



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

8th Session

9th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1982

Pages 438 to 454

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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INUVIK, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1982

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Ms Cournoyea,
Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. MacQuarrie, Hon. Arnold McCallum,
Mr. McLaughlin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Noah, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pudluk,
Mrs. Sorensen, Hon. Don Stewart

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Saturday, May 22nd.

Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 2: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Fraser

Mr. Fraser's Reply

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Commissioner, fellow Members, ladies and gentlemen, I feel it my duty to make a few comments. They call it replies to Commissioner's Address and I wonder if it really should be called replies to Commissioner's Address. At one time you could have called it the Commissioner's Address, because the Commissioner and his senior staff were the ones that made the decisions for the Northwest Territories. It was not too long ago that we had elected Members on the Executive Committee and now we have Members that are representatives of this Assembly and decisions are made through the Executive Members and the Commissioner, therefore, maybe the address should be changed, as it is not only the Commissioner's decisions that he is talking about. He is talking about decisions of the Members of the Executive Committee, on which we have five Members.

Those Members that are on the Executive Committee were appointed by this Legislative Assembly, appointed by us to work for our interests. It is a job that I would not want. I had an opportunity to apply for a position on the Executive Committee; however, I chose not to. It is a pretty tough job when you think that you have to satisfy 21 other Members, as well as try to be fair with the rest of the staff and the Executive. I would not have any part of it myself, because I did not think that I could handle that position and I still do not think I could. They seem to get a lot of criticism. I think it is a job where you are damned if you do and you are damned if you do not. It is pretty hard to satisfy everybody and to come up with the right decision, that would satisfy other Members. It is just about impossible and I have not heard too many of the replies that were throwing any bouquets their way. It is mostly criticism -- what the Minister of Housing did not do and what the Minister of Local Government did not do and none of them seem to be doing anything right. I wonder if maybe a little bit of encouragement once in a while might help.

I realize we have 22 Members in the Legislative Assembly, five of whom we have elected to sit as Executive Members. They were put in there to make decisions, but for them to make decisions that would satisfy everybody, I think is almost impossible. I think what we have to do, Mr. Speaker, is to try to work together and work with the Members, not against. My honourable colleague tells me there are seven. I do not count. I never went to school on Saturday, so I cannot count that good. However, we have seven; seven days in the week.

An oldtimer once told me -- and I will remember this as long as I live. I was not very big then I used to take pride in this little fellow. He was an old trapper and a hunter. Most of us used to use six or seven dogs for hunting and fishing and he only used three dogs and it seemed to me like he could always carry the same amount of load and get there at the same time. So I was interested and I asked him and he said, "If you get three dogs that pull together they will pull just as much as eight dogs pulling together." So, I think maybe if we use that as an example, if we could get 22 Members pulling together instead of seven pulling one way and the others trying to discriminate and run them down -- you are not going to get anywhere that way with this Legislative Assembly.

Appreciation Of Executive Committee Members

I think everybody has had the chance to get in as an Executive Member. I told you that I was afraid of it, because I did not think I could handle it and I still think the same way. I do not think I could handle it and I do not think I could satisfy everybody and I would not be as patient as some of them are. That was my big fear, that I could not be as patient as some of them are. I believe that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones and if they want to throw stones, they should be able to get them thrown back, but it does not always work like that and I felt, after listening to the replies this time and the last time, that maybe if we give them a little bit of support and a little bit of praise once in a while in the House, in public, it might help. I notice Members are always ready to give praise and a little bit of encouragement when they are sitting in the bar or sitting and having a lunch or something. They are glad to give them a little bit of praise, "You did a fine job", but when you get in front of the public and start running your colleagues down, I cannot buy that. I think it should be the same, whether you are drinking coffee, drinking beer, or sitting in the House, good feelings should be made known and maybe we would get a better job done.

I would like to speak a bit on the education committee report. I have heard it mentioned in this House in the last few days once or twice and I thought it was only right that I should maybe speak a little bit to it. Apparently everybody says the report is a good report. They want to see some changes. There have been a few that criticized the report; most Members said that it was a good report, but that is always said anyway when a report comes in. You have to say it is a good report whether it is good or bad. We had a report that was brought into this House in Frobisher Bay by one of our Members and I am sure that Member worked on that report 20 hours a day if not more and he thought it was a perfect report.

MR. MacQUARRIE: You contributed.

MR. FRASER: I contributed to it to a certain extent, maybe an hour while he worked the rest of the time.

---Laughter

However, that report was brought before the House in Frobisher Bay and we decided that it would go through without any difficulty so we would go on the air, on CBC, across the Territories. Well, after about 20 or 30 amendments and eight

days later, we finally got the report finished. Unfortunately, from that report stemmed a few other reports which we are still dealing with...

---Laughter

...and I think the Member now is sorry that he ever went to all the trouble...

MR. MacQUARRIE: No way.

MR. FRASER: ...to put a report in.

---Laughter

He did not figure that there would be any amendments to it. He thought it was a cut-and-dried deal but apparently he was only guessing.

