



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

11th Session

9th Assembly

**HANSARD**  
Official Report  
DAY 1

Tuesday, August 30, 1983

Pages 1 to 16

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1983

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Rev. Barclay, will you give the prayer, please?

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

REV. L. BARCLAY: Let us pray. Almighty God, from Whom cometh all wisdom and power, we the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, in session assembled, humbly beseech Thy blessing on our deliberations to the end that, inspired by Thy divine wisdom and setting aside all prejudices, private interests and partial affections, we may work to the benefit, welfare and happiness of the people and to Thy glory. Amen.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner is ready to open this session? Welcome, Mr. Commissioner.

ITEM NO. 2: COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, in welcoming you to the 11th session of the Ninth Legislative Assembly, I am sure I do not have to remind you that this is the final session of this Assembly which first sat in November, 1979. 1979 was an important year in the history of the Northwest Territories progress toward responsible government. It was in 1979 that the NWT Act was amended to allow the Commissioner-in-Council to establish the number of seats within the 15 to 25 range; it was in 1979 that the NWT Council Ordinance was amended to establish in law the Executive Committee; and it was in 1979 that Council rules were amended to remove the Commissioner from Council sittings, except for committee of the whole.

If you are not impressed with the magnitude of these important changes, let me remind you that before 1949, the NWT Council was composed of six federal officials based in Ottawa, all of them appointed. In 1959, the territorial Council was made up of five appointed and four elected Members and in 1969, a mere 14 years ago, of the 12 Members on the NWT Council, five were federal government appointees, only seven were elected by the people and the Executive Committee was composed of three appointed officials. So 1979, the year in which most of you were elected to this Legislature, was a red-letter year in our history with its 22 elected Members and its seven-man Executive Committee, five of whom were elected.

Progress In Life Of Ninth Assembly

But this Legislative Assembly and this government has not stood still nor rested on its laurels. Let me outline some of the progress that has been made in the past four years, that is, in the life of this Assembly. The number of elected Members on the Executive Committee, and now Executive Council, was increased to seven in 1980 with the addition of two Members representing Arctic constituencies, the Hon. Dennis Patterson and the Hon. Kane Tologanak. The Hon. George Braden was designated as Leader of the Elected Executive and has acted as spokesman for the Executive Council and on occasion for this Assembly. Ministerial government has been established in the Northwest Territories with every department and agency having a Minister to report on its progress to the Legislative Assembly. To reflect this change, the senior administrators in most departments are now designated as deputy ministers.

On the administrative front, a new region, Kitikmeot, with headquarters at Cambridge Bay, was created as a result of proposals put forward by Members of this House and others. The Hon. Tom Butters, Minister of Finance, has replaced me as chairman of the Financial Management Board, and Mr. Braden has recently assumed his duties as vice-chairman of the Executive Council.

This Legislative Assembly initiated the NWT Boundaries Commission, which earlier this year studied the number and size of constituencies and recommended that the number of elected Members of this House be increased to 24 for the forthcoming election.

In the next Executive Council, an eighth elected Member will replace the Deputy Commissioner and I, as Commissioner, will be the only appointed member.

To conclude this very brief review of the constitutional changes achieved during the life of the Ninth Assembly, I would point out the ever more demanding role played by MLAs in the day to day political life of the Northwest Territories. Your membership on special or standing committees, your participation in regional councils, your interaction with municipal, community and band councils, and your work as Executive Council Members, all of these and many other related duties reflect the growing importance of the service given by each Member of this House to the various levels of government and to the public.

But while we have accomplished much, it is well to remember that we have not done it alone. Many people have helped in our endeavours and I would pay tribute to the loyal, conscientious and hardworking people that make up the staff of this House and this government.

---Applause

It is not my intention to single out a number of individuals -- the list would be far too long -- but I would be remiss if I did not mention Binx Remnant, who served this House faithfully and well for many years, and David Hamilton, the present Clerk of the Legislature, and his staff.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

COMMISSIONER PARKER: I would pay tribute also to Bob Pilot, who has served well this Assembly, the Executive Council and this government, in his capacity as Deputy Commissioner. Mr. Pilot brought to his position invaluable experience gained from many years of service in the North in several communities and two regional centres.

