



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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**Pages 1 to 23**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## Speaker

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

P.O. Box 1877

Hay River, N.W.T., X0E 0R0

(Hay River)

Appaqaq, Mr. Moses, M.L.A.

General Delivery

Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.

X0A 0W0

(Hudson Bay)

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.

Lake Harbour, N.W.T.

X0A 0N0

(Baffin South)

Braden, The Hon. George, M.L.A.

P.O. Box 583

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

X0E 1H0

(Yellowknife North)

Leader of the Elected Executive and Minister  
of Justice and Public Services

Butters, The Hon. Thomas H., M.L.A.

P.O. Box 1069

Inuvik, N.W.T.

X0E 0T0

(Inuvik)

Minister of Finance and of Economic  
Development and Tourism

Curley, Mr. Tagak E.C., M.L.A.

Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.

X0C 0G0

(Keewatin South)

Cournoyea, Ms. Nellie J., M.L.A.

P.O. Box 1184

Inuvik, N.W.T.

X0E 0T0

(Western Arctic)

Evaluarjuk, Mr. Mark, M.L.A.

Igloolik, N.W.T.

X0A 0L0

(Foxye Basin)

Fraser, Mr. Peter C., M.L.A.

P.O. Box 23

Norman Wells, N.W.T.

X0E 0V0

(Mackenzie Great Bear)

Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees

Kilabuk, Mr. Ipeelee, M.L.A.

Pangnirtung, N.W.T.

X0A 0R0

(Baffin Central)

McCallum, The Hon. Arnold J., M.L.A.

P.O. Box 454

Fort Smith, N.W.T.

X0E 0P0

(Slave River)

Minister of Health and of Social Services

MacQuarrie, Mr. Robert H., M.L.A.

P.O. Box 2895

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

X0E 1H0

(Yellowknife Centre)

McLaughlin, Mr. Bruce, M.L.A.

P.O. Box 555

Pine Point, N.W.T.

X0E 0W0

(Pine Point)

Nerysoo, The Hon. Richard W., M.L.A.

General Delivery

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

X0E 1H0

(Mackenzie Delta)

Minister of Renewable Resources and of Energy

Noah, Mr. William, M.L.A.

P.O. Box 125

Baker Lake, N.W.T.

X0C 0A0

(Keewatin North)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis G., M.L.A.

P.O. Box 262

Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.

X0A 0H0

(Frobisher Bay)

Minister of Education

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.

P.O. Box 22

Resolute Bay, N.W.T.

X0A 0V0

(High Arctic)

Deputy Chairman of Committees

Sayine, Mr. Robert, M.L.A.

General Delivery

Fort Resolution, N.W.T.

X0E 0M0

(Great Slave East)

Sibbeston, Mr. Nick G., M.L.A.

P.O. Box 560

Fort Simpson, N.W.T.

X0E 0N0

(Mackenzie Liard)

Sorensen, Mrs. Lynda M., M.L.A.

P.O. Box 2348

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

X0E 1H0

(Yellowknife South)

Tologanak, The Hon. Kane, M.L.A.

Coppermine, N.W.T.

X0E 0E0

(Central Arctic)

Minister of Government Services

Wah-Shee, The Hon. James J., M.L.A.

P.O. Box 471

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

X1A 2N4

(Rae-Lac la Martre)

Minister of Local Government and of Aboriginal  
Rights and Constitutional Development

## Officers

Clerk

Mr. W.H. Remnant

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

X0E 1H0

Clerk Assistant

Mr. D.M. Hamilton

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

X0E 1H0

Law Clerk

Mr. E. Johnson

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

X0E 1H0

Editor of Hansard

Mrs. M.J. Coe

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

X0E 1H0

Sergeant-at-Arms

S/Sgt. J. Morris

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

X0E 1H0

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1981

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Kilabuk, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. MacQuarrie, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Noah, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Hon. Don Stewart, Hon. Kane Tologanak, Hon. James Wah-Shee

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Father Duchaussois, would you say the prayer, please?

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

FATHER DUCHAUSSOIS: Almighty God and Father, source of wisdom and power, at the beginning of this session of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, we humbly beseech Your blessing on the deliberations of all its Members to the end that, inspired by Your divine wisdom and setting aside all prejudices, private interests and partial affections, they may work to the benefit, welfare and happiness of Your people and to Your Glory. Amen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Father. Please be seated. Turning to the orders of the day, Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner is ready to address this House?

ITEM NO. 2: COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to welcome you to the fourth session of the Ninth Assembly. This day, February 4th, is by coincidence the day on which the sun returns to Resolute Bay -- for 11 minutes -- having disappeared on November 7th. I mention this little fact because I believe it is important for us to remind ourselves from time to time of the great variations in physical conditions which occur in the North and with which we must contend as a government. You have completed a little more than a quarter of the life of the Ninth Assembly and you have served through one complete annual cycle of budgetary and legislative activity. It seems appropriate, therefore, to look back over this first year which has seen so many important changes in this Assembly and in the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Important Steps Toward Ministerial Government

In June of 1980, the elected Executive Committee Members chose the Hon. George Braden as their leader. This arrangement, which provided the elected Members with a spokesman, was a natural and important step towards full ministerial government. In January of this year, a further significant step was made when I appointed the Hon. Tom Butters to be the Territories first Minister of Finance. Finally, the full complement of seven Ministers was reached as Kane Tologanak and Dennis Patterson took their places as Ministers early this January.

---Applause



My best wishes are extended to them. These are important events in the constitutional development of the Northwest Territories.

The question of division of the Northwest Territories into two or more political units was addressed in depth at the Frobisher Bay session in October and this subject will continue to be debated in this House and studied by committees.

The creation of a special committee on education at the Baker Lake session to review the role and function of education throughout the Territories was one of the most significant undertakings in the education field during the past year. The committee's discussions have opened controversial issues, and considerable debate on these and other education matters is expected to take place at this session and in public meetings following the session.

Problems created by the misuse of liquor continued to be addressed by the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council, and they also occupied my thoughts and efforts on a number of occasions. There is a growing realization by people in many communities that alcohol abuse can be reduced and that this goal can only be achieved through their own efforts. The role of government is to be as supportive as possible of these efforts. I am heartened by this growing recognition of the nature of the problem and optimistic that advances will continue to be made.

#### Ministers Have Made Special Efforts

Your Ministers have made special efforts to establish good relationships with their counterparts in the provinces and the federal government. The high level of acceptance achieved indicates a strengthening of the position of the territorial government as a distinct provincial-type government. Valuable information and assistance, when required, have been among the benefits of these closer relationships. A growing role for this government, with attendant demands on Ministers, has been the requirement to speak out on socio-economic and environmental matters concerning major resource development proposals such as the proposed Norman Wells pipeline and the Arctic Pilot Project. Your government continues to seek to ensure full benefits for northern residents from these major projects, as well as involvement at all stages, from planning through to production. Protection of the lifestyle of our people and enhancement of cultural values must be part of any development plans.