Acceptance Of Report Anticipated

Now we have come up with an education committee report. Well, first we had the impact report which was knocked down the first day in the House and unfortunately it did not last very long anyway, and then comes the education report which was set up two years ago. It took them two years to decide that they were going to change the Education Ordinance -- and I grant you, it needs some changes; it can stand a lot of changes -- but our co-chairman tells us that he printed 17,000 copies of the already finished draft and thought that he was going to bring it to the House and just run it right through, no problems. "There it is; there is Learning: Tradition and Change in the Northwest Territories. You guys have to take this report and put an 'okay' on it and we are away." Well, that is not the case. We had a draft copy -- I do not have one right here -- that was presented to us at the last session, the budget session, and I think it is almost the same as this one but that was only presented to the Assembly on the last day of sitting and the final draft was to be presented at this session.

So it was decided at the last session to hold our session in Inuvik for two weeks to deal with this report. I was at the caucus meeting, as were a lot of other Members, when we decided that we would go to Inuvik. We did not have too much other business to do so we would deal with the report of the education committee. So on the 11th of May we travelled to Inuvik, opened the House on the 12th and it was, I would say, more than the usual crowd that we had at this opening, a good turnout. The House opened at 2:30 and at 3:30 one of the Members decided to make a motion and asked for unanimous consent to shut the whole thing down -- "Let us get working in the morning and get out of here." We had Members, distinguished guests, at the sitting and I did not think it was right that I should grant unanimous consent to that type of a thing. I thought we could have done it better in caucus and it is a wonder some of the media did not pick that up and kick it around a bit. Maybe they did; I did not hear it, though. It seemed that we came here to discuss the education report and then an hour later we wanted to work day and night to get it over with and get home.

More Time Needed To Discuss Report

Myself, I was prepared to stay two weeks. However, I know it is a bad time of year, when all the Members like to get home. When you see those geese flying toward your home town, you want to make sure you greet them and that is what spring is, I guess. We got through 14 recommendations on the report. I do not know if we will get into committee of the whole this morning. Maybe we might get another one done; that will make it 15. We are just about one third of the way through, but to try and get through it in two weeks, I think, is saying a little bit too much. I would give it more like two years. My learned friend next to me here who is educated has about 60 amendments to this "Learning: Tradition and Change" and he has got them all typed out.

---Laughter

He does not know who is going to translate them for him yet.

---Laughter

So how can you expect to deal with something like this in two weeks when we still have to deal with it in the fall? I think we had better make that fall session six weeks if we are going to finish this thing. As I said, there is nothing wrong with the report; I think the changes are long overdue, but let us not run into it headlong and push it through without the rest of the Members. I do not think four Members can talk for the other 18 or so and say, "Well, this is what you have to deal with and that is it." I am quite sure the Minister of Education will agree that there will have to be some changes and I think once the rest of the Members get input into the report, it will be a good report. However, my estimate would be a year down the road before everything is finally finalized and we can work from there. There should be a lot of changes with all the telexes and the tabled documents that are passed around saying, "Don't deal with it, don't deal with it". What else can you do?

Plebiscite Meeting In Inuvik

I would like to touch briefly on the plebiscite that was held on April the 14th. I was not campaigning for a yes vote but I was not campaigning for a no vote. I could not go either way. Myself, I voted "Yes". I cannot see denying the people in the Eastern Arctic their rights. They think they want to divide the Territories and have their own government. Why deny them that right? My feeling was that the way some of the Members are talking here, we are not doing the job anyway so maybe they can do it just as well, maybe better. I did travel to some of the settlements and briefly talked about the plebiscite. As a matter of fact, I was asked to come to Inuvik to talk about it by the mayor of Inuvik, saying that it would be a good idea if I came down here. A lot of the people did not understand what it was all about. I said, "Well, I would be glad to talk to you", and I was going to do some travelling with the Member for the Western Arctic. Unfortunately we did not get to travel to some of the settlements in the East. However, I did come to Inuvik. I announced over CBC that I would be holding a meeting on Friday and I would come in here on Thursday at noon. It was on CBC that I would be holding a meeting on Friday evening. I went to all the trouble of renting a conference room in the Eskimo Inn, had coffee and doughnuts, and the meeting was to start at 8:00 o'clock and we had a total of eight people show up.

That was fine. It did not bother me. We discussed the plebiscite a bit and the Member for the Western Arctic was there and she made a brief presentation to the members that were present and we had coffee and doughnuts and went home. But first thing in the morning my phone rang and who was on the phone but the mayor of Inuvik who asked me how the meeting went. I said "Why did you not come and find out?" You know, none of her colleagues were there -- I think there was one member there if I am not mistaken -- but she had other things that she had to do, and I said, "Well, I have something else I want to do right now too, so forget it." Then I had just hung up the phone and CBC phoned and wanted me to give them an interview on how the meeting went and I said, "You go to hell, too. If you wanted to know how the meeting went, you should have been there. You knew all about it." So that was the end of that. I got a plane the next day and went back to Norman Wells.