---Applause

His wise judgment and knowledge will continue to be utilized by this government after his role as an active Deputy Commissioner comes to an end.

We should recognize too the contribution toward our political development that has been made by the Hon. John Munro and other federal ministers with whom we have dealt over the past four years. Mr. Munro has reported to this House on several occasions and has supported and advanced your legitimate interests in constitutional change. While you hold and will continue to hold different views from the federal government on certain topics, I know you will agree that without the support of the Minister, the senior government and its officials, you would not have come so far so fast.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

#### Resource Industries

COMMISSIONER PARKER: During the life of this Assembly, we have experienced a recession which has adversely affected a number of our people, particularly in the resource industries. While in the NWT we have come through this relatively well compared to other jurisdictions, and while there are certain hopeful signs of an economic upturn, we are still faced with high unemployment, financial restraints and tight money. We would do well to recognize these unpleasant facts.

While, as I have said, there are a number of hopeful signs on the economic horizon, I would like to mention one project that is now successfully under way. The Norman Wells oilfield expansion and pipeline project is proceeding on schedule. Esso Resources and Interprovincial Pipelines Limited are delivering the project in a socio-economically and environmentally acceptable manner. Northerners are taking advantage of employment, training and business opportunities as the project

proceeds. In Norman Wells, 40 per cent of the current work force of 1100 are northerners, of which at least one half are native northerners. Esso reports that its 1983 northern expenditures to the end of June were more than \$10 million. At the same time, IPL reports firm plans for construction work this winter and has announced the awarding of subcontracts to northern firms.

Shehtah, the joint venture company owned by the Denendeh Development Corporation, the Metis Development Corporation and Esso Resources, owns one of the two drilling rigs in Norman Wells and will be drilling more than one half of the remaining wells required for the project.

#### Constitutional Development And Aboriginal Rights

The growing independence and strength of this Legislative Assembly is evident in its vigorous initiatives in the area of constitutional development and aboriginal rights. I think it is fair to say that prior to the election of this, the Ninth Assembly, there was an atmosphere of tension between the Legislative Assembly and some of the native organizations.

Members and committees of this Assembly, working in a spirit of trust and co-operation with aboriginal organizations, have developed and are continuing to develop mechanisms for political and constitutional reform. I can refer only briefly to some of the accomplishments of this new and positive working relationship among northerners that has been achieved in a large measure because of the leadership given by Members of this Assembly. The division plebiscite, the special committees on constitutional development and division, the Constitutional Alliance, the Nunavut Constitutional Forum and the Western Constitutional Forum -- to each of these this Assembly and this government have given commitment and support.

The Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat continues to participate as a member of the federal team in the three aboriginal claims negotiations and in each of these, the Dene/Metis claim, the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut claim, and the COPE claim, progress, though slow, continues to be made.

#### Accomplishments Of Program Departments

I do not intend to review our program departments in any detail -- I am sure that the Ministers responsible for each will provide you with more complete information -- but I would like to emphasize some of their major accomplishments during the life of this Assembly.

##### Department Of Information

During the term of this Assembly, the Department of Information has developed and implemented two major programs: the evolution of the interpreter corps into a fullfledged language bureau to serve both Inuit and Dene residents, and provision of radio and television service to communities throughout the Northwest Territories. The development of the language bureau to include Dene interpreter communicators was a direct result of the high priority given to language and culture by this Assembly and the Executive Council. The Dene staff of the bureau have completed their basic training and are now gaining experience in audio-visual communications skills. A survey has been taken of the information needs in Dene communities and work has begun on audio-visual materials in Dene languages.

The Ninth Assembly also supported the expansion of the radio and television communications program introduced during the Eighth Assembly, to include communities of less than 250 population. When this Assembly took office in November 1979, six communities had been provided with satellite radio and television facilities. There are now 22 communities being served, the latest being Grise Fiord this summer and Arctic Red River which will be completed by the end of next week.

