confidential.

---Applause

There have been many times during the course of our experience in this Ninth Assembly, this Assembly, I believe it is the Ninth, when we have attempted to make the system and this administration be more responsive to the people. We find that the Executive Committee Members have not bothered to consult with us as their colleagues. So far the routine is that if you want any information or to pass on information they deal directly with their regional director and then I normally get an odd phone call from the secretary. How am I supposed to respond effectively and join you guys in formulating policy that would best serve the whole of the Northwest Territories? So, I think there should be some changes and I am looking forward to making these changes concrete so that we may have a truly united government.

As a Member of the Legislature I feel that my role is important. I certainly can interpret for you if you do not speak the language of our area and there is no reason that you should be isolated with that part because of all the machinery. The authority is vested in the hands of the Executive Committee Members.

Maximizing The Role Of The Regions

We want to help the people in the government but in some areas that is impossible and finally some people try so hard and nobody will listen, the government will not listen to them. If the government is going to be a government then I believe that one of the first priorities of this government should be to seriously consider how we can maximize the role of the regions and the various organizations that have been created to deal with certain responsibilities such as housing, education and game management programs through the hunters' and trappers' associations. I cannot effectively speak for the Western Arctic concerns. I believe they will be presenting their case as they see it.

The call to join the Executive Committee at the early stages at this time is one that will be a continuing issue, but unless we see the real agreement between the Eastern Arctic and this administration I would only feel that I would have to join them as a token representative. I do not think that is what I have been asked to do by my constituents in the Eastern Arctic, Keewatin South particularly, and therefore, I will wait to see what the Commissioner and the Executive Committee Members have to offer to us so that the offer may be the one that I cannot refuse.

At this time finally I would like to state further that we have attempted to make the role of the Executive Committee and our caucus enabling the government and the Executive Committee system to perform better but at this time we must report that we have had very little communication and we will have to again attempt to make proposals to you that would enable you to communicate with our people.

Recognition Of The Baffin Regional Council

Finally I would like to say that we have other matters that concern the Eastern Arctic which have been the concerns for many, many years. The Baffin Regional Council has yet to be formally recognized as a regional government with enough powers to deal with the interests of the Baffin region. I believe during this session as we study the financial appropriations we should definitely attempt to make sure that the role and the recognition first of all is given to them so that they, too, would feel a part of the Government of the Northwest Territories. There have been discussions and requests for regional boards of education in that area so they could work for their people rather than going through the continuing experience of frustration and isolation. I will support any attempt to make sure that the regional government and regional education boards are established so that the devolution and the policy formulations and planning and priorities of programs can be given to the people. Experience in the region this year, it was supposed to be big. It was not that big.

The government said that the price of oil has gone up and it did not really encourage people. Government said that. They did not really hear but if somebody said that the oil is going up about this much and all the equipment that you need to go out hunting that the prices have gone up. We asked for assistance and we will ask the Assembly if we can put anything back to help and they say, "We do not have any money." The child welfare assistance will go up ten per cent, but all I can say is that this seems to be only talking about it publicly and we are not talking privately to a person. It should not be publicized but the hunters and trappers must be helped because this is their way of life because it is impossible for every single person to work for lack of jobs available and there are young people who want to go out hunting and cannot. Economic Development says, "We do not have any more money, so we are going to lower your income by ten per cent to help the other jobs." When we had the November session the education teachers' association union signed a contract and said that there was no money but about every year he just says that it is raised by increases and the smaller organizations are told there is no money and even unemployment is ten per cent which is about \$300 you will be getting. I would say how can one government be helpful to the people if they do that? Like, we cannot really have support inside. Like they are just going to go along. If we help each other and not make legislation on everything I think that would be more helpful for this reason, that we would make changes in this Assembly if this would be among ourselves. We were elected to represent our constituents.

Support For Economic Development

Another thing I want to mention is like the Commissioner stated. I think the Commissioner's point on economic development interest is very important. I state to this Assembly I support any economic development that is going on in the North and I think it is about time that we start to see the northern content of the economic development. So far the administration has practised giving authority and control and licences to foreigners that are not qualified in my opinion. I think it is time we had the interests of the business community in the North, who are anxious to get a share of the pie now and I think this Assembly should make sure that any business -- the economic development proposals that are coming have a contribution to the small businessman and they too, and the northern business corporations have a part in the Northwest Territories.