Restricted Travel Influenced Vote

I think maybe if we had gone out a little more in the Western Arctic, there would have been a difference in the way the vote went but unfortunately some of the Members said we should not go. I found it kind of -- well, I do not know what you could call it -- the major settlements, predominantly white settlements, voted "No". At most every meeting we went to, there was a table set up for the people that were voting "Yes" -- for questions to the people that were voting "Yes", that were pushing a yes vote. I was usually at the table, but I was not voting "Yes" or "No". However, I wanted to see a table set

up with the people from the "No" side so that we could ask them questions, but that was not the case. We did get some chance to ask some questions but the people that were voting "No" I think were just afraid, more than anything, that once the boundaries were settled that they were going to lose some valuable territory that did not belong to them in the first place. Some of them said they were not sure -- I do not know why, they did not have to be sure. However, I am glad that the vote did go the way it went. In my community I did a little bit of campaigning. It even shows that I had a 21/21 split right down the centre so I must have talked to a few guys.

Had we given the go-ahead to do some more travelling, I think it would have been different but, you know, we were knocked down right here in this House and told not to travel. I was surprised to hear a radio announcement from Pangnirtung saying the people did not know which way they were going to vote and, lo and behold, one of the Members that was on that impact committee was Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk and he is right in town there and the people of Pangnirtung did not know which way to vote. This came over the radio. I heard it on the radio but I could not believe it because I thought maybe Ipeelee was not doing his homework, but maybe just somebody on CBC -- they get a little haphazard once in a while and say things that they should not anyway.

AN HON. MEMBER: Be careful.

MR. FRASER: I had better be careful. We have CBC over there.

---Laughter

However, I hope that with the things that are happening now on the plebiscite on division of the Territories that everything will go smoothly. The next people we have to fight with are the federal government and they are not always easy to fight with. Maybe before this happens, we might have a change of government and then we might be able to do something, I hope.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Wishful thinking.

MR. FRASER: However, we are still a long ways from home. I do not think we are going to do this overnight. Some of the Members that were pushing this division of the Territories thought that we would have a vote on the 14th and that if the vote was positive, then we would be split on the 15th but I do not think that is going to happen. I think we are a few years down the road on that. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, those are the three subjects I wanted to just speak briefly about and I thank you all for no criticism, no back talk. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a question of privilege. Having come to know my countrywise colleague for Mackenzie Great Bear very well, I can understand why he might wish that the special committee on unity report had never been written, but contrary to his remarks, I would just like to assure the House that I have not regretted for one moment having authored it, and the fact that there are other reports still coming out and events taking place I think attests to the importance of that report. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: It is just as well it is the last day. Replies to Commissioner's Address. Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Kilabuk's Reply

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I will be talking for maybe three or four minutes. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Commissioner and Members: I am glad that we were welcomed to Inuvik when we came and I can see the difference in our Pages. There are some Indians and some white people around that have been helping us in this session and also, our interpreters, we know that they work hard and I am very thankful for them...

---Applause

...and also for the fact that we have been invited out and even though we are different -- there are Inuit, there are whites -- there has been native food served to us and I believe that I could say that we are more able to communicate better now.

I have a brief statement. Pete Fraser in his speech mentioned the plebiscite and I believe him, the way that he said it. I believe that he talked the way he felt about it. There are quite a few people living in my constituency. There are three settlements that I look after. I represent three settlements and I was very pleased with the results of the plebiscite. A lot of people in the settlements voted on the plebiscite date. I was trying to clarify as much as I could about the plebiscite issue. Before I spoke or gave any information to the people, I think the CBC radio announced that the people did not know which way to vote. I want this to be clear. I was trying to clarify the issue of the plebiscite to my constituency, the good things about it and the bad things about it.

With regard to the seven Ministers, I look at them individually. We are all individuals. We have our own thoughts and our own ways of thinking. Sometimes it is bad when we have questions. Some lose their tempers very quickly and some do not. Some get angry very easily. If I were a Minister, if I were short-tempered, I would get angry pretty quickly but I do not blame those people who are Ministers. I do not blame them if they get mad because they are unhappy about the questions.

The issue of sealskins I want to get into a little further. I know that the price of sealskin is going to decrease rapidly. Maybe the Minister of Renewable Resources could consider the problem of selling sealskin. Perhaps the 15 per cent could be increased up to 25 per cent -- the price of gas is really expensive especially in Baffin Island. People have been shouting out loud their concerns. Perhaps at the Baffin Regional Council session in Igloolik they talked about it but I have not heard about it. As I said, I am not going to make a long statement. I did not wish to come to Inuvik for a session but now I am enjoying myself and I do not mind it at all.

---Applause

Thank you very much. I am away over in the Western Arctic even though my home town is right on the other side of Canada.

Ministers Invited To Visit Baffin Region

I also wanted to mention these leaders of the Executive. Sometimes we would really like to see them in the Baffin region. Maybe you could consider this more. If you are requested to come over, even though you have a lot of things and quite a bit of work to do, I hope you can say yes. I want you to consider this matter, especially the Department of Renewable Resources, the Department of Social Services and the Housing Corporation. These three are always being requested by Baffin region residents. To the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, I want to say this: If I were the Minister, I would not say that I had no authority. The way I understand a Minister, he is given or he has the authority. I do not believe that he should have said that, that he

did not have authority. I do not want you Ministers to say that you do not have authority to do anything but that you are just a representative of the Housing Corporation. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me a chance to make a statement.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Replies to Commissioner's Address. Last call. Replies to Commissioner's Address. Mr. Patterson.