##### Department Of Renewable Resources

Under the direction of the Minister responsible, the Hon. Richard Nerysco, two new and important divisions have been created within the Department of Renewable Resources during the life of this Assembly. The pollution control division, which was established in 1979, is actively engaged in making the environment safer by taking action on oil spills, hazardous wastes, dangerous goods, pesticide control fields and other threats to clean earth, air and water. The environmental planning and assessment division, set up in November 1981, advises the Executive Council on all land and water management questions that may influence renewable resource use options. This division, over the past year, has prepared and co-ordinated the Renewable Resources department's

participation in the National Energy Board hearings on the Norman Wells project and the Arctic Pilot Project, and at the review of the Slave River hydro and Beaufort Sea environmental impact statement guidelines. The establishment of the Caribou Management Board, 1982, with Jim Schaefer of Fort Smith as chairman, the growth of hunters and trappers associations, the price support scheme to counteract falling sealskin prices, and the department's participation in the Fur Institute of Canada, an organization which seeks to counteract the efforts of the anti-trapping lobby, are other noteworthy events.

#### Department Of Local Government

With regard to the continuing development of strong and effective local governments, it should be noted that in the last four years, eight more communities have become hamlets and one additional community, Frobisher Bay, has achieved town status. There are now 26 hamlets in the Northwest Territories, each with the authority and responsibility for hiring its own staff and managing its own operating budget. On a broader scale, work is continuing on the development of new legislation for all forms of local governments, settlements, hamlets and tax-based towns. The Minister of Local Government, the Hon. James Wah-Shee, will be tabling a sessional paper reporting on the government's progress in this area.

Your government has also made great progress in the promotion of community recreation. Since 1979, nine new facilities including community complexes, recreation complexes and community halls, have been constructed, and an additional 13 facilities are being planned or constructed. It is especially gratifying to see that the degree of involvement of community residents and northern businesses in the planning and the construction of these facilities is steadily increasing.

In July, the Minister of Local Government represented the Northwest Territories at the World University Games in Edmonton and at the Western Canada Games in Calgary. I would like to express to this House my pleasure at the success of our young northern athletes and cultural performers in giving many people from across Canada and from other parts of the world a new awareness of the unique and rich cultures of the North.

#### Department Of Education

In March 1982, the special committee on education of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly presented its report to this Assembly after a two year review, including public consultation, of every phase of education. A task force for the implementation of the report was formed and the report has been presented to the Minister of Education. A major first step in implementing the education report will be taken this session when amendments to the Education Ordinance to establish divisional boards will be presented.

The expansion of the student financial assistance program of loans and bursaries has proved to be extremely successful, with a total of 665 applicants this year. It is particularly gratifying to note that the participation of native northerners in the program has increased tenfold in four years. One million dollars has been put into the indigenous language development fund to assist community language programs. This is a three year program which has, through community participation, encouraged the study and use of the languages of the people. The incorporation of Thebacha College, the establishment of a teacher certification board and the increase in the number of education societies from two to 12, are among the achievements of the Education department.

#### Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

The major emphasis in the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is the decentralization of programs and activities with the headquarters unit providing policy, planning and technical support. More emphasis is also being placed on individual self-help programs. These trends are evident in the new tourism strategy which emphasizes a community-based tourism policy. The Economic Development Agreement which was signed with the federal government in December 1982, a new training agreement with the Manpower division of CEIC, the extension of the federal ARDA agreement for two years, are all proving to be of benefit to territorial residents in terms of jobs and business opportunities. These and other accomplishments of the department will be explained in more detail by the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, the Hon. Arnold McCallum.

#### Department Of Social Services

The two main thrusts of the Social Services department during the past four years have been the recruitment and training of northerners in the provision of social services and citizen and community participation in all programs. Presently the percentage of northern social workers is approximately 60 per cent and we are now seeing an increasing number of northerners rising to more senior positions.

Citizen participation is particularly visible in the provisions of a high standard of social services by the town of Frobisher Bay. The increasing use of band councils and community organizations to supply home care support services to the aged and handicapped, summer camps for teenagers, and counselling to people with alcohol problems indicates increased local involvement in direct delivery of good services. In the areas of alcohol and drug programs, corrections, family and children's services, aged and handicapped and financial assistance, the department has continued to improve its services to an ever-increasing number of clients.

#### Department Of Health

Increased public awareness of health and health services, the safeguarding of patients, the development of new services and the preservation of medicare could serve to summarize the goals and accomplishments of the Department of Health during the past four years. The passage by this House of Nursing, Medical, Dental Profession Ordinances, the introduction of a pharmacare program for the elderly, and the transfer to our government of the administration of the hospital in Frobisher Bay are only a few of the accomplishments achieved during the past four years.