The time and efforts of the Executive Committee have been taken up with a broad range of issues, as well as the demanding day-to-day administrative, policy and managerial duties necessary to the good conduct of government. The management of the government's money during these times of restraint has called for extra efforts on the part of all Executive Members, both in control of current year spending and in budget negotiations and preparations.

#### Fiscal Restraints Imposed By Federal Government

The economic shocks, particularly the steep increase in oil prices, that have buffeted governments across Canada have not passed by the Northwest Territories. The Minister of Finance will be addressing you more extensively on our proposed budget for 1981-82, but I would like to emphasize that fiscal restraints imposed by the federal government have prevented the administration from acting on some of the spending priorities that you have identified.

Regretfully, it has not been possible to allocate funds to establish the northern police advisory commission and a languages commission, which were recommended by this House. In fact, during this session your approval will be sought for supplementary funding to cover cost overruns and inflationary increases incurred for the 1980-81 fiscal year --in other words, to maintain our present level of programs and services.

The budget which is being submitted for your approval for fiscal year 1981-82 is a responsible budget which recognizes our current limitations. It is a budget in which the priorities of Members of this House have been accommodated to the greatest extent possible, consistent with the country-wide mood of restraint in government spending. Total spending of \$374,276,000 is proposed, including \$291,813,000 for operations and maintenance expenditures and \$65,951,000 for capital programs. Negotiations are continuing with the federal government for additional money to fund activities which your Ministers consider to be of vital importance to the Territories -- money for programs in response to current and proposed resource development projects, money for economic development and for continued political and constitutional development.

During this session, a legislative program of 15 bills will be introduced for your consideration. In addition to the Appropriation Ordinance, the Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, and three other financial ordinances, there will be 10 bills amending existing ordinances, including amendments to the Liquor Ordinance, the Regulations Ordinance, and the Safety Ordinance. While most of these amendments are of an administrative or housekeeping nature, they are essential to the good conduct of government business. I recommend the passage of each of these ordinances.

#### Commissioner's Award To Sharon And Shirley Firth

It is my very great pleasure to announce today that the Commissioner's Award is to be presented for public service, at the highest level, to Sharon and Shirley Firth who were born and raised in the Mackenzie Delta. These awards recognize their accomplishments in cross-country skiing which have brought national and international recognition to the Northwest Territories, and have inspired a whole generation of young people to train, to participate, and to be good citizens.

Turning now to the broad subject of constitutional development, your Ministers have been particularly active in this area in recent months. I use the phrase "your Ministers" advisedly because this is a consensus form of government and all Members participated in the selection of Executive Committee Members. Three of your Members, the Hon. George Braden, Mr. Tagak Curley and Mr. Nick Sibbeston, met in Ottawa in December with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to apprise him of the resolutions of the Assembly on the Report of the Special Committee on Unity.

As far as our place in the Canadian federation is concerned, the Executive Committee is concerned by some issues which are raised by the federal proposal to patriate the constitution. The Leader of the Elected Members of the Executive Committee, on your behalf, testified in November before the joint Senate and House of Commons committee on the constitution.

I am sure we are all pleased to see that two of our government's major concerns -- the recognition of aboriginal rights and the right of territorial Ministers and native leaders to take part in First Ministers' Conferences on matters affecting them -- seem to have been satisfied by amendments carried by the joint committee during the past week. I wish to commend the Leader of the Elected Executive, your Ministers and all Members of this Assembly for their hard work in ensuring that the voices of the people of the North have been heard in the constitutional debate.

#### Unresolved Issues Must Be Addressed

While grateful to the federal government for these significant amendments, there are, nevertheless, some unresolved issues which your Ministers believe must be addressed before our government can give unqualified support to the patriation package. Although elected Ministers from the Territories will be invited to participate in First Ministers' Conferences on items affecting the North, they are still not to be permitted to take part in either the interim or permanent amendment process. Your Executive Committee submits that the proposed constitutional reform process is important to all Canadians, including northern Canadians, and therefore elected representatives from the North must take part in shaping the new confederation.



Moreover, your Ministers, as well as the Dene Nation, the Metis Association, the Inuit Tapirisat, continue to express strong disappointment that the federal government has not amended the mobility rights provision of the proposed charter of rights and freedoms to permit the enactment of economic preferences sensitive to the needs of the developing North. Our labour force, and our resident businesses, are still in a formative and vulnerable stage of growth. In view of the likelihood that the federal government will approve at least some of the oil, gas and mining projects currently proposed for the Northwest Territories, your Ministers require assurance that northerners will have the first opportunity to benefit from resource development projects.

#### Promising Future For Northwest Territories

The future holds great promise and excitement for the people of the Northwest Territories. The road being constructed through the Liard country to Fort Simpson is already bringing changes to the economic life of that region. Several new mines located across the Territories will soon come into production. Major oil and gas developments are under way. There are bound to be tremendous changes in the next few years, some of which may be difficult to avert, some of which will provide us with badly needed employment opportunities, but all of which we must try to influence in a positive manner.

We should recognize that other developing regions in this country have looked to the renewable and non-renewable resources around them to provide not only the raw materials for local economic development and assured energy supply, but also the revenue base to finance the development of their political institutions and the improvement of public services. In the coming year, the government will be pursuing, as a high priority, the development of a strategy for energy self-sufficiency which will promote northern access to secure energy supplies at stable prices. Your Ministers will also continue to press the federal government to consider providing a direct share, for the Territories, of revenues accruing from the resource developments in the North.

As you address these critical priorities for constitutional development in relation to the rest of Canada, and economic development for the Territories, it is worth remembering that the prospect of the settlement of aboriginal claims negotiations, with the potential creation of new regional bodies and development corporations throughout the Territories, may well offer great opportunities for innovative and responsive constitutional and economic development within the Northwest Territories. Your Ministers maintain their intent to play a constructive role in the process of aboriginal claims settlement, always with a view to building on the spirit of trust and partnership that has become so evident among our people.

