



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1981

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Curley, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McLaughlin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Noah, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Hon. Don Stewart, Hon. Kane Tologank, Hon. James Wah-Shee

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon: Don Stewart): The orders of the day for Saturday, November 14th.

Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address.

Item 3, oral questions.

Item 4, questions and returns.

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 6: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me pleasure at this time on behalf of the special committee on education and my co-chairman, Tagak Curley, to table Tabled Document 6-81(3), Education in the Northwest Territories, an Interim Report of the Special Committee on Education. I would also at this time like to thank very much the Department of Information and the interpreters who work in that department and the printing staff, because they produced this document in fine form for us after only having it in their possession for about a week.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin.

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

ITEM NO. 7: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that your special committee met today and considered the following business: Recessing of the Assembly, the establishment of a special committee and issues relating to the constitution of Canada, and motions will be presented on these subjects.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 9, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 9: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Curley.

Notice Of Motion 2-81(3): Aboriginal Rights And The Position Of The NWT, Constitution Of Canada

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that I will be asking for unanimous consent to move the following motion: Now therefore, I move that this House strongly urge the Prime Minister of Canada -- before I go on, Mr. Speaker, this motion is seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South -- the Prime Minister of Canada to: (i) reinstate aboriginal rights of the native people of the Northwest Territories in the proposed Constitution Act in the category of matters, amendments to which may be made only by proclamation issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada when authorized by resolutions of the Senate and the House of Commons and all the legislative assemblies of all the provinces; (ii) delete the provisions relating to the extension of existing provinces into the Territories and the establishment of new provinces from the proposed Constitution Act and restore it to the exclusive jurisdiction of the parliament of Canada; so that they fall within the category of matters for which parliament may exclusively make laws amending the constitution of Canada.

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

Notice Of Motion 3-81(3): Special Committee On Constitution Of Canada

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice of the following motion and that I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion later today.

I move that this House establish a special committee to be known as the special committee on the constitution of Canada, to be chaired by Ms Nellie Cournoyea and the Hon. George Braden, and notwithstanding Rule 75(1a), to consist of all Members of this Legislative Assembly; and further that this committee shall have the responsibility of representing in every way possible the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories with respect to the constitution of Canada; and further that this committee shall: a) report with recommendations to the Legislative Assembly within a period not exceeding one year; b) have access to such persons, papers and records as are necessary to its business; c) be provided with the necessary administrative support by the Legislative Assembly office; d) have a quorum consisting of 12 Members; e) be provided through the appropriations with adequate funds to defray all expenses sufficient to enable it to function effectively; and f) undertake such travel as is required to carry out its assigned responsibilities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Ms Cournoyea.

Notice Of Motion 4-81(3): Adjournment And Reconvening Of Session

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion, a motion by myself, seconded by George Braden, that this session be adjourned at the close of today's business to permit the special committee on the constitution of Canada to undertake its responsibilities. And further that the House be reconvened at a date and time to be set by the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 10, motions.

ITEM NO. 10: MOTIONS

Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask for unanimous consent to move the motion that I just gave notice.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Were there any nays? You have the floor, Mr. Curley. Your motion is in order.

---Agreed

Motion 2-81(3): Aboriginal Rights And The Position Of The NWT, Constitution Of Canada

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly fully supports the recognition and protection of the aboriginal rights of all native peoples of Canada in the constitution of Canada;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly has as its objective the reinstatement of the aboriginal rights of the native people of the Northwest Territories in the constitution of Canada and the restoration of the jurisdiction for the Territories to the parliament of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has special responsibility and jurisdiction over the Northwest Territories and its people;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that this House strongly urge the Prime Minister of Canada to:

(i) reinstate aboriginal rights of the native people of the Northwest Territories in the proposed Constitution Act in the category of matters, amendments to which may be made only by proclamation issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada when authorized by resolutions of the Senate and the House of Commons and all the legislative assemblies of all the provinces;

(ii) delete the provisions relating to the extension of existing provinces into the Territories and the establishment of new provinces from the proposed Constitution Act and restore it to the exclusive jurisdiction of the parliament of Canada; so that they fall within the category of matters for which parliament may exclusively make laws amending the constitution of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Your motion is in order, Mr. Curley.

Deprivation Of Rights And Freedoms Of NWT People

MR. CURLEY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think our deliberations yesterday pointed out clearly that we have strong concerns with respect to the two matters that affect the people of the Northwest Territories and the present Government of the Northwest Territories by the proposed Constitution Act.