#### Energy, Mines And Resources Secretariat

One of the most important agencies of government that has been established during the life of this Assembly is the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat which came into being in October, 1981. The Minister responsible for this secretariat, the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, together with his colleagues and staff, worked long and hard to produce the resource development policy, one of the major new policies of this government. The guiding principles for judging resource developments are set out in this policy which was promulgated in October, 1982. The policy and its guidelines state that any project determined to be beneficial to the people of the Northwest Territories in environmental and economic terms can be supported by this government.

#### Events Since Last Session

I would like now to touch briefly on some of the important events in the life of the NWT since last we met. Canada's Inuit hosted their compatriots from Greenland and Alaska in the Third Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Frobisher Bay during late July. I had the pleasure of attending briefly, prior to a visit to communities on Baffin Island. Some of you were present at the conference which provided an opportunity for interesting and worthwhile discussions on subjects of great importance to Inuit around the world. The organizers of this conference are to be congratulated on the success of these meetings.

On the other side of the Territories, I joined with some of you and citizens of Inuvik to celebrate their 25th anniversary. Although the weather was far from co-operative, the homecoming was a happy and memorable event. Prime Minister Trudeau was a guest at the closing ceremonies and the Executive Council was able to arrange a meeting with him. During his northern tour, the Prime Minister travelled to Fort McPherson where, with 102-year-old Annie G. Robert, he officially opened the community centre that bears her name. Later, he and his three sons visited the Bathurst Inlet and Wager Bay areas before completing his territorial trip with time spent in Rankin Inlet.

I am sure members of the Legislative Assembly are aware that a new slate of officers headed by Wally Firth, former MP for the Northwest Territories, was elected by the Metis Association in July and that a new executive is to be chosen shortly to lead the Dene Nation. On your behalf, I wish the new officers of each of these organizations a successful year.

A number of well-loved and respected citizens of the Northwest Territories have passed away since our last session, and I ask this House to join with me in honouring the memory of their lives among us. E.G. "Eddie" Jones, who was born in Fort Simpson in 1900, died in July. He was a resident of Fort Smith at the time of his death, but during his long life in the Northwest Territories he had lived at various times at Fort Resolution, Snowdrift and in the Yellowknife area before there was a settlement here. He spent much of his life as a trader and a prospector.



William Koaha, a respected elder who spent his life in Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet hunting, trapping and fishing, died on May 11th at the age of 70. Mr. Koaha was highly skilled in making and demonstrating skin kayaks. He was equally noted as a drum dancer and performed in front of many well-known public figures at Bathurst Inlet Lodge.

We express our sympathy to Ipeelee Kilabuk and all members of the family on the death of his mother, Alookie Kilabuk, at the age of 80. Alookie was a long-time and highly regarded resident of Pangnirtung.

Fred Firth of Fort McPherson died suddenly on July 27th. For more than 25 years he was the custodian of the school where he served under both federal and territorial governments.

A link with this Assembly was broken this year with the death of Mrs. Carolyn Carmichael at the age of 87. Mrs. Carmichael was the widow of Franklin Carmichael who was one of the first three elected Members of the NWT Council in 1951. Mrs. Carmichael, whose maiden name was Kay, was born near Old Crow in 1896. She hunted and trapped in the Fort McPherson and Aklavik area before her marriage to Frank Carmichael. The Carmichaels' eldest son, John, still traps near Aklavik, while Fred, their second son, is a long-time pilot and airline owner in Inuvik.

Members of the Assembly will be saddened to learn of the death of Edward Nazon of Arctic Red River in a boating accident this past June. Mr. Nazon spent all his life around Arctic Red River where for many years he was a highly respected band councillor and subchief. Mr. Nazon was believed to be in his mid-60s, but there is no definite record of his birth.

Another lifetime resident of the Arctic Red River area, O'Dellia Coyen, died in late July at the age of 81 years. Mrs. Coyen was predeceased by her husband, Chief Andre Coyen, many years ago. She had attended school in Fort Providence and spoke Loucheux, French and English.

Johnny Simpson, a well-respected Dogrib leader, for many years a band councillor in Rae and influential in the establishing of the community of Snare Lakes, died recently.