#### Optimism For The Future

In conclusion, I want to share with you my feelings of optimism for the future. I am encouraged by what has been achieved during the past year. Despite differences in background and philosophy, the elected Members of the Executive Committee have worked together to serve the best interests of all the residents of the Northwest Territories. They have earnestly sought agreement where it was possible and compromise when it was not. This determination to maintain consensus might well serve as a lesson to the rest of Canada. I now commend to you for your earnest consideration and wise judgment the business of this House as I declare open this fourth session of the Ninth Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Following the order paper of today, Item 3, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

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

Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 1-81(1): Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 6th, 1981, I shall move that Bill 1-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1982, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further notices of motion for the first reading of bills? Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 2-81(1): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 3, 1980-1981

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 6th, 1981, I shall move that Bill 2-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the Current Financial Year, be read for the first time. I have two other bills, sir, if I may remain on my feet and present them.

MR. SPEAKER: Continue.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 3-81(1): Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1981

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 6th, 1981, I shall move that Bill 3-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting a Financial Agreement Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 4-81(1): Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1981-82

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 6th, 1981, I shall move that Bill 4-81(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 1981-82, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further notices of motion for first reading of bills? The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 5-81(1): Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance, 1981

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 6th, I shall move that Bill 5-81(1), An Ordinance to Authorize the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to Borrow Funds, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further notices of motion for first reading of bills? If there are to be no further notices of motion for first reading of bills, Item 4, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 4: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, on behalf of the standing committee on finance, would like to table Tabled Document 1-81(1), Standing Committee on Finance Eighth Report to the Legislative Assembly on Responding to Non-Renewable Resource Development, December, 1980.



MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further documents to be tabled? The Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Bill 1-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1982, and secondly, Bill 2-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the Current Financial Year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further tabling of documents? Proceeding then on the orders of the day, Item 5, replies to the Commissioner's Address.

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

Mrs. Sorensen.

Mrs. Sorensen's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and honourable Members of the Legislature, honoured guests of the Speaker, and fellow Yellowknifers and guests to Yellowknife as well. I take great pleasure in having the opportunity of moving the motion of appreciation of the Commissioner's Address on this opening day of the fourth session of the Ninth Assembly. First, may I be the first to congratulate Sharon and Shirley Firth on receiving the Commissioner's Award for public service. I know that you will join me in saying that they certainly deserve it.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate both Mr. Patterson and Mr. Tologanak on their appointments to the Executive Committee and on their two portfolios of Education and Government Services. In addition and certainly something much closer to my heart, I wish to congratulate Mr. Butters on his position as Minister of Finance. I would like to think that I played a very small part in Mr. Parker's decision to relinquish his control over that portfolio since I personally spent some time urging the transfer of the position from Mr. Parker to an elected Member when we were in Ottawa together in early December, meeting with the standing committee on Indian affairs and northern development.

Mr. Butters and I had exchanged correspondence and as chairman of the Legislature's standing committee on finance, I am confident that the appointment of an elected Member to this position will greatly increase the communication and co-operation between the Executive Committee and your standing committee of finance in the crucial area of financial planning.

Mr. Butters, although only one month into his new position, has indicated through his actions that he is interested in developing and maintaining a strong relationship with the Legislature through its standing committee and on behalf of the committee, may I say we welcome that breath of fresh air.

Nature Of Consensus Government

Now that leads me into comments that I would like to make about the nature of consensus government and in particular because Mr. Parker referred to consensus government in his opening Address. There is not an awful lot of understanding on what that term actually means and to be truthful, it has taken me a full year of careful thought and consideration to come to terms with the...

MR. SPEAKER: Pardon me, Mrs. Sorensen. We are going a little too fast for the interpreters.

MRS. SORENSEN: I apologize, Mr. Speaker. As I said, it has taken me a full year of contemplating what is consensus government and thinking a great deal about that. Whether I believe that consensus government is good or bad is not the issue. Most of you know that I would prefer a party system in the

Northwest Territories. I have determined, however, that consensus government is with us for the next three years and perhaps a great deal longer. And therefore it is incumbent upon me to make use of it, just as I have attempted to learn the existing rules of this House in order to make use of them.

The question then is "What is consensus government?" A better question would perhaps be "How does our system differ from the southern system?" The most important difference is that there is no disciplined majority party in a position to control the decision making process in our Legislature. Our Executive Committee is chosen through a secret ballot by all Members of the Legislature and not by a government leader or premier as is done in the southern system.

Our leader is chosen by the Executive Committee and his power is more that of a spokesman for the Executive than the all-powerful premier of the South. While it is true that our Executive Committee can and should initiate legislation, policy and government actions, it is also very true that the Legislative Assembly in its wisdom or non-wisdom can, by majority vote, change and/or amend and/or reject any initiative undertaken by the government. We did so when we rejected its initiative for third party status on land claims. We did so when we rejected its initiative for assistance to municipalities for land claims research and we did so when we rejected its renewable resource on-the-job training program.

The Legislative Assembly can also by majority vote, remove any or all of its Executive Committee. It therefore follows that it has complete control over the Executive Committee and can and should demand accountability and consultation on every major decision. The Legislative Assembly, in its entirety therefore is the policy making body unlike a southern legislature where the political party in power and its cabinet, particularly if it is in the majority, determines the policy and actions of the government.

#### Elected Members Are The Government

In essence, what we have in the North is a system where all the territorial elected people, no matter what political persuasion, have the opportunity to, through their ability to have their motions adopted by this Legislature, set policy, dictate action and initiate study. In a consensus legislature, members of the legislature are, in fact, the government. The executive members are the facilitators, the workers who are mandated to carry out the decisions and directions given them by the assembly.

Now you can perhaps see why, when I was refused access to the contents of the bills, the legislation, which are to come before this House in the coming days -- when I was refused access to something as simple as a list of items for action arising from the last session, when I was refused access to a paper entitled "Land Use Planning", when I was refused access to the new terms of reference for the resource development committee, when I received no response to a request for a copy of a telex sent to ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, from the territorial government outlining the Northwest Territories government's position on ITC land claims, perhaps then you can see and perhaps understand a bit more fully why I, as an MLA with a tremendous sense of responsibility for decisions taken in our Legislature, can become not only frustrated but belligerent towards an Executive Committee which appears to see itself as a cabinet in a southern sense but, in fact, has no greater power than I do as an MLA.

#### Archaic Oath Of Secrecy

The only difference, perhaps, is an absolutely archaic oath of secrecy that the Executive Committee takes which, if they follow it to the letter, means that not one word on government business matters should be spoken outside the sixth floor boardroom since all matters are secret. The reality is that this is consensus government and on some matters, particularly major issues, I would like to see consensus.