We believe even though the Canadian Prime Minister and provinces have accepted the somewhat limited charter of rights for the people of Canada -- I believe that the new Canadian constitution would further take away the rights of the

people of the Northwest Territories, particularly the native people, by deleting section 34 of the Canadian Constitution Act. Also, I think many of the provincial leaders have been attempting to convince us, the Canadian people, throughout the year that they should have the rights and responsibility for their own people, but by the very agreement they signed last April in Montreal they deleted the freedom of the people of the Northwest Territories and subjected to the provincial consent. I believe this is unacceptable. It took away the democratic rights and freedoms of the people of the Northwest Territories and they should be told so. We today, by this motion, Mr. Speaker, urge the Members of the Assembly to indicate our objection to the proposed amending formula, which would deprive the right of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories to have any say about the development and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories. If they are so interested in extending their provinces to the existing two Territories they should have told us, but they never told us, in spite of the fact that they were attempting to be the spokesmen for the people of Canada.

I would urge that the message be sent strongly to the premier of British Columbia, premier of Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario, and Newfoundland, that the people of the Northwest Territories would like to have their freedom, and that freedom should be guaranteed by the Constitution Act. This motion, Mr. Speaker, I believe is strongly urging the Members of the Assembly to adopt the policy that we will not settle for anything less than reinstating section 34, related to the aboriginal rights of the people, native people, and also, providing that provision requiring provincial consent for provinces with interests in extending their boundaries to the Territories. I believe this is not at all acceptable, and it deprives the rights and freedoms and the democratic rights of the people of the Northwest Territories. So, I just would like to urge the Members to unanimously support the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. As seconder of the motion, Mrs. Sorensen.

Quotations From The Globe And Mail, Wednesday, November 11, 1981

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislature, I rise to support whole-heartedly this motion and would like to take this opportunity to further explain some of the background and the developments which bring this Legislature to this extremely serious decision. I think I can best do that by directly quoting and tabling a newspaper article written by one Michael Valpy in The Globe and Mail on Wednesday, November 11th. It is entitled, "The Sellout of Canadian Native Rights", and it begins with a quote: "I say it quite openly, Mr. Chairman, it is a difficult role very often to convey to other Canadians that if justice is to be done in the country it must ... be done first to Canada's aboriginal people." That quote was from Jake Epp, chief Conservative constitutional critic.

Now the article itself: "Let me take you back to Friday, January 30th -- to the cut glass chandeliers, the television lights, the stuffed chairs, the mirrors, the rich red and gold wallpaper of room 200 of parliament's West Block. It was a historic moment. It was the kind of moment when politicians impurple their rhetoric to the gag level. Self-congratulation oozed throughout the room. New Democrats, Liberals and Conservatives bid against each other to praise themselves for what they had just done.

"Liberal Senator Jack Austin's voice choked with tears. He called it 'an incredible accomplishment of Canada ... I think it proves just how strong, how practical, how pragmatic, but particularly how just and equitable Canadians can be and are.'

"Justice Minister John Chrétien turned grandly to the national leaders of the Indian, Inuit and Metis associations. He gestured to the table around which he and the members of the Senate-Commons committee on the constitution were sitting. He said, 'May I invite the three leaders to come and sit right here to join me.' And when they did -- Del Riley of the National Indian Brotherhood, Eric Tagoona of the Inuit Tapirisat, Harry Daniels of the Native Council of Canada -- Mr. Chrétien laughed and said: 'Now they are my advisers.'

"The occasion? The federal government, with the support of the two opposition parties, had agreed that something called aboriginal rights should be 'recognized and affirmed' in the constitution of Canada. To Peter Ittinuar, the Inuit NDP MP from the Northwest Territories, Mr. Chrétien gave the honour of introducing in English the amendment to the government's constitutional resolution that would allow for the aboriginal rights section. To former Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Warren Allmand, a tireless champion of native rights, Mr. Chrétien gave the honour of introducing the amendment in French. As for Mr. Chrétien himself, again and again he said that night how pleased he was, what a satisfaction it was to him, how important the event was.

"Nine months and four days later, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau struck a backroom deal with the nine anglophone provincial premiers. He agreed, among other things, to drop the aboriginal rights section; they agreed to take what was left of his charter of rights and freedoms. No one on the federal side bothered to seek the advice or consent of Mr. Chrétien's 'advisers' -- the leaders of the aboriginal groups.