Last Saturday saw the passing in Inuvik of Tom Kalinek, believed to be over 100 years of age. Mr. Kalinek travelled extensively in his own schooner along the Arctic Coast in the Delta area. He is survived by his wife Sarah, four sons, and numerous grandchildren.

I have just learned since preparing this speech of the death of Daniel Salluviniq in Resolute Bay. Salluviniq was a highly respected and regarded person in that area and his passing is regretted.

It is a pleasure to extend birthday greetings to Julie Bughins of Fort Rae, who reached the grand age of 100 yesterday.

---Applause

#### Dr. Jack Hildes To Receive Commissioner's Award

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Jack Hildes of Winnipeg is to receive the Commissioner's Award for public service at the highest level. Dr. Hildes served as director of Northern Medical unit and for many years provided much needed health services to the people of the Keewatin with extraordinary personal commitment. His medical knowledge, his down-to-earth approach to health problems, and his kindnesses and understanding won him the respect and admiration of all with whom he worked. Dr. Hildes also served the people of the NWT as a long-time member of the Science Advisory Board. I am sorry to report that Dr. Hildes is in very poor health.

#### Proposed Legislation

During this session, a legislative program of 13 bills will be introduced for your consideration. Amendments to the following ordinances will be introduced: Judicature Ordinance, Medical Care Ordinance, Regulations Ordinance, Wildlife Ordinance, Education Ordinance, Companies Ordinance, Interpretation Ordinance, Council Ordinance and Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance. Two financial bills will be presented: Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance No. 2, 1983-84 and Supplementary

Appropriation Ordinance No. 4, 1982-83. New legislation will consist of a Regional and Tribal Council Ordinance and a Water Resource Agreements Ordinance. Your Ministers consider these bills essential to the good conduct of government business. I recommend the passage of each of these ordinances.

I now commend to you for your earnest consideration and wise judgment the business of this House, as I declare open the 11th session of the Ninth Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Resignation Of Deputy Speaker

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Please be seated. I have a few announcements to make. I have been advised by Mr. Fraser that he will be unable to attend the Assembly as he is under a doctor's care and probably will not be attending until sometime in September, probably around September 5th. I have received a further correspondence from Mr. Fraser dated August 29th: "I wish to tender to you as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly my resignation as Deputy Speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. I wish this to be effective today, Monday, August 29th, 1983. I wish to add that it has been a pleasure and privilege to have served as Deputy Speaker. Yours sincerely, Peter C. Fraser, Mackenzie Great Bear."

Since our last meeting we have made two new appointments and I would like to bring to the Members' attention the appointment of the two new Clerk Assistants who are today sitting at the table for the first time. I am sure Members join with me in welcoming Mr. Albert Canadien...

---Applause

...and Mr. Jim Mikeli

---Applause

I am sure that these two new members will be of great assistance to the Members of this House in the future. Orders of the day for Tuesday, August 30th. Item 3, Members' replies. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM NO. 3: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. Sibbeston's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move a motion of appreciation to the Commissioner for the speech that he has just given us. I would like to firstly deal with a number of concerns from my constituency in the hope that some of these can be resolved in the dying days of this Assembly.

Recreation Complex For Fort Simpson

The first matter is the Fort Simpson recreation complex. Eight months have passed since the mayor, the chief, a number of representatives from Fort Simpson met with the Executive Committee about the recreation complex which essentially is an arena and a multipurpose community hall. As a result of this meeting with the Executive, a committee was set up and certainly people in Simpson had high hopes that in a number of months they would be able to begin work on their recreation complex. At a meeting in Fort Simpson about 10 days ago with the recreation committee where representatives of all organizations in town met, it was determined and concluded that really nothing has advanced very much since last winter. Little progress has been made on the recreation complex since the meeting with the Executive. So, as a result of this, communications, telexes were sent to Yellowknife and I came over to Yellowknife to meet with the Commissioner and Mr. Wah-Shee in the hope that they can be enticed to come to Fort Simpson to meet with the people there.