Mr. Speaker, I can only say to the Executive Committee that I am not going to go away, that I have been elected to a consensus-style government and that is not going to go away either, at least not for the next three years. And that is why the Executive Committee has been receiving the letters and requests that it does from me and that is why I have demanded accountability for its actions in the past and have asked to be consulted and briefed on major decisions of major impact and consequence to the Northwest Territories which it takes on the sixth floor between sessions and on which the Legislature has not yet set policy. I understand my role in consensus government and I wish to do the very best job I can, not only for my constituents, but also the whole of the Northwest Territories, just as the Executive Committee and Mr. Parker has said they wish to do.

My reasons for this are not self-motivated. They are as such, because I believe that we have a job to do and we can do that job better if there are 22 people co-operating as opposed to seven on the sixth floor of the Laing Building, reluctant to ask for help or to consult because they view the remaining MLA's -- the other 15 of us -- as the opposition...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: No way.

MRS. SORENSEN: ...who might divulge a secret or use confidential information to further their own political careers. I do not, Mr. Speaker, see myself so much opposing what the Executive Committee does, but rather, working with the Executive Committee to do the job which must be done. That, to me, is the nature of consensus government.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Start the budget right now?

#### Assembly Is Decision Making Body

MRS. SORENSEN: This Legislative Assembly, in my humble opinion, has not put the Executive Committee in those seven positions to make decisions in isolation. This Assembly, by majority vote, is the decision making body -- all 22 of us here. Now I say to the Legislative Assembly, let us get on with the job. Now, lest there be any misunderstanding, I am not talking about the day to day, "keep government operating" type decisions. I am talking about the "blood and guts" issues of responsible government. Now, how can all Members of this Legislature become more involved in the policy and the development of certain positions? And this is an important question because I do not mean that Members wish -- or even should be invited to Executive Committee meetings.

First, I believe this Legislature needs to use some common sense strategy; and second, we need to pick our priorities and decide where we, as a Legislature rather than just the Executive Committee, stand on those issues. And that is why we have a creature called a caucus. Let us use it for our strategy sessions, particularly in situations where we do not want the federal government to know what all our cards are or what our bottom line really is.

I agree that only on very high priority and sensitive issues should we go out of the public domain. But consider this question -- and it is the number one issue as far as I am concerned -- what is the biggest threat to the people of the North's wish for responsible government; for eventual provincehood at some time in the future?

#### Federal Government Is A Threat

My answer is the federal government. It is the federal government's oil and gas amendments and its national energy policy concerning the Northwest Territories and what the policy refers to as Canada land. It is the Canadian and world economy that will dictate how soon those 20 million people down there come for our resources. It is those 10 provinces and their premiers who, my instincts tell me, will abandon us in the final analysis for the federal



interests and their own interests. I tell you right now that the Northwest Territories is already seen as the federal government's province in the rising resource war against the provinces. Soon, unless we make it clearly understood, that we want more, yes, demand more, than simply to be a colony of Ottawa, we may be so far overrun, overruled and overtaken that we can never hope to gain what is, as history has it, rightfully our destiny, full and complete responsible government.

Georges Erasmus recognized that in his presentation to this Assembly in Frubisher Bay. I urge you to reread his brief. You would have to separate out the rhetoric and the politics. But reread it, it is all there. In essence, he said unless we are united against the forces which would have us remain a colony forever, we are assuredly doomed. And I think most of us sitting here recognize the dilemma facing us. Many of you have so stated already during past sessions. And that is why I say "Why are we not doing something about it? Why are we not screaming foul play from the rooftops? Why are we always apologizing for being northerners? Why do we always think of ourselves as second class Canadians?" The kind of control the Northwest Territories wants was never given over to any group without a struggle. Gentlemen, we are looking at the biggest struggle of our lives, indeed the biggest struggle in the history of the Northwest Territories. Because we wish the Northwest Territories and its people or parts of it, in the case of Nunavut, to move towards the management and control of their land and resources as is truly their Canadian right. And an awful lot of people are going to try to prevent that from happening.

#### Long-Term Interests Must Be Protected

I say that if we truly wish that, if we agree that that is what we want, then let us, for heaven's sake, get our act together. Let us really discuss at the next caucus meeting how we are going to protect our long-term interests, that of provincial-like resource and land ownership. Let us develop our strategy and then let us bring it into the Legislature for the whole world to see. Let us get the land claim leaders, the elected municipal leaders together with the Legislative Assembly Members behind closed doors at first so that we all lay our cards on the table, so that we lay down the politics for once so that we do not air our dirty laundry in public and more importantly, so that the Kit Spences of the world cannot take notes. Then once we have decided what to do, let us meet the press and the public and tell them what we are doing. Our strength is indeed in our unity. Georges Erasmus, Jim Bourque, Sam Raddi and Michael Amarook...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: You and Georges Erasmus have got it together since last summer, eh?

MRS. SORENSEN: ...leaders at the municipal level...

--- Laughter

...and all of us here must be convinced that our time to act is limited but that there still is time to plan our defence and more importantly, plan our offence.

I say it is time for this Legislature to grow up, to come of age, to put away childish things and really talk about the issues and I believe that we can do it. I know we can because it is going to take not just the Executive Committee meeting in isolation on the sixth floor but all 22 of us here, working together to do it and that is why we have been elected. Progress towards responsible government and a government, indeed a northern strategy for that, is only one of the many priorities which our Executive Committee in concert with the Legislature must develop positions on.

### Ten Issues Facing Our Government

I took a minute the other day to quickly jot down what in my view were the 10 top issues facing our government. And my list is as follows: Number one, financial stability, both revenue and expenditurewise and administratively with the planning and process. Number two, the oil and gas amendments now being discussed by a standing committee of the parliament. Number three, the national energy policy, particularly the section entitled "Canada Lands". Number four, the new constitutional amendments. Number five, settlement of land claims and aboriginal rights. Number six, revenue sharing in the short term and long term. Number seven, languages. Number eight, education. Number nine, land use planning and control. Number 10, resource management and control.

Except for number one, financial stability, which is my very first priority, the rest are not in any order of priority. I believe all of them are equal. I believe we have made a few inroads, certainly not enough by a long shot, but we have begun. I intend to deal in greater detail with all these priorities as discussion takes place with the various Ministers of each department in the main estimates review.

### Financial Stability Is Crucial

Now, one of the most difficult, yet extremely crucial issues, is our financial stability as a government. It is so ironic that we are shipping tons and tons of raw materials out of here yearly but ounce after ounce of gold leaves our border weekly and that oil and gas have been discovered and is being produced. Yet in the face of all that, we are in fact labelled a welfare state, unemployment is high and we have people who are still hungry and cold.

The standing committee on finance is very aware of our need for financial stability, in revenues and expenditures, as is, I know the Executive Committee. How we achieve that -- again, what our strategy is and will become must be discussed. We must work together. We must plan together and we must do it soon.