"As the premiers and Prime Minister spoke on Thursday -- with much self-praise for their new historic accomplishment -- only Saskatchewan's Allen Blakeney mentioned what had been done to the native peoples. Later on Thursday, when the leaders of the three federal parties made statements in the House of Commons, none mentioned the deletion of aboriginal rights."

That night the NDP parliamentary caucus met. Mr. Broadbent, who personally nine months before had urged Mr. Trudeau to include aboriginal rights in the constitution, announced the caucus was overwhelmingly in favour of the principles of the agreement.

"Only two MPs out of 282 -- NDP justice critic Svend Robinson, Burnaby, and the Liberals' Warren Allmand -- have said publicly they cannot support the agreement because of the aboriginal rights deletion.

"A lot of words have been spoken about the politics of aboriginal rights and the significance of the section that had been deleted. Here is an attempted explanation of what they mean: To begin with, when people talk about the now deleted section -- section 34 -- they are talking about aboriginal land claims. The native peoples, through section 34, had won constitutional acknowledgement of the principle that they have some kind of legal claim to the lands that they had always occupied. The federal government, since 1973, has accepted the principle. Most provincial governments have not. If the constitutional resolution had been passed with section 34 left in, the principle would have been binding on the provinces.

"Federal people say section 34 was taken out at the request of the governments of British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. That may be true, but it overlooks the fact that every other government agreed. Provincial premiers who were interviewed after the constitutional agreement said section 34 was deleted because the native peoples themselves objected to it. That is at best a part truth, but the native peoples objected to it because it did not go far enough, not because they did not like what was there. They wanted section 34 to recognize aboriginal 'title' rather than aboriginal 'rights'. The reason for

that is because the courts to date have gone only as far as defining 'rights' to mean 'usufructuary interest' -- that is: 'use' rather than 'ownership' of land. They also wanted to be able to veto any constitutional amendment affecting aboriginal rights -- a logical position, given the fact not only of provincial opposition to the principle, but of federal vacillation.

"Look at the history: Federal governments accepted the principle of aboriginal land claims in the mid 1870s, during part of the early 1900s and since 1973. Otherwise they have not. Provincial opposition can best be illustrated by a look at British Columbia. British Columbia governments have opposed unwaveringly the concept of aboriginal rights for more than a century. They have refused to negotiate with native peoples, they have refused to go into court on the issue. They have argued either that aboriginal rights never existed -- that the Indians have no notion of land 'ownership' in the European sense -- or that, if they did exist, they were extinguished by the colonial administration before British Columbia joined confederation.

"In 1909, British Columbia Premier Richard McBride said: 'Of course it would be madness to think of conceding to Indians' demands. It is too late to discuss the equity of disposing the Red Man in North America.' That statement bears similarities to one made by Prime Minister Trudeau in 1969. He said: 'Our answer is no. We can't recognize aboriginal rights because no society can be built on historical might-have-beens.'

"In 1927, the federal government even amended the Indian Act to make it an offence to raise or provide money for any Indian band to pursue a land claim. The penalty was a maximum fine of \$200 or two months imprisonment. What changed things was the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Nishga case. The Nishga Indians of northwestern British Columbia -- represented by a Vancouver lawyer named Thomas Berger -- succeeded in getting before the supreme court in 1971 to ask for a judicial declaration that they had aboriginal title to their lands. They lost technically but won a victory in principle.

"Six of the seven judges acknowledged the existence of the concept of aboriginal rights -- in other words, that native people could have a claim to their historic lands similar to the European notion of ownership. Three of the six said the Nishga claim still existed. Three said it had been extinguished at confederation. The seventh judge gave no opinion. On the basis of that court decision, the federal government agreed to negotiate land claims. Constitutional recognition of the court's decision and the federal government's agreement was one more evolutionary step.

"That step has now been un-taken. The lawyer who represented the Nishga is now Mr. Justice Thomas Berger of the British Columbia supreme court and author of the Berger report, pretty much a charter of rights for native peoples in the North. He was in Ottawa on a promotion tour for his new book 'Fragile Freedoms: Human Rights and Dissent in Canada'. Its last chapter praised the federal government for putting aboriginal rights in its constitutional proposal and it predicted that at last provincial governments might be brought to the negotiating table on land claims. Mr. Justice Berger reflected with a wry grin how prophetic the title of his book turned out to be, 'Fragile Freedoms'. 'You know,' he said, 'as important as a strict legal meaning that section is the symbolic meaning that it had -- and the symbolic meaning of its repudiation'." That is the end of the article, Mr. Speaker.