Some of the problems are that there are constant changes of rules as the committee meets. The people in Simpson find that the government continually changes the rules for their complex. Another problem is, that there is a disagreement about the type of buildings that people want to build in Simpson. The people in Simpson want to build a predesigned -- as they say "simple Jane or simple Sally" -- type of building, not very lavish, but something that they think will be adequate for them, and a building that will cost approximately \$1.5 million. The government, on

the other hand, wants an architecturally-drawn building and architects' fees in the neighbourhood of \$200,000 and a complex that may cost up to three million dollars. So there is a wide divergence of thinking. There is also some problem with respect to the land inasmuch as the people in Simpson want to build on the land adjacent to the school and the people feel that the land really belongs to them. The government here in Yellowknife feels that the land that the village wants should not be available to them. So there is some problem there.

So my hope, and the people's hope in Simpson is that in the next few days or weeks, certainly before the end of this Assembly or the end of our term, that Mr. Wah-Shee and Mr. Parker can come to Simpson. Now, I would like to add too that Mr. Patterson ought to come to Simpson and try to resolve that land issue.

#### Housing

About a week and a half ago in Simpson there was a week-long workshop, sponsored by the band council, on a number of community concerns and in the course of these discussions the matter of housing came up. Basically the people of Simpson are not satisfied with the present approach to housing that the Housing Corporation has taken. People do not really know how many houses they are going to get on a yearly basis, and at Simpson there is a real housing shortage. The band hopes that they can deal with the housing situation on a five year basis and they hope that they can negotiate with the Housing Corporation for a five year housing plan. I appreciate that this is not necessarily the direct business of the Assembly but we have a Minister who is responsible for the Housing Corporation so this is simply notice to him to be aware of this matter that will obviously be raised at the board of directors for the Housing Corporation.

An alarming fact actually came to light during the workshop and this is that the materials for the SSHAG or HAP program have not yet arrived in several of the communities as of last week. In Nahanni Butte we were supposed to have had one house, in Wrigley we were supposed to have had materials for three houses and in Simpson for one house. Thus far only the tin roofs for the houses in Wrigley have arrived in late July. People are obviously very concerned because the snow is going to start flying and no materials are yet available in the communities so that these people can build their houses. As I said to the territorial Housing Corporation officials at the meeting, I find this situation unpardonable because they have had since April 1st and all spring and summer to put things together and provide for the materials to arrive. As I understand it, part of the problem this year is that tenders were let on various aspects of the building so there may have been a problem in all of the materials being put together and sent, but still people do feel that the corporation can certainly do better than that.

Mr. Speaker, this puts me into another area, that of the northern preference policy. The government last year came out with a northern preference policy and already in my constituency I am beginning to hear complaints and real concerns about whether this policy is working or whether it is fair to the people of the North. Last fall, at a meeting with the LEA and school officials, teachers and the administration of the school complained that they simply were not able to buy all of the books that they had hoped to get because the northern preference policy was making materials and supplies more expensive in the North.

This policy again appears to affect the housing materials this year. It seems that the providing of materials this year has been worse than ever and people feel that it is the direct result of this northern preference policy which requires the government to buy in the North, thus costing more money and, in this case, causing a great deal of delay. I understand that in Fort Smith the Fitz-Smith band had been given some money for housing and they went directly to the South and were able to buy materials for more houses than they were given money for, as a result of being able to buy on a wholesale basis. I do feel that the northern preference policy must be looked at again seriously and maybe this can be done with the next Assembly. We ought to consider whether maybe it is a good idea, but maybe proving to be too costly for the people of the North.

#### Power Line To Kakisa

I had occasion to visit Kakisa Lake and Providence on my way to Yellowknife and the one major concern that the people of Kakisa have is that of electricity. Some Members will recall that I had raised the matter of power or electricity for Kakisa almost every session for the past few years until I gave up about a year ago. I guess I gave up but the people did not give up. Apparently

the community of Kakisa and the band council in Providence met with Alberta Power officials a week or so ago and the company has indicated that they are prepared to put a power line to the community which would involve 15 to 17 miles of power line. What is now needed is some money from this government to make this possible. In this regard I did get a letter from Mr. Wah-Shee, dated July 22, stating that the government had agreed to provide the capital funds but that it would only be made available in 1984-85. I did explain this to the people, but the people still feel that it is too far ahead, and maybe it will not happen. So they have asked me to ask Mr. Wah-Shee if he could find the funds this fall yet, so that the people of Kakisa Lake can have electricity this fall.