Administrative stability is also crucial. This year the main estimates were late in their preparation. My committee hence was delayed in its review and consequently the 1981-82 main estimates detail did not get the review they should have had by your standing committee. It is clear that if our finances are not in order, if the financial administrative process does not meet its deadlines, then everything else in this government suffers. The government cannot operate properly if its financial base is not humming smoothly.

With respect to the oil and gas amendments, another of my priorities, I am in the process of reviewing those amendments and plan on making a submission to the standing committee on natural resources and public works some time in March. Mr. Butters, in his role as Minister of Economic Development, has assured me that the government plans to make a submission as well. The position I plan on taking and promoting and I hope that that is what the Legislature will agree to when we discuss the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act during the course of this session, is that nothing in the act or amendments should prevent the Northwest Territories from taking on full resource management and control when it is ready. That fundamental principle must be understood.

My third priority is the national energy policy and its effect on the North's wish again to secure provincial-like ownership of its resources. I will be questioning our Executive Committee on what action has been taken to determine how the policy affects us and what recommendations they have to offer for action to this Legislative Assembly.



### Assembly Developed Position On Constitutional Amendments

With respect to the constitutional amendments, we, as a government, did develop a position. At least two of our major requests have been reflected as Mr. Parker said, as new amendments in the recent -- last week, the entrenching of aboriginal rights, it has been said by some, is a great victory for native people in general across Canada. It can also be viewed as a victory for this Legislature as well, in light of what we said to the Senate committee and the position we took there. In addition, on Monday we learned that a further amendment making it possible for the territorial government to be represented by its elected representatives at First Ministers' Conferences was adopted and that aboriginal rights leaders would also be welcome at the First Ministers' Conference to discuss items related to their rights and treaties. This Legislature now has to decide and discuss what these amendments mean and whether we are prepared to accept the compromise since requests for amendments in the mobility rights area were denied. In addition, does our involvement at the First Ministers' Conference at the whim of the Prime Minister go far enough? There is no doubt that the settlement of land claims is a major issue facing this government and the people of the Northwest Territories, as Mr. Parker outlined in his opening Address.

### Responsibility Of Assembly Is To All Peoples Of NWT

Our major role and responsibility is to maintain the public government interests during negotiations. That is not to say that we cannot support the various land claim groups in their positions. However, first and foremost, our responsibility is to the collective interests of the people of the Northwest Territories. It stands to reason then that with many of the items in the claims to be negotiated, we as a government will be able to support without question the wishes of the native people. However, there will be items in all three claims which public government concerns must be registered and perhaps, in fact, this government will have to register a direct opposition. That action does not mean that we do not support the right of the native people to successfully negotiate and sign a fair and equitable settlement. It simply means that this Legislature has a much wider scope and responsibility than the land claim groups and those broader responsibilities must influence our decision in all cases.

While the revenue sharing priority is certainly a part of the whole picture of financial stability of the territorial government, we must spend time further developing our strategy on this important issue. It is not enough to say to the federal government, as we did when we issued our five conditions of support of the Norman Wells -- it is not enough to say that we want revenue sharing. We must define what we mean, develop our position, seek support for our position and initiate the meetings which must take place to get the federal government to listen to us. That is what aggressiveness is all about. That is what representing the people is all about. It is not enough to say what we want. We have to prove that we want it by our actions.

If we simply say it and do nothing, I assure you, it will not fall into our laps. If we are to extract a commitment for revenue sharing of any kind, it will be done through hard work, determination and the strength of our strategy. You are going to be hearing more about the beginnings of a strategy for revenue sharing when the standing committee tables its -- well, I tabled the report just a few minutes ago, called, "Responding to Non-Renewable Resource Development", and I certainly look forward to the discussion which will take place on that topic later in this session.

Language is another very important issue and one that we have made a lot of noise about, but really have not addressed in any in-depth way in this House, and soon this Legislature is going to have to face the fact that it does not even have a language policy.



### Education Is A Crisis Situation

With respect to education, though, we are addressing that through our special committee, and I look forward to a comprehensive report and set of recommendations in about 18 months -- perhaps even sooner. I believe, and stated so during a budget session in Yellowknife last February, that education in the North was in a crisis situation, particularly among native people, and the special education committee has been assigned the task of finding out why our children are not in school and why our functional illiteracy rate is an astounding 52.4 per cent. The question is, can we find solutions? I believe that they are going to try, and I support their work in this area wholeheartedly.

Another major priority must be in the area of land use planning and control. Unlike the provinces, where most decisions on land and resource use are made at the provincial level, decisions on these issues in the Northwest Territories are made by federal officials, through federal institutions. Approximately 98 per cent of the land in the Northwest Territories is federal crown land and every square mile has been claimed by the land claim groups. My biggest concern right now is that the federal government is developing a land use policy for the 80's. This document is eventually to be submitted to the federal cabinet for a decision. Well, I would like to know what this Legislature has to say about that. I will tell you what I would like to say. I would like to say, why do we not simply say that that is simply not acceptable and develop our own land use policy? Let us do something.

### Assembly Must Be Aggressive

What is to prevent this Legislature from taking the leadership in this matter? What is to prevent us from turning the tables for once, and setting up public hearings to address the whole area of land use in the Northwest Territories? Federal government does that all the time to us when it wants to stall or delay making a decision. So what if the federal government has not, by federal statute, turned over land to the people of the North? We live here, do we not? We do not intend to plunder our own land. We are reasonable people, are we not? Let us make our own set of rules about land use in the Northwest Territories and submit them to the federal government, and tell them that that is what we would like done. Let us not react to something that they want to see happen.

Let us not beg to be consulted in what they are doing, like we are second class citizens. We will only be masters in our own land if we really believe that we are. And I will say it again -- let us be aggressive. We should know what it is we want done with land North of 60 and we should let everyone else know it too.

And the same applies to resource management and control. We have to begin the struggle with the basic premise that the people of the North have a right to those resources, just as the people of Alberta and Newfoundland and all other provinces have a right to theirs. How much and under what arrangements still remains to be negotiated. I agree that there may be a new type of provincehood negotiated for the Northwest Territories. Perhaps revenue capping, as the Drury Report has suggested, will be instituted and granted; the federal interest is always to be considered in any development that occurs up here. I am the first to agree on that basic point. The fact remains, however, that if we agree here, in this Legislature, that the resources should belong -- rightfully belong -- to the people of the Northwest Territories, then it is time for this Legislature to act.

What is our strategy to wrest control of our resources from the feds? We have none, but it is not too late to develop one.

### Socio-Economic Issues Another Priority

I could add another priority to my list; socio-economic issues. What is this federal creature called EARP?