Provinces Have Abandoned The Native People

Mr. Speaker, this Legislature is so concerned about the removal of section 34 from the constitution, so much so that all 22 of our Members have decided to go to Ottawa to make our feelings, our unanimous feelings, known to the Prime Minister of Canada. Mr. Speaker, the provinces have abandoned the native people

and as a Canadian, I can only say how disgusted I am with each of the premiers. The premiers had the opportunity to right the wrongs that have been done in the past and to recognize officially the first citizens of this country, yet they chose not to do that. They chose not to do that deliberately and, in my opinion, viciously. Not only did they remove section 34, but they took a deliberate further step...

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen, in all due respect, I have been more than lenient, but you are really not talking to the motion. Would you please talk to the motion?

MRS. SORENSEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can only then conclude that I am pleased on behalf of my constituents, the people of Yellowknife South, and on behalf of myself to be able to support this motion and to be able to go to Ottawa and bring to the Prime Minister of Canada our feelings in this matter, and I would urge that all premiers re-examine their positions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called.

MR. CURLEY: Recorded.

Motion 2-81(3), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Recorded vote being requested. Is that right? Recorded vote, Mr. Clerk. Would you please stand? All those in favour of the motion?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Tologanak, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, Mr. Noah, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Braden, Mr. Butters, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Fraser.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the record show that that is a unanimous vote. Mr. Sibbeston.

---Carried

---Applause

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I had referred to earlier.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent being requested. Are there any nays? You have unanimous consent, Mr. Sibbeston. Proceed.

---Agreed

Motion 3-81(3): Special Committee On Constitution Of Canada

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS this Assembly has by motion expressed its deep concern over the recent federal-provincial agreement on the Canadian constitution;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly has expressed a desire to seek changes to the recent agreement before it is approved by the House of Commons;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by Mr. Robert Sayine, that this House establish a special committee to be known as the special committee on the constitution of Canada, to be chaired by Ms Nellie Cournoyea and the Hon. George Braden, and notwithstanding Rule 75(1a), to consist of all Members of this Legislative Assembly;

And further that this committee shall have the responsibility of representing in every way possible the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories with respect to the constitution of Canada;

And further that this committee shall:

- a) report with recommendations to the Legislative Assembly within a period not exceeding one year;
- b) have access to such persons, papers and records as are necessary to its business;
- c) be provided with the necessary administrative support by the Legislative Assembly office;
- d) have a quorum consisting of 12 members;
- e) be provided through the appropriations with adequate funds to defray all expenses sufficient to enable it to function effectively;
- f) undertake such travel as is required to carry out its assigned responsibilities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Just one moment. Mr. Clerk, please. Your motion is in order, Mr. Sibbeston. Proceed please.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say briefly that during the past few days, the matter of the agreement on the proposed constitution has been with us and sometimes the debate on the matter has arisen to great heights of emotion and other times has been dealt with less emotionally but yet solemnly and in a very serious tone. As Mr. Speaker knows, a message was sent to Prime Minister Trudeau on the first day of our session asking him to meet with this Legislative Assembly. The concern, of course, is the federal-provincial agreement of November 5th which excluded clause 34, the clause dealing with aboriginal rights; and also the second issue, of course, is the matter of the

agreement providing for new provinces and extension of provincial boundaries, these being the subject of provincial consent. To date the Prime Minister has not responded formally to the request of this Assembly. Therefore, this motion is now made as a result of not hearing from the Prime Minister and also with the plan of dealing with the Prime Minister in this matter in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, the intent now is to establish a special committee on the Canadian constitution and to have this Assembly go to Ottawa to see the Prime Minister. The intent is to have a special committee go to Ottawa and to tell, not just the Prime Minister of the concerns of the northern people, but to tell all Canadians, be we Dene, Inuit or white, that we are concerned about the issue of aboriginal rights and the Northwest Territories becoming future provinces, Nunavut and Denendeh. If it were technically possible, Mr. Speaker, to have had a full Legislative Assembly session in Ottawa, I believe we would have. Not being able to, because of restrictions in the Northwest Territories Act, we are doing the next best thing in establishing a special committee and all of us, 22 of us, heading down to Ottawa.

I want to say in conclusion that as a person of Dene origin, I am proud of all the Members of this Assembly who have given support thus far, and I want to say that this includes everybody in this Assembly. We have had some slight disagreements...