I spoke to Mr. Brooks, the manager of Alberta Power, in this regard and he said they were ready and willing to put in the power the moment that the word comes from Yellowknife. So I really would ask, because I have been asked by the people of Kakisa to tell the government that they would like power this fall. I would say that this community does not make many requests of the government; there is very little in the community -- no schools, no \$3.5 million school -- and this request, I feel, is a reasonable one and ought to be met. These are some of the immediate concerns.

I wish now to talk about things on a more general nature. This is the last session of the Assembly and it will give us a chance to reflect on the past four years and assess what has happened or has not happened, whether the hopes that we had a number of years ago have been accomplished or whether they have been in vain. In preparing for the speech today I went back to my opening speech, back to November 13, 1979, and I thought maybe if things have not changed very much I could use that speech again.

---Laughter

I did read it through very thoroughly and some of the things that I raised then were things such as a need for this government to change so that it could become more acceptable to the people that I represent, the native people, and the prospect of setting up some kind of committee that eventually became the unity committee to deal with the dissension that was then existing in the North. I talked about the possibility of affecting government more than in the past because I have been on Council before and the way we used to talk was that the government should do this or the Commissioner should do this and I hoped four years ago that now that we are all elected and we have elected people on the Executive, we should be able to say the government shall do this and it automatically gets carried out by the Executive who are supposed to take our instructions.

I talked four years ago about the program for training native wildlife officers. I talked about native people getting into higher levels of government and I even talked about a commission or task force to change the names of government buildings, schools and geographic features. Members too will remember that not too long after this there was a motion to change the name of the museum and, unfortunately, it did not pass. I wonder if now, today, that motion would have more success.

MR. WRAY: Try again!

---Laughter

MR. SIBBESTON: I also then spoke about the changes to the Assembly. I said this Assembly ought to really better reflect the people and cultures of the North in respect of decor and practices. When I looked carefully at what was said then and what has happened since, I had to come to the conclusion that we indeed have made progress and, as Members know, I am pretty stingy with my compliments and praises but I do think things have become better particularly for native people in the North as a result of our efforts. For the non-native people maybe the last few years have been a bit trying and difficult but I would say that eventually the changes we talk about will result in a juster and fairer North and this way it could be accepted by all people in the North.

#### Constitutional Changes

Now, in looking at the changes, one of the biggest areas of change has to be in the constitutional area. This area has seen the biggest change, and a great deal of activity. Four years ago, I think we were headed straight toward England to copy their system of government. Everybody was going to become lords, barons and whatnot. I think we altered that course a little bit with our efforts in the last few years and I think through time we might have a made-in-the-Northwest-Territories or a made-in-Denendeh constitution. So this is very encouraging. Soon after this Assembly met, we threw the previous Assembly's constitutional paper in the garbage and soon after that we set up our unity committee...

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Throw that in the garbage!

---Laughter

MR. SIBBESTON: That resulted in greater, better things and we eventually began co-operating with the native organizations -- which the Commissioner alluded to -- and eventually had a plebiscite. Now we have constitutional forums and constitutional conferences and all sorts of things. We even now have the federal government paying for our constitutional conferences just to show you how much progress we have made. And I must say in this area that my involvement with the constitutional conferences has been very worthwhile to me. I have found that as a result of discussion between native and non-native people there has been a lot of agreement and understanding and I never cease to be amazed at the amount of give and take and understanding that has come from these conferences. So I say it is really encouraging and the answer to our constitutional problems is understanding, working together to come to agreement, to compromises. That is the solution and happily that is the path on which we are embarked. So we certainly look forward to the future with hope and proposals by native organizations that had been considered radical three or four years ago are now seen as reasonable alternatives with some merit.

#### Employment Of Native People

In respect of employment of native people, particularly in high levels, I think we have made some progress. Four years ago, the native organizations attracted and employed many of the best educated, politically aware native people. Four years ago, it was a fact that if you had any pride, you just do not work for the territorial government. It was not a credible thing to do. Slowly this began to change to the point where we have a certain number of native people working in high levels of government and in this regard I can mention the deputy minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Bourque, who had been back there earlier.