--- Laughter

How come it is talking about socio-economic impact when that responsibility, for all intents and purposes, is our responsibility?

The territorial government said to the Norman Wells EARP, Environmental Assessment and Review Panel process and the National Energy Board that it wants its own process. Have we followed through? Has the government designed a comprehensive review process of our own, as it said it was going to do several months ago? I will certainly be asking that question of the Executive Committee in the coming weeks of this session. And it does not matter if we do not have the money at this point in time. If we have a design, we have 60 per cent of the work done.

Now, having said all this, I want it clearly understood that I am not blaming the Executive Committee for the lack of positions and/or strategy on some of these issues. Many of these issues are being addressed by our Ministers, as Mr. Parker has indicated in his remarks. What I am saying is that when we threw out the Eighth Assembly's blueprint for action during the first session of the Ninth Assembly, we had nothing to replace it. I took the position at the time, and still do, that we did the right thing when we refused to be bound by the Eighth Assembly's position paper on constitutional development. I took that position, not because I did not agree with many of the things contained in that position paper, but rather because I felt it was important to demonstrate to the native land claim groups that the Ninth Assembly was prepared to begin with a fresh approach; that we were prepared to consult with those leaders and attempt to find common ground.

#### Federal Government's Decisions Will Affect Future Territorial Governments

The fact remains, however, that one full year has passed. Precious time has already gone by. It is now time -- indeed essential -- that we formulate the Ninth Assembly's position on many of the immediate constitutional issues, such as revenue sharing and resource and land management and control. We must be aware that these issues and decisions, which we know the federal government is making right now as we sit here, will affect whatever government or governments are established in the Northwest Territories in the future. We have an obligation to at least attempt to protect the rights of those government institutions.

As an example, this Assembly has declared its commitment in principle to a major division of the Northwest Territories. The new Eastern Arctic government is to be public government and it is to be called Nunavut. Whether or not I agree that the North should divide is not the issue here. The Legislature has decided to support division and I, with my position of unity, am in a minority. However, the Legislature, having taken that position, now has an obligation to speak on behalf of the future interest of that public government. In other words, even though Nunavut does not yet exist, this Legislature must make sure that its future is protected, just as we must protect the future interest of the territorial government or any public government which may replace the territorial government. The positions we take on revenue sharing, resource and land management and control, must reflect our awareness of this Legislature's responsibility in this crucial area.

#### Economic Benefits Are Not As Evident

Since I am talking about priorities, there is yet another issue which I think requires some urgent action, and I am in full support of our Minister of Renewable Resources and his staff receiving the funding for this urgent matter. We all agree here today that the practice of traditional pursuits, such as hunting and trapping, are important social, cultural and economic activities in the Northwest Territories. The social and cultural benefits are clearly evident. However, the economic benefits are not so clear. But economic benefits there are.



In 1974, \$18.5 million worth of country food was killed in the Northwest Territories for human consumption, according to a study done by the northern economic planning branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Has this government, and has the federal government, really comprehended just how valuable those caribou, deer, fish, ducks, ptarmigan, seals, and all the other animals northerners eat daily, really are? What would it cost this government if we had to supply beef and other forms of domestic meats to replace country foods? Let me tell you, the cost of living would surely skyrocket, and in communities where there is little or no economic base and therefore high unemployment, our social assistance program would assuredly bankrupt us.

So, in addition to the cultural and social reasons for maintaining a viable and healthy hunting and trapping industry in the Northwest Territories, we have a very serious economic reason, which we as a government cannot turn our back on. We must place the very highest priority on our wild animals -- much more so than our funds now permit. We must demand of the federal government its appreciation of our very serious situation with respect to the decline of our caribou herds. We must look at initiatives in breeding and herding caribou to strengthen the herds, for if we do not and if we lose that valuable resource, not only will we have a cultural and a social crisis on our hands, but an economic one as well.

One cannot be a Yellowknife Member and not talk about Yellowknife, my favourite city. No rise out of you?

---Laughter



MR. McLAUGHLIN: It is the only city up here.

MRS. SORENSEN: The issues in my city and among my constituents are not much different than anywhere in the Northwest Territories. Our ever-increasing power bills are a source of deep concern to my constituents and they look towards this Assembly to deal with Northern Canada Power Commission and its crippling act. I will be questioning the Executive Committee on what action they have taken as a result of my Frobisher Bay motion, which recommended that they begin negotiation with the federal government to forgive the huge debt load and to create a territorial power corporation or a territorial energy corporation.

Certainly housing is an issue too, particularly the high cost of owning one's own home, and I look forward to hearing more about the property tax rebate plan in response to my Baker Lake motion calling for a government tax rebate to home owners to offset the high cost of municipal property tax.

#### Day Care Issue

Day care is an issue too in Yellowknife, and following this session I plan on developing a comprehensive questionnaire on that topic, to initiate some thoughtful discussion on what role government should play in day care in Yellowknife and in the Northwest Territories. This government could, perhaps, be a leader in Canada in this important service, but of course it must not be done hastily or without careful consideration. In the meantime, I certainly feel that the new Stanton Yellowknife Hospital must have a day care facility for the 24 hour child care of its workers. At least 60 to 70 per cent of the hospital's workers are female and many have children which need day care services. In addition, we are expecting that it will be a teaching hospital and we will wish to encourage adults to take the paraprofessional training there. These adult students will be on a limited budget, and many will also have children who will require 24 hour day care. The day care facility need not necessarily be operated by the hospital -- that would certainly be an issue to discuss -- it could be a co-op, it could be privately run. What is essential is that a day care room with appropriate sinks and cupboards be a part of the plan for the construction of the building.

The cost of living certainly is an issue in Yellowknife, as it is in all regions of the Northwest Territories. I look forward to hearing from Yellowknife groups and individuals tomorrow in committee of the whole, on what recommendations they have for government action on this serious issue.

#### Cost Of Living Survey By Government

I am delighted with the territorial government's decision to do a spatial price survey and have reviewed the results of its June, 1980, survey, released last month. It is very important now that the government does periodic updates on that survey and I would suggest at least twice per year. In addition, we must also include other large centres like Inuvik, Frobisher Bay and Rankin Inlet. I would encourage the Executive Committee to add those communities to the list of those to be surveyed. It is not only a question, however, of how much do prices differ between a northern and a southern centre. In fact, we all know that prices are more in the North than in the South. We also already know that the further north one goes, the higher the costs. What we really need to know is what accounts for those price differences. What factors bring about a 26 per cent difference between the prices of food, clothing, transportation, health care, recreation, tobacco and alcohol in Yellowknife than those in Edmonton?