Hon. Dennis Patterson's Reply

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to raise a few matters in replies to Commissioner's Address. I promise not to be too long. Regarding one of the concerns of my constituents -- I would be breaking a precedent if I did not talk about water and sewers in my reply to the Commissioner's Address. It is not a preoccupation in Frobisher Bay, but it is a very large concern and I guess part of the reason is that we have a very expensive utilidor system, and it was given to Frobisher Bay without an abundance of consultation with people. I guess it was presumed that no one would want to turn down such an expensive gift from the government and I am, of course, very much aware that my predecessor thought that the utilidor meant progress. I, however, have some reservations about the system, which I have expressed on occasions before, and I am now finding that many of my constituents, particularly those who are ratepayers or businessmen, are also discovering that it was a mixed blessing.

One of the problems that they are facing is that now that the government has provided this multimillion dollar system, they are quite naturally looking to recover some of the costs from the ratepayers in Frobisher Bay and they are expecting that eventually the people of Frobisher Bay and the town of Frobisher Bay will want to take over operation and maintenance of the system. Now, these are understandable views on the part of the Government of the Northwest Territories, but I must register here the very strong concern of the people of Frobisher Bay that they may just not be able to afford the costs of operating and maintaining such a high technology system. I also cannot help but observe that the system still does not really work.

I am always interested to go to Inuvik, because I think that Inuvik has something that we do not have in Frobisher Bay. It has a utilidor system that you can see. It is above the ground. If the pipe gets plugged or if there is a frozen connection, in Inuvik you can get at it. Now, I understand that it is an older system and there may be some problems, but at least you can see it and you can repair it. Now, in Frobisher Bay, unfortunately, if there is a problem we have to dig through permafrost to solve it and this is a layman's view. I am not an engineer or a stationary engineer or anything like that, but it seems to me that it is desirable to have a sewage system that you can have access to in a climate that is cold most of the year.

Maintenance Of Frobisher Bay Utilidor

I received a complaint from a constituent and I would just like to very briefly mention the problem. At the height of spring break-up, when the sun had returned and things were starting to warm up, one of my constituents called me. He has a young child. He said that the pipe connection to his house had frozen up and not only he but his neighbour had to be cut off the utilidor system and worse, Mr. Speaker, they were informed that they had to wait until this summer, when Sintra Incorporated, which is a Montreal company that has done a lot of work on the utilidor, comes up to Frobisher Bay with the necessary equipment to dig up the pipe and repair it. Now, Sintra Incorporated and the Government of the Northwest Territories spent a lot of money last summer digging up miles of that pipe. Part of the problem was, of course, that people in Frobisher Bay are not necessarily used to a utilidor system and they throw all kinds of things down the pipe.

---Laughter

There is nothing wrong with the system, I am told by the experts; it is the people. They do not know how to use it. They throw away things that are too big for the pipe. So, everything is going to be all right once the people are educated about nine inch pipes. So, I hope that that eventually does happen. I too would like to see the system work, but we are suffering serious problems and the problem is particularly of urgent concern in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, because the territorial government is now starting to cut back the subsidy that has been given to the town of Frobisher Bay to operate this system.

I fully understand the reasons why and I respect my honourable colleague on the Executive for trying to cut back the expenditures on the subsidy program to the town of Frobisher Bay. I commend his officials for having explained in detail to the town of Frobisher Bay why it is necessary that this subsidy be reduced. There have been many, many meetings with the town of Frobisher Bay, explaining that we have to start paying our own way for water. Water has been provided to people in Frobisher Bay at ridiculously low rates over the years, compared to other communities in the Northwest Territories. This is the crunch; this year the subsidy has been cut back and the town has been asked to enact a by-law which will bring the water rates up to the kind of rates -- levels of water usage and water tolls -- that are found in other parts of the Northwest Territories. In principle this is acceptable to everyone, that we should not get water at rates that are way out of line. However, I would like to tell you what it means for a new hotel in Frobisher Bay, these new rates that the territorial government has suggested to the town council.

Effect Of Withdrawing Subsidy

A hotel in Frobisher Bay, a new hotel, which is very, very welcome in Frobisher Bay, is on the truck system and paying, I think they would admit, a very low rate for water, in the vicinity of \$75 a month. Under the new rate system proposed by the town, after consultations with the territorial government, the new bill is going to be \$5400 per month. The manager of the hotel, which is owned by a northern company and has many shareholders in Frobisher Bay, tells me -- and I have no reason to doubt his sincerity -- that if these new rates are imposed and they have to pay \$5400 a month, that they will just not be able to continue to operate. One of the problems with the new rates is that there has not been a great deal of notice. Many people, businessmen particularly, are being caught in the middle of their financial year with notice that these rates are going to have to change and they have not budgeted for the increases -- some of them say they could not pay for the increases even if they had time to budget.

It is really a cause of great concern and I just wish to mention this in my reply to the Commissioner's Address, that I think that while it is recognized that the subsidy has got to be cut back, I think, like in all things, these changes have to be phased in perhaps more gradually. Although it is recognized that Frobisher Bay had been given a very, very generous subsidy over the years, the answer, according to my constituents, is not to suddenly bring us up to date and suddenly withdraw this subsidy, but to phase it in; otherwise, we are going to have serious economic consequences in Frobisher Bay. So I mention this, Mr. Speaker, in my reply and of course I have opportunities in my capacity on the Executive to pursue matters like these with my colleagues but I did want my constituents to know that I was concerned about this issue and I do want to just raise it here briefly.