I believe that this can be done provided that the environmental and all the other safeguards are given serious consideration rather than just leaving that to public groups, public citizens' groups. I believe that this Assembly is going to have to be equally concerned with the environmental and safety measures that will ensure that any development, whether it be mining, resource development, oil and gas, are going to be carried out. I do not believe this government, this Assembly should support any proposal or development at any cost. As an individual I will see that fair economic development proposals are carried out provided that the northern people, corporations, local small businessmen will too, be given an opportunity to get a share in the development. I believe that experience will tell us that leaving them will deprive the Northwest Territories of a fair chance to take part in major economic development as we have in the past.

Eastern Arctic Health And Medical Services

If there is going to be a big oil drilling they should protect the land and animals. We cannot just forget about them. At this time I would like to conclude that we in the Eastern Arctic, particularly we need health and medical services. Our citizens in the Eastern Arctic have had a time of being deprived of their local hospitals and, therefore, the patients have continued to be transported to some other areas. I believe at this time while this administration is attempting to come to grips or get a hold of the health and social services it would be appropriate for this Assembly to develop policies that would not deprive the Eastern Arctic of the right to have a fair chance at medical services directly in their own region as well as the communities. At this moment the priorities seem to be if you can get your administrative services straightened out, maybe eventually we can work out something in terms of medical services into the regions. I look forward to discussing that further with the Hon. Arnold McCallum since he has the portfolio to deal with that area.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to now conclude that I look forward to ensuring that a fair chance at this Assembly and the administration to be successful will only be achieved I believe through handing some responsibility once again to the regions and I do not believe just as it is, it is going to make any difference to the Eastern Arctic. I would think if you want a fair chance to be a part of the government we too, or the administration, is going to have to hand out some of the responsibilities and control to the regions because this area is pretty far from the Eastern Arctic.

I also would like to take this moment to express my desire to study the constitutional development paper that will be forthcoming and I think it is a step in the right direction. The contents remain to be seen. I believe at this time as well that we have a very important issue that this Assembly will have to face and that will be the issue of the Nunavut proposal. I think it is still very much alive and that it may be the time that during this session we will see concrete initiatives taken by this Assembly to really sincerely study the question of the Nunavut proposal jointly with the organizations like Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and I look forward to their presentation. So, Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me to -- bear with me for a moment with what I have had to say, I look forward to studying all the various legislative proposals here and I hope my remarks will help the administration and the Assembly to seriously make better proposals that will serve the interests of the Eastern Arctic. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Curley, with respect to what you said at the very end of your speech, I can announce now that representatives of the ITC will be in this House on Friday, February 22nd to inform us about the Nunavut proposal. I understand that there is a seconder to the motion of appreciation for the Commissioner's Address, the Hon. Member from the High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

Mr. Pudluk's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation Seconded

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I second the motion which Tagak Curley moved regarding the Commissioner's Opening Address.

I have a very short statement to make. I would like to reply to the Commissioner's Address. In October, right after the election, I did not reply to the Commissioner's Address at that time in the Eighth Assembly. I usually reply to Commissioner's Addresses. I just want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to say something.

I would like to say what I have before. When 1970 started I went to a meeting for the very first time on transportation. At that meeting I stated that that was the very first time that I said something in public. Then all the prices were going up. I said that if the prices are going to keep going up after ten years maybe my hair will be white. That was not right, it was I was going to be losing my hair instead of it turning white. I do not know what caused this.

My concern for the prices -- like the jobs in the communities, there are not many but between 1960 and 1970 just about everything was very easy to get, like hunting, making money and finding jobs. After 1970 it was really hard. Now just about everywhere, even hunting is getting harder. The money we make now today does not make up for the prices that we have to pay when we buy. If I did not work for one day then it would take me about three days to make up for the loss of money for not working. Trying to live is one of the hardest things now, and now the Inuit are trying to work but it seems to be getting harder and harder.

Role Of The Minister Of DIAND

I still have a few more things to say. If there is to be another government in Canada, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development get ministers but it is usually after -- they would have to get a minister after the election. Just not too long ago they were not too happy in the North in the different organizations with the Prime Minister that we had before, or the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The government usually appoints the ministers, but the people who appoint them are elected and once the minister gets his position then he rarely comes up to the North that he should be representing and sometimes we would like to see him in our own community. The people who work with him come to our community and we talk to them about our problems, but there are a lot of times that they have said that, "Sorry, we are not allowed to do this but I will get an answer from the minister when I get back to Ottawa." That is not solving our problems at all. I have known that even when they say that they will not give us an answer and there are a lot of times they forget about it.