It is even more crucial in communities where the differences are much higher and competition much less, as earlier pricing surveys have revealed. I plan on asking the government questions on whether it does have plans to continue with the cost of living surveys and whether it plans to broaden the scope of the surveys, and further, whether a more in-depth analysis of why prices are higher will be done.

Yellowknifers are also concerned about the recommendations of the special committee on education concerning changes to the Student Grants and Bursaries Ordinance. These concerns were voiced during the three evenings of public meetings held in Yellowknife in mid-January. The overwhelming suggestion was that those recommendations be re-evaluated and that further thought and discussion take place before specific changes are made. I am confident that the committee has taken that advice and that they will seek the assistance of their newly hired consultant in this highly controversial area.

The public library in Yellowknife is certainly in a sad state of affairs, and I plan on asking the government about what plans it might have to assist the city of Yellowknife with the upgrading to an acceptable minimum of this important facility.

#### Health Aspect Of Orthodontistry

Certainly the loss of the travelling orthodontist is another issue, and one that I have already received letters from my constituents on, as well as from those people in other areas of the southern Mackenzie who are concerned. Many children have braces on their teeth for health reasons, and the myth that it is purely cosmetic must be tossed aside. Crooked teeth and problems with alignment can cause health and emotional problems and the services of an orthodontist are important, from a health care point of view, to the Northwest Territories. I certainly plan on asking the Executive Committee what steps it is taking to respond to this issue and if need be, will request that officials from National Health and Welfare appear before us to answer questions I have concerning this important aspect of health care.

Last Friday I received a letter from the Yellowknife branch of the Consumers' Association announcing the closing of the complaints inquiry section of their office due to a lack of financial support. I am extremely concerned about that decision and plan on questioning the president and the executive on reasons for their decision tomorrow when they appear before us to speak on the cost of living.

#### Views On Northern Preference

Finally, Mr. Speaker, there are other pressing issues, and which I will be discussing over the next six weeks. Northern preference, for instance, is something I felt was necessary and crucial to our economy and while there are various measures we can take to achieve that objective -- and I know the administration has been looking at various options -- I do plan on explaining in greater detail and perhaps in more philosophical terms why I feel so strongly about giving our northern entrepreneur a bit of a break.

With respect to the Legislative Assembly, I believe that for the purposes of primary and secondary education facilities and adult education, that there should be a film made on the Legislative Assembly and how it operates. In addition, I believe we should have our own annual report, particularly since the Legislative Assembly has assumed a much higher profile than in the past and there is a great deal of information to report about to the people of the North about their Legislative Assembly. A pictorial history of the workings of committees, this House and the Executive Committee, should be undertaken for inclusion in this annual report.

In conclusion then, Mr. Speaker, may I welcome all Members to Yellowknife. Yellowknife Members do plan on having a community welcome and get together during this session. I hope that your stay here is pleasant and that the weather remains agreeable. Mr. Speaker, I move that this Assembly express to the Commissioner its appreciation for his opening Address. Thank you.

---Applause



MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. Mrs. Sorensen. Are there any further replies to the Commissioner's Address?

We will then move on to the orders of the day. Item 6, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 1-81(1): Government Position On Bill C-48

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Hon. Mr. Nerysoo, Minister responsible for Energy. Bill C-48 has been mentioned a couple of times and in view of the fact that it is a bill that deals with oil and gas production and consumption, and which could have some very serious implications for the Northwest Territories, and the fact that it is presently being dealt with by the House of Commons, will the Minister tell this House what position or positions the Government of the Northwest Territories has taken with respect to that bill and what it is doing to present its positions to the federal government?

Return To Question 1-81(1): Government Position On Bill C-48

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, we have been invited to appear before the House of Commons committee on this bill and we will be doing so and obviously during the discussions in this House certainly some positions will be developed.

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

Question 2-81(1): Position Re DIAND Papers

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Hon. Mr. Braden, the Leader of the Elected Executive, also in reference to documents that were mentioned earlier I believe in both the Commissioner's Address and in Mrs. Sorensen's. In view of the fact that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is presently engaged in generating a series of far-ranging, long-term position papers that could have very serious implications for native peoples and for the North in general; and in view of the fact that it has already produced one general table called "Directional Plans for the 80's" and the second, more specific one, "Northern Land Use Planning", will the Minister tell this House what position or positions the Government of the Northwest Territories has taken, not only with respect to papers but with respect to the process that is going on and what it is doing to represent its position to the federal government?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the Hon. Mr. Braden.

Return To Question 2-81(1): Position Re DIAND Papers

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could respond to the hon. Member's question in general terms, I would like to indicate to this House that if he and Mrs. Sorensen think it is difficult getting documents out of the Executive Committee, I suggest they try getting them out of the federal government. It is a very, very difficult process. If you recall there was an incident a couple of years ago when some poor mandarin happened to release a document. He ended up being charged under the Official Secrets Act and went through all kinds of horror shows, personally and legally, to clear himself. I use this example, Mr. Speaker, to indicate that it is extremely difficult to get documents out of the federal government. They have all kinds of procedures, laws and regulations which make many federal civil servants extremely reluctant to release documents to the public, to the press, and especially to elected representatives of provincial and territorial legislatures.



So, I want to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the hon. Mr. MacQuarrie that while occasionally we find out that the federal government is doing some particular study, preparing a cabinet discussion paper, or preparing a cabinet decision paper, it is extremely difficult for us, even though I have an extremely capable person working for me in Ottawa, to do some of these things. It is extremely difficult for us to find out exactly what the federal government is doing.

So, with that particular background in mind, Mr. Speaker, I would indicate that we have received and incidentally we got it via the media, a document entitled "Direction for the 80's" that was prepared by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. We have examined this document and we have indicated to the federal Minister that we are interested in how this particular document was developed, as well as what particular status it had in department in his office and indeed in the government. We really have not had a substantive reply, which is nothing out of the ordinary. That should answer the question on that particular document. Could Mr. MacQuarrie indicate to me that that is the one he was talking about? Okay.

There are a number of other documents that are being prepared and I would like to indicate to you that, as one who has had experience in dealing with federal cabinet documents, I know they are not released to the public except through some nefarious means, such as perhaps the press may clue into from time to time, with all due respect to the press. But it is difficult to get hold of these documents and indeed, Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to find out the status of many of the federal actions in Ottawa.