Moderate Rent Increases Acceptable

I would also like to say that in spite of what might have been said in the rather heated debate on the issue of housing rents and the new rental regime, I too have received a very significant degree of concern from my constituents in Frobisher Bay about the rental rates on public housing and I find my constituents to be quite reasonable. They do not mind paying significantly higher rent; they

recognize the cost that the government and everyone is facing as a result of increased utility and fuel oil costs but at the same time, once again, if changes are going to be effected, they should be made with some temperance and some moderation; otherwise, I do fear that people are going to rebel and react negatively. It is true that many people are saying that it does not pay to work any more. I do not think this attitude should be encouraged. I think there is a middle ground between drastic increases in rent and moderate or significant increases in rent and I am confident that the board of directors of the Housing Corporation will find that middle ground.

I very much look forward to seeing a representative from my constituency sitting on that board of directors, too. My constituency is one of the larger areas of public housing in Baffin, and I think it would be very helpful if someone from my constituency could participate in the deliberations of that board, because I do believe that they are the experts; they know more about all the factors than I certainly do. I am confident that in this review process that is under way, with help from the Minister that they will make the right decision. By the way, I am very grateful that the managing director of the corporation and the Executive Member who is chairman of the corporation, Mr. Bob Pilot, did tour extensively in the High Arctic, and in my colleague Mr. Kilabuk's constituency, and I think they are quite well informed about the concerns of people in Baffin in the area of housing.

Arctic Pilot Project And Alternative Energy Sources

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to very briefly mention the Arctic Pilot Project. This is a subject that is very complicated and causes great concern and emotions. I suppose if we all had our druthers, we would hope that these massive projects would not be implemented without a lot more time than we are given to fully analyse them. I have seen the data presented by the company, the proponent, on the Arctic Pilot Project, and it is a staggering amount of socio-economic environmental data, and it really is very difficult to see how any person could have the time to read through that material. I do not mind confessing, like the president of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, that I have not read all the material, either, because it is just massive. However, I would like to say very briefly that there are many aspects to this issue. If it does go ahead, I think we are very concerned that there be benefits to the North, and I am very impressed with the work that my colleague, Mr. Nerysoo, and his secretariat have done to try to realistically assess what could possibly be in this project for the people of the Eastern Arctic.

Particularly important to my constituents is the notion of alternative energy sources. We are entirely dependent on fossil fuel right now. We are entirely at the mercy of the world market in oil, and I think it is highly desirable that the work which is well under way in alternative energy sources through the Arctic Pilot Project, but also through wind and solar power and coal, be pursued with vigour. I would like to briefly mention here that I had, in the last session, given some credence to the possibility of nuclear power, and I must say that I regret any suggestion that I would endorse the use of small scale reactors in the Northwest Territories as an alternative energy source. I think we have tide and wind and sun and many other more desirable sources of energy. I have basic apprehensions about the wisdom of nuclear proliferations of all kinds, both peaceful and non-peaceful, and I must say that I am very concerned that the Government of Argentina, which has not shown a great deal of responsibility in recent months is in possession of a Canadian nuclear reactor, and could conceivably use the by-products of that reactor for terrible purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay some tribute to the president of the Inuit Development Corporation. In referring to the Arctic Pilot Project, I think he has taken in recent days a very courageous and certainly an unpopular stance in deciding that his mandate permits him to negotiate with the proponents of the Arctic Pilot Project for equity participation for the Inuit.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I realize that he has been criticized, and he will be criticized because there are deep, fundamental concerns about the impact on marine mammals of these very noisy tankers, and I know enough in my brief experience as a novice hunter in the Eastern Arctic, about marine mammals to know that they are exceptionally sensitive to sound. I do fully believe that one of these class seven tankers or the class 10 tankers, that were recently proposed in the proposal by the West German transmission companies, will be heard all throughout Lancaster Sound; they will be heard clear through to Greenland, I am convinced; and I am very worried and I know the Inuit are very worried -- that they will seriously affect -- we probably do not really know how -- the migration habits of the marine mammals on which the Inuit so heavily depend. I think it is recognized that there are regulatory processes under way. We hope they will be fair. We trust that they will recognize the concerns of the Inuit that are being very ably presented by the IDC.

Benefits For The North

I think it is recognized that it is just possible that this project may go ahead, and what is going to be in it for us if it does go ahead? I commend the president of IDC for the foresight and courage that he has shown in recognizing that if the project goes ahead, I think there are many of us -- if our personal preferences were polled -- who would wish that the whole thing would go away, and I guess I would fall into that category. Despite the benefits that may accrue through alternative energy sources -- I do not think that there are many jobs in it for the North -- but despite those benefits that may accrue, in balance, if I had my personal preference, I would hope that the whole thing would go away. I have a terrible feeling that it is going to be a precedent for international tanker traffic. I am very worried that Dome Petroleum seems still convinced that oil produced from the Beaufort Sea should go through Lancaster Sound. I share with the Minister of Energy the concern about the implications of oil tankers in Arctic waters particularly. But I recognize this is a complicated issue, and I give some credit to Mr. Curley and a great deal of credit to the Minister of Energy for having raised our concerns before the National Energy Board. However, again taking a realistic position, that if it is to go ahead, that if the national energy program is to be pursued by our national government, then there must be something in it for the people of the North, and I think this is a difficult position to take, but a necessary one.