Close to Resolute I think there will probably be jobs but not for many people. They are going to have to do a study on it. We do not mind if there is a study. If there is going to be oil exploration going on or mining exploration, the residents of that community or around that area usually like to know because they are concerned about what might happen in the future and they are thinking about their grandchildren or their children's children. For this reason anything that has to be done, we want anything that is going to be done that there be a study done on it first. Most of the time, for oil exploration and mining exploration, some of the things that they say are only the good things and we see there are oil spills and we see that on television. Before this happens we want people to say to us what they will do if anything like that happens, like if there was an oil spill. We would like to know what would be the bad effects of it.

Mining Exploration At Resolute

I met with people in my community concerning mines. We are wondering about Cominco trying to get mining exploration. We want there to be a public hearing. That is what they want in Resolute before they actually start operating. They do not mind if that is going on over there. I will have further statements on this later on, before this session is finished. I know in 1960 people started visiting that island and I have known about it for quite a while and I have seen it. We just want to ask that there be a study on it, what would be the good sides and the bad sides of the mining exploration. That is all I have to say at the moment.

I would like to thank everybody for having to sit down and listen to me. Maybe they are getting tired of sitting. I will make further comments later in the session. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. There being no further items on the order paper I will ask the Clerk -- Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: A matter of privilege. Earlier I raised the matter of an item and asked, I expected that one of the officers of the House would draw your attention to the rule which requires two or more Members to prevent a bill from going forward. I will read this in view of the fact that it was not drawn to your attention. It is Rule 55(2): "A bill may be read twice or thrice, or advance two or more stages in one day..." and that is the critical part, "...or advanced two or more stages in one day, unless such action is opposed by two or more Members". My point of privilege, sir, is it was not drawn to your attention.

MR. SPEAKER: I would call your attention to the first part of that rule. It is Rule 55(1): "Every bill shall receive three separate readings on different days before being passed."

Rule 55(2): "A bill may be read twice or thrice, or advance two or more stages in one day, unless such action is opposed by two more Members." However, what is at issue here is that the bill was not read for the first time and what you are actually asking permission to do is to waive the rule that requires 48 hours notice after notice of motion is given and in order to waive such a rule, could you quote me the number, please? What is the number? Rule 1(3): "The rules may with the unanimous consent of the Assembly be varied at any time without notice." There was a request to waive the rule. It did not have unanimous consent and so my interpretation, Mr. Butters, is that we cannot proceed today with that motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: With respect, sir, may I just point out too, in response, that the critical section is: "...or advance two or more stages in one day...". I suggest to you, sir, that this takes into consideration the fact that notice of motion is a stage in the advancing of a bill and, therefore, the notice and the first reading should be considered as acceptable.

MR. SPEAKER: Where there is some confusion with respect to the rules, Mr. Butters, our rules do state that the precedence in this House or the usual practice in Parliament will guide the Speaker. The Clerk assures me that with respect to considering a stage, advancing a stage, that the readings would be considered to be in stages in the advancement of a bill and not notice of motion. I would hear any other comments that you would have to make. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, just to say that the reason I am so familiar with that particular section is that I was prevented from seeing a bill go forward by being the only person who said nay in that particular case and I lost at that time and it looks like I lose again.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you explain that again?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: At one time, Mr. Speaker, I attempted to prevent a bill going forward from notice of motion and I remember putting my hand up as a nay. As I was the sole nay at that time I was not able to prevent it from going ahead. I think there is a precedent which will show that.

MR. SPEAKER: If the bill had already been read for the first time then I can understand that, what happened at that time, but I will stand by my ruling. I feel that what is wished here is a waiver and a waiver requires unanimous consent. That is my ruling.

Mr. Clerk, are there any further announcements? Would you read the orders of the day for tomorrow?

ITEM NO. 6: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, February 1, 1980, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at Sir John Franklin School.

1. Prayer
2. Continuing Replies to The Commissioner's Address
3. Oral Questions
4. Questions and Returns
5. Petitions
6. Tabling of Documents
7. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
8. Notices of Motion
9. Motions
10. Introduction of Bills for First Reading
11. Second Reading of Bills
12. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and Other Matters
13. Third Reading of Bills
14. Assent to Bills
15. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk, and thank all of you for having come this afternoon, particularly our four guests and very particularly our guest of honour at the opening of this session. There is tea and coffee available for those who would like to join us out in the foyer immediately after this session.

This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 1, 1980, at Sir John Franklin School.

---ADJOURNMENT