I share the concern that was raised by my honourable colleague from Yellowknife South and we have tried to find out from time to time what the federal government is doing. From time to time, when it is convenient, they inform us of what they are doing. It is usually with a sort of one week or two reminder that "You are being consulted now, please inform us of your views." But I think the Member has raised a very reasonable question and that if we progress in the future, as Mrs. Sorensen said we should, to responsible government, one day we will get the recognition; one day we will have the status which will allow us to share in a decision making process and the planning process that takes place in central Canada. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 2-81(1)

MR. MACQUARRIE: Supplementary to that, Mr. Speaker, just so that there is no misunderstanding, do I get the message that the federal government which has produced papers such as "Directions for the 80's" and "Northern Land Use Planning", which affect the Northwest Territories, that they have not formally and officially delivered those papers to the Government of the Northwest Territories for its comment and so on?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Minister, Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would just like to reiterate for my honourable colleague that these papers that are being developed are cabinet papers and they are only for the eyes of certain officials, certain political representatives and certain ministers in the federal government. And while there may be, and I emphasize the word "may", dialogue with the Commissioner, there may be dialogue with my colleague, Mr. Butters, or there may be dialogue with me, that is something that is entirely up to the federal government. These documents, I must emphasize again, are cabinet documents. They are secret and it is at the discretion of a minister or a senior official as to whether they would like to discuss the substance or the intent of these documents with the Government of the Northwest Territories, with the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories or the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Unavailability Of Cabinet Documents

So, I would stress, Mr. Speaker, that we know these documents are being prepared. The mandarins tell us about them, the politicians tell us about them but it is at their discretion that they will occasionally share the substance of these documents. It is very difficult, Mr. Speaker, for us to get a hold of a cabinet document and indeed I would say to you today if I did happen to have a cabinet document in my file here, I could be liable under some federal laws or some federal regulations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. The hon. Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 3-81(1): Paper On Land Use Planning

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is another supplementary to Mr. MacQuarrie's to the Minister or the Leader of Elected Executive, who I must say is beginning to sound more like Trudeau every day. Mr. Minister, does the Department of Local Government have the paper entitled "Northern Land Use Planning" that is being developed by the mandarins in the federal government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I cannot speak for the Department of Local Government, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice and respond with a written reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Further oral questions? The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 4-81(1): Response To Question 193-80(2)

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is for the Minister in the House who is responsible for answering for the Department of Personnel. I am not sure who that is. Will the Minister tell me when I can expect a reply to Question 193-80(2), a simple question on the policy of this government in senior public service appointments with what one would expect is a relatively simple answer which I asked on November 5th in Frobisher Bay. And having received no answer, and about which I inquired by letter on December 30th, without again receiving a response, I would ask the Minister, does such determined silence mean that we have no policy or does that mean that we have a policy but we are ashamed of it or does it mean that we have a policy but are reluctant to make it known to the public or does it mean that I just should not ask such questions as that?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister, Mr. McCallum.

Partial Return To Question 4-81(1): Response To Question 193-80(2)

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, do I check one or all? I am not sure just why the Member, Mr. Speaker, has not received a reply to his request or his further request of December 30th. I will pursue that this evening with the pertinent officials and get an answer to him in a written reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further oral questions? It seems rather peculiar. When we were in Frobisher Bay, Mr. Patterson had all the oral questions.

---Laughter

When we are in Yellowknife, it seems the Yellowknifers have all of the...

---Laughter



HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I know better than to open my mouth in Hay River.

MR. SPEAKER: If there are no further oral questions, we will recess for 15 minutes and invite the gallery to join us for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Call the House back to order. Are there any further oral questions? Go on to Item 7, then, of the orders of the day. We are not evidently getting any...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Would you call for order please, Mr. Speaker, so that we can hear?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Is that any better now? Are there any further oral questions? We will then proceed to Item 7 on the orders of the day, written questions and returns. Are there any written questions?

Item 8, on your order paper, petitions.

Tabling of documents has been entered twice. However, I will accept any further documents to be tabled at this time.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees.

ITEM NO. 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The hon. Mrs. Sorensen.

Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, your standing committee on finance has met over the past year and has had the services of a consultant in order to prepare its report entitled, "Responding to Non-Renewable Resource Development". That report is now ready and your committee respectfully submits the report and its recommendations for your perusal, and hopefully, approval.

Motion To Refer Report Of Standing Committee Of Finance To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Without further comment then, I will move, seconded by the Member from Pine Point, that the report of the standing committee of finance entitled, "Responding to Non-Renewable Resource Development", be referred to the committee of the whole for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Question.

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

---Carried

Are there any further reports of standing and special committees? Item 11, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 11: NOTICES OF MOTION

The hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Motion 1-81(1): Invitation To DIAND Representative, Deputy Minister Paul Tellier

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Friday, February 6th, I will move, seconded by the hon. Member for Yellowknife South, that this Assembly, through its Speaker, invite Deputy Minister Paul Tellier of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to appear before it, prior to the end of this session, to explain his department's initiatives in planning directions for the 1980's and his view of this Assembly's role in that planning.



MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices of motion? Item 12, motions. There cannot be any motions today. Item 13, introduction of bills.

ITEM NO. 13: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS FOR FIRST READING

The Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will try one out, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Members would permit unanimous consent for me to give first reading to Bill 1-81(1), the ordinance respecting expenditures for the public service.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: The request being asked for unanimous consent to present Bill 1-81(1), is it Mr. Butters?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Permission is granted, Mr. Butters. Proceed.

First Reading Of Bill 1-81(1): Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill 1-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1982, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have a seconder on that? The Hon. Mr. Braden. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried. Bill 1-81(1) has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 14 on the order paper, second reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 14: SECOND READING OF BILLS

The Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in view of the acquiescent mood demonstrated by the House, I wonder if I might advance the possibility of seeking unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 1-81(1)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is not required, Mr. Butters. You may proceed with the bill. If there is an objection and it is raised, and if there are two people in opposition, then you cannot proceed, but you can proceed at this time. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Second Reading Of Bill 1-81(1): Appropriation Ordinance, 1981-82

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 1-81(1), An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1982, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for expenditures for the public service for the next financial year.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? The Hon. Mr. Braden. Discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Bill 1-81(1) has had second reading.

---Carried

I presume that that is all the bills that we have available for second reading, so we will proceed. Mr. Clerk, do you have Item 15, orders of the day?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Speaker, I have two announcements, if I might proceed. There will be a meeting of the standing committee of finance at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow in Katimavik A. There is a meeting of the special committee on impact at 9:30 a.m., Friday. Members, I believe, are aware of their dinner invitation this evening in the Caribou Room of the Yellowknife Inn.

ITEM NO. 15: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, February 5, 1981, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. 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. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
11. Introduction of Bills for First Reading
12. Second Reading of Bills
13. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: The Cost of Living in the Northwest Territories; Bill 1-81(1)
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 5, 1981, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT



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