---Applause

We have had some slight disagreements but these have not been on the major principles of aboriginal rights and provincial aspirations for the North. They have been on process and I am pleased to say that all of these have now been ironed out. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Sayine as seconder. Mr. Sayine is not in the House at the moment. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, perhaps you will permit me to say a few words in support of the motion. The Prime Minister now has an opportunity to meet with us and undo the treacherous act that he was a party to in embracing this agreement so readily. I feel that a few points might be mentioned at this time in that regard.

Opportunity To Correct Mistake Of Deletion Of Section

On studying the agreement made by the nine premiers -- a copy of the original agreement has been given to Members and I have studied it quite carefully -- I am encouraged that the provincial premiers did not have the courage or the decency in their formal accord to mention what they had agreed to take out of the constitution, particularly section 34 which we are so concerned about. It is not a subject of their agreement nor was it a subject of the announcement which is attached to the text, which is attached to the agreement. In an editorial in the Globe and Mail, November 7th, 1981, the writer suggests that perhaps the first ministers were exhausted and "made some mistakes which they will correct". I think that we may have a chance, a good chance, to persuade the Prime Minister by going, every last one of us, and earnestly pressing our case, that there has been a terrible error made and that he has the opportunity and even the excuse, based on this oversight, to omit the deletion of section 34 in the signed agreement to right this wrong. We have an excellent case to make. The Northwest Territories government has been, by this accord, excluded from an opportunity to meet with the first ministers to discuss the subject in future. He must give us a hearing and as to the place of the native people in history and preserving their rights...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, in due respect, you are not speaking to the motion. I realize that everybody wishes to say certain things in this regard, but in principle of debate on motions, you must stay to the motion and really there is not that wide a leeway to be able to continue your thread.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I support the motion, Mr. Speaker, because it gives us an opportunity to press our case, that we have established -- the native people of the Northwest Territories have established sovereignty for Canada in these lands and they owe us recognition in return for that favour. I am optimistic and hopeful, and I know we have support from all the people in the Northwest Territories to abandon whatever other important business this House may have because nothing is more important than settling this matter and settling it immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the motion.

MR. FRASER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. The mover of the motion, do you wish to close debate, Mr. Sibbeston, or are you ready for the question?

MR. SIBBESTON: Question.

Motion 3-81(3), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Any abstentions? Let the record show that it is unanimous.

---Carried

---Applause

Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: I wish to ask for unanimous consent to deal with the motion that I tabled earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent being requested. Are there any nays? You have unanimous consent. Proceed.

---Agreed

Motion 4-81(3): Adjournment And Reconvening Of Session

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS this Assembly has established a special committee on the constitution of Canada;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this session be adjourned at the close of today's business to permit the special committee on the constitution of Canada to undertake its responsibilities. And further, that the House be reconvened at a date and time to be set by the Speaker.

Seconded by Hon. George Braden.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your motion is in order. Proceed.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe that on the need and urgency of this matter, as discussed yesterday and today, there is very little I can add. It is obvious that in all our deliberations and communications with Ottawa, Ottawa will not come to us. We must go to Ottawa. That may be significant in how they deal with the problems and issues of the Northwest Territories and they have been dealing with the aboriginal people in the past three or four years, in their inability to deal with the land claims question. I believe that this will be the first time in history, other than for social reasons, that an entire Legislative Assembly will travel to the capital city of Ottawa on such a critical nature.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Braden is the seconder. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, just briefly I would like to suggest that the substance of this motion should be communicated to community leaders throughout the Northwest Territories as quickly as possible. The public is in a state of great agitation and concern. We have seen some of the unfortunate evidences of their frustration. I am aware that public meetings have taken place within the last few hours in various communities and I think it is most important that people of the Northwest Territories know that this Assembly feels the matter is urgent enough that we will take the situation in hand and press their case with their wishes in our minds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Clerk has assured me that he will see that this is done.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 4-81(3), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Are there any abstentions? Let the record show that it is unanimous.

---Carried

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 12, second reading of bills.

Item 13, consideration in the committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters. Is it the wish of this House to dissolve into committee of the whole to discuss matters relating to the constitution of Canada?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. SPEAKER: I take it that you do not wish to go into committee of the whole at this time. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day. There will be a caucus meeting immediately following the adjournment for today. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day for the next sitting day of this Assembly, at 1:00 p.m., Katimavik Room, Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to 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 for First Reading of Bills
9. Notices of Motion
10. Motions
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: Tabled Document 5-81(3), Our Land Our Future, Discussion Paper on Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until such time as it is recalled by the authority of the Chair.

---ADJOURNMENT

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