Credit Due To Constituents

Mr. Speaker, very briefly, I would like to make reference to the plebiscite vote on April 14th. I have talked about it before, and I do not want to spend a great deal of time, but I would like to just give some real credit to my constituents. I am very proud of the people of Frobisher Bay. I must confess that, before the plebiscite, I was not really sure what was going to happen. I talked very hopefully, and perhaps very confidently, about the results, but there were reports from the CBC. I think the CBC did their utmost to be fair and objective. I think sometimes that meant going into nooks and crannies and finding people, digging people out who might be willing to publicly take the negative position, but they found them, and I heard those people. I heard the president of the chamber of commerce of Frobisher Bay in 1963, who is still in Frobisher Bay, who went to the standing committee to say that the people of Frobisher Bay did not want division in 1963; I heard him say that it is still a bad idea. I cannot help recalling that in his submission to the standing committee, in 1963, he suggested that perhaps Inuvik would be a good capital for a new territory if one should be created.

At any rate, there were these real expressions of doubt on many people's part. I met with the graduating class in the local high school and talked to them, and really was given quite a hard time by them. They voted 69 per cent against division, and they said, "We are probably better educated than most, and this is what we think." This was the day before the plebiscite and I thought,

"My goodness, maybe I am going to have to resign", as Mrs. Sorensen had pressed on me to do if the vote was negative, but I was overwhelmed by the results in Frobisher Bay.

I do not pretend, Mr. Speaker, that I did not work hard in favour of the yes vote. I was driving a car from the moment the polls opened, all day, and encouraging people to vote and making it clear how I wanted them to vote, but I was really gratified with the response. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there were three people in particular who impressed me, because they called me and said, "We are bedridden." One man had not been out of this bed for six months. Another man, Takoonagak, a very great hunter now a very old man, had just come back from Montreal after a serious operation. They called me and said, "Can you get me to the polls? I really want to vote." In one particular case I was able to back my car right up close to the door of this particular house, and we helped this old man to walk very hesitatingly to his door, he fell into the car, we carried him into the polling station, and it gave him great satisfaction and pleasure to be able to vote. He has probably gone back to his sickbed and may well stay there, but this meant a great deal to him.

Plebiscite Workers Efficient And Dedicated

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that this is a very important event for the people of Frobisher Bay and the people of the Northwest Territories, and I would like to particularly say that I am very proud that we conducted this plebiscite ourselves. When the federal government said they were not willing, or were not able, to conduct the plebiscite as they have usually conducted territorial elections, I was a little disappointed at the time, but now I realize it is a blessing in disguise. In fact, we have had the opportunity to show that this Assembly is capable of running a territorial election with great dispatch and efficiency, under budget, using northern native people as polling officers and enumerators, and doing an excellent job, and I would like to pay particular attention to Mr. David Hamilton and his excellent staff. They worked with dedication, efficiency, humour, and the job was very efficiently done.

---Applause

I was particularly impressed by the staff in Frobisher Bay. The enumerators, Mr. Speaker, came back time after time to houses where people were not home. They came back as many times as it was necessary. They realized they were doing something important, they cared about what they were doing, and this was the best run election that I have ever seen in my short time in the North, and I really think that it has been a worth-while experience for the Legislative Assembly.

The other thing I would like to say -- again, without going into a great deal of rhetoric -- is that I think we owe a great deal to the people of the western part of the Northwest Territories. I call it the "silent proxy: considered acquiescence". They are prepared -- perhaps with a little sadness -- to let us in the Eastern Arctic go our own way, but I am confident that they will not hold us back, and I am also confident, Mr. Speaker, that once the boundary process of hearing from all parties in the Northwest Territories on the boundary, is completed, I am confident that the people of the western part of the Northwest Territories will be convinced, all their doubts will be erased, we will have overwhelming support for the necessity of division once the boundaries commission has completed its work. I think many of the negative votes were primarily as a result of concern over boundaries, and I am pleased that this Assembly is willing to tackle that issue.

I would like to pay particular credit to the Members of the Executive Committee, and the Commissioner, for their statesman-like responsible attitude toward this issue, and I think particularly I would like to give credit to the Commissioner. I know he personally has very strong views on the issue, but I am very pleased that he withheld participating very vocally and actively in this campaign. He respects that it is an issue that has been raised by elected Members of this Assembly, and I would like to just acknowledge that I think this is a very responsible attitude on his part.

I would also like to give credit to the mayor of Yellowknife. I was very impressed by the statesman-like way in which he very fairly expressed his respect for the feelings of the people of the Eastern Arctic, even though we know full well that there would be some economic and other serious implications to the people of Yellowknife, and even though we know that there was a very vocal group who opposed division and would likely use it against any person who dared to speak in favour. Mr. Ballantyne showed, I think, great statesmanship in his attitude.

I would also like to give credit to the Leader of the Elected Executive, who I think responded very properly in his role as Leader of the Elected Executive, and recognized that direction had been given by this House, that perhaps it would not be the most popular thing for a Member from Yellowknife to promote this controversial issue with his constituents, but he and his staff and the other Members of the Executive worked with great efficiency and dispatch to produce, I think, an historic and precedent-setting ordinance, and in his public utterances he, I thought, very fairly expressed the interests and views of all Members of this Assembly.

I am also grateful to my other colleagues from the western part of the Territories on the Executive who responded to the direction of the House even though their constituents in many cases have grave reservations. I would like to commend them for their courage and their responsibility in responding to direction from this Assembly.

Ordinance In Keeping With New Canadian Constitution

I would also like to say that the same thing is true on the issue of grants and bursaries. It has not been easy for many Members of the Executive Committee to execute the directions given by this Assembly, but they did so with efficiency and dispatch, and I am confident that the ordinance that has been passed will, in fact, greatly improve the education system in the Northwest Territories. I think it is entirely in keeping with the new Canadian constitution. I cannot help but observe that some of those critics of this ordinance are members of the Liberal party and the national government, and that party has seen fit to recognize aboriginal rights in the Canadian constitution, to protect aboriginal rights in the constitution, to specifically say that any prohibitions against discrimination shall not apply to affirmative action programs designed to improve and enhance the interests of aboriginal peoples, and that same government has also finally recognized that the Metis people of Canada are aboriginal peoples, and I am very proud that this Assembly has taken that step as well. I again will say that I resent accusations of deceit on the part of the Executive, or myself, in advancing this legislation. If the people of the Northwest Territories did not know that these new principles were being introduced, they certainly do now with the unnecessary fuss that was made the other day. Mr. Speaker, thank you for your patience and your time.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. In view of the hour, it is my recommendation that we call on the Commissioner at this time to prorogue. Mr. Clerk.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: If I may prevail, Mr. Speaker, there is a vacancy on the standing committee on legislation. I think it would take about one minute of time to go to notices of motions and motions in order to fill it, if I can have your agreement on that, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have agreement to jump in the orders of the day to notices of motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: Mr. Speaker, I have two oral questions I would like to ask the Commissioner.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, we will go as far as we can then, gentlemen. Eleven o'clock is prorogation time. You have six minutes.

Item 3, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: The Commissioner is not here and the Minister of Local Government is not here and the Minister of Public Services is not here. I have two questions I would like to ask but it is unfortunate...

MR. SPEAKER: The Commissioner is in the gallery and can be called upon. In the meantime, are there any other oral questions? Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 91-82(2): Funding Development Impact Zones

MRS. SORENSEN: The question is for Mr. Nerysoo, Minister of Energy. Mr. Nerysoo, I would like to take this opportunity to compliment your work and that of your staff in developing the resource development policy. I have some concerns about the section dealing with the monitoring body, but I will be writing you a letter on this. My question, however, concerns your time frame on developing the criteria for the development zones, the mechanisms for funding development impact zones, the resource development guidelines, and the monitoring guidelines. When can you expect to have these important parts of your policy completed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 91-82(2): Funding Development Impact Zones

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for giving me notice of the question. We have established already an interdepartmental committee to develop the criteria and the guidelines to present to the Executive Committee. I will be talking to our Mr. Zariwny on Tuesday to find out where we are with regard to those guidelines and the criteria. We have also established a committee which will look at the presentation of legislation to the Executive Committee through myself as Minister responsible for the resource development secretariat.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Sorensen, a supplementary?

Supplementary To Question 91-82(2): Funding Development Impact Zones

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Since development is already proceeding and particularly proceeding quickly within the Beaufort Sea and now in the Norman Wells area, can communities apply now under your policy for assistance and for funding to get their communities off the ground?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 91-82(2): Funding Development Impact Zones

HON. RICHARD NERYSO: Well, presently, because we do not have the criteria in place, we would suggest that people not rush to apply for additional funding until criteria are developed, but that does not necessarily mean that they should not express their concern and make application. We have already responded to a number of issues with regard to providing additional moneys for capital expenditures in communities and I can assure you that when those applications are brought forward to the Executive Committee through myself as Minister, those requests will be placed before the Executive Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Noah.

Question 92-82(2): Keewatin Regional Council Proposed Budget

MR. NOAH: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Commissioner since the Minister responsible for Local Government is not here. Will the Commissioner support the Keewatin Regional Council proposed budget for 1982-83? That is my first question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer that because I do not have the information available. However, I know that the Hon. James Wah-Shee will provide the information for the Member very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Noah.

Question 93-82(2): Tank Farm Contract, Baker Lake

MR. NOAH: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question is directed to the Minister responsible for our Government Services but I will address it to the Commissioner since the Minister is not here. My second question is directed to the Commissioner concerning future fuel contract or tank farm contract in Baker Lake which a private businessman in the Ministry of Transport in Winnipeg secretly had been negotiating for the last two years: 1) Why was no public tender called? 2) Why was no formal request made? 3) Why was Sanavik Co-op, who are the primary distributors of POL products in the community, completely ignored in the whole process?

Why was the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, the Baker Lake business community, the hamlet office and myself as the mayor of Baker Lake not advised that MOT wanted to divest itself of handling the fuel at the airport? My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Commissioner. Is it legal to practise such secret negotiations or any negotiation, or is it illegal to practise such negotiations secretly?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

Return To Question 93-82(2): Tank Farm Contract, Baker Lake

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation that the Member refers to because the Hon. Kane Tologanak shared with me a copy of a telex that he had received from one of the companies that work in the Baker Lake area, and I cannot say whether or not the actions of the federal Transport Canada have been correct or incorrect. However, it is entirely their affair. That does not mean that we, as a territorial government, are not concerned and in fact, at this time we are investigating the matter of the arrangements which are purported to have been made for the storage and sale of aviation fuel and as soon as we have made any headway in this area, we will be in touch with the Member and with the people of Baker Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The hour is now 11:00 o'clock. There has been a request for a motion to establish a committee. Yes, Mr. McLaughlin?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I would just like to take this advantage of privilege -- and I hope it is one -- just to ask the Members who are on the electoral boundaries subcommittee of caucus to meet with me immediately after we prorogue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Are we agreed to go on to Item 8, notices of motion at this time then?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed quickly with your notice of motion.

Notice Of Motion 17-82(2): Appointment Of Mr. Kilabuk To Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Tuesday, May 25th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk, the honourable Member for Baffin Central be appointed to the standing committee on legislation. I ask unanimous consent that this be brought up in motions as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Notice of motion. Mr. Patterson.

Notice Of Motion 18-82(2): Appointment Of Mr. Coman To Board Of Directors Of NWT Housing Corporation

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, I would like unanimous consent to proceed with a motion as well, Mr. Speaker. It is seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner the appointment of Mr. Fred Coman of Frobisher Bay to the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Unanimous consent requested to proceed with these two motions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 10, motions.

ITEM NO. 10: MOTIONS

Proceed, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Motion 17-82(2): Appointment Of Mr. Kilabuk To Standing Committee on Legislation, Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS Mr. Tagak Curley has resigned from the standing committee on legislation;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to fill this vacancy as soon as possible;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk, the honourable Member for Baffin Central, be appointed to the standing committee on legislation.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Patterson.

Motion 18-82(2): Appointment Of Mr. Coman To Board Of Directors Of NWT Housing Corporation, Carried

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS there is a vacancy on the NWT Housing Corporation board of directors;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that there be equal regional representation on that board;

AND WHEREAS at present there is no representation from the south Baffin, and Mr. Fred Coman of Frobisher Bay had indicated his willingness to serve;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that this Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner the appointment of Mr. Fred Coman of Frobisher Bay to the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I would just like to, for the record -- I circulated a letter to Members saying that this nomination had been recommended by the Frobisher Bay town council. I would just like to say that I was informed that the council did not complete its deliberations on this subject, but I am still very confident that Mr. Coman is a very appropriate representative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

We have an honoured guest in the gallery; however, I understand he is a friend of the Commissioner's and on prorogation the Commissioner will introduce him. Mr. Clerk, I understand that you have travel arrangements that you could make immediately following prorogation so if the House will sit, he can give you any information you require regarding transportation to the airport. Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could just have the floor for a point of privilege. I would like to thank the ladies who did a fine job of doing the lunches while we were sitting in Inuvik and also all the people of Inuvik who tried so hard to accommodate the Members of the Legislative Assembly while in Inuvik. I am sure my colleagues will agree with me that we have been treated pretty well. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, would you ask if the Commissioner is available for prorogation, please?

Commissioner Parker's Closing Remarks

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, I have the very great pleasure to recognize a distinguished person in the lower gallery today. This person is Nels Hvatum, who is our Member, Nellie Cournoyea's, father. Mr. Hvatum came to the Beaufort Sea area in 1927, and he has lived throughout the intervening years in the areas between Herschel Island and King William Island. He has been a trapper since he arrived. Today is Mr. Hvatum's 82nd birthday, and I extend the greetings of the House to him. We are very pleased to have you with us this morning, sir.

---Applause

I have no extensive remarks to make this morning, and I am certain that you will be grateful for that. I make one remark only, with regard to things that were said this morning. Although I have held some fairly strong views on the issue of division of the Northwest Territories, those views have been modified very much in recent months, and I am prepared to say that I am in a position to, and desirous of, supporting the aims of this House as expressed through some very sincere motions at this session.

---Applause

I would like to pay tribute to your Sergeant-at-Arms, who has given excellent service, and we are pleased that he has regained his voice.

---Applause

In addition, each and every one of your Pages has served all of us with distinction and with great speed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

COMMISSIONER PARKER: The Clerk's staff, the government staff, including the regional staff, have all provided us with excellent service throughout the session, and again I would like to pay tribute to the verbatim reporters for the excellence of their work.

AN HON. MEMBER: Boo!

---Applause

AN HON. MEMBER: Watch it if they do not like what you say!

Time And Place Of Next Session

COMMISSIONER PARKER: The next session of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories will commence at 2:30 in the afternoon of October the 28th, 1982, in Yellowknife.

ITEM NO. 14: PROROGATION

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue this session of the Assembly.

---Applause

---PROROGATION

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