---Applause

And we also have a number of assistant regional directors who are native and we do have a number of field officers. In Simpson, we have at least 50 per cent of the government staff who are native. I have found too that there is more of a willingness by native people to sit on government agencies and boards. Perhaps a good example of this was our boundaries commission where we were able to get Jim Antoine, the chief of our area, to be on the boundaries commission. I think this is something to recognize because it really would not have happened four years ago, but it did during our time. I do feel that there is a fair amount of work yet to be done but I think some progress has been made.

I must refer to the Office of Native Employment. Members will know that I have spoken about this matter a number of times saying that the Office of Native Employment really ought to be attached to the Executive Secretariat and the government thus far has not complied. I would like to refer to point Members to the Native Press which had an article on July 1st, 1983, dealing with the co-ordinator of the Office of Native Employment quitting his office and saying a number of things. It was frustration with attitudes in the territorial government that was one reason why the co-ordinator of the Office of Native Employment has quit his job. Ernest Lennie is quoted to have said "I am frustrated because change is moving too slow". Later on he says "... because of lack of solid government policy for hiring northern native people" and because there was "little financial and professional support from the government". So this, in my view, reinforces my view we need to take the Office of Native Employment out of its present department. It is lost somewhere in the department. We need to give it higher importance and status and power so it can truly do a more effective job. This is something again for the next Assembly to deal with, hopefully.

#### Native Languages

With respect to native languages, during the life of this Assembly the matter of native languages has actually become a number one priority of this government. With respect to Dene languages, there was nothing actually four years ago. During the past few years we have a start. Mind you, it took a bit of wrangling and having to speak in Slavey to do it but it was done, and I think that this must be recognized. In education, too, there is more recognition and emphasis on the native languages and Mr. Patterson was a little bit instrumental in that, so that has to be recognized.

In Simpson in the schools we have always had a sprinkling of Slavey through the school curriculum and it has been improving each year. This fall, we have for the first time a grade one Slavey immersion class. This is providing real hope to some of the people. In fact one of our sons is going to be in that Slavey immersion class, so it gives us real hope. To me this is a real concrete sign that there is greater emphasis on native languages by this government.

As for this Legislative Assembly, I think there has been some move here to make it more northern, to have this Assembly reflect the native people, the cultures here. There is some movement but I sometimes think there is a wavering. As I said in January, I do not mind the police marching in here with scarlet clothes as long as there is something from the Dene people. The January session was very good. There was a bit of drumming and there were more aspects of all different people and cultures in the North then. I am a bit disappointed there was not more of that here today but I do feel that it is a start and I fully expect that by the time we are finished, which might be the next Assembly, our Speaker here will hopefully wear a nice moosehide jacket, maybe caribou hide pants, and some kamiks.

---Laughter

Let me just say in this regard that I came in here four years ago with a suit and tie and I am walking out of it with this moosehide vest. So that is progress.

So when all is considered, Mr. Speaker, I do feel that there have been changes but I think the real test is in the communities. The question that I ask myself, in standing here kind of reflecting over the past few years, is, has life for people in my constituency, in the Doh Cho area, improved? What and how has government done? Have I been able to affect or influence government to be more responsive, accountable and meet the needs of the people? Considering that the people who elected me four years ago did not recognize this as their government, have I, even in a small way, made this government more the government of the people? In considering this, I guess I have to look at each of the communities in my constituency to see how things have changed.

I look at Fort Simpson, which I think is the best town, or one of the best towns in the North. It was not always that way but today it is the best town in the North.

---Laughter

It was not without problems but I must say we have resolved some of them. Up to 1980, when we dealt with the liquor problem, there were 35 or so people who had died, and it was going at a rate of about three native people per year dying with liquor. We had that famous meeting where the Commissioner and Mr. Butters were there and dealt with it and since that time we have had restrictions. It has helped the situation a lot, not without some problems, but generally it has helped the situation. What that meeting or what that decision did with respect to liquor was it made the people realize that it was indeed possible to change and affect government. Up to that time, people had thought that, well, it is the government, it is the white people that have done this. It is them that have set up the liquor stores, and it is them that have been running the show. So there was a feeling amongst native people that maybe you could not change, maybe this is the way things had to be forever. But with some organizing and some hard work we were able to change it. I remember at the public meeting at which Mr. Parker said, "There comes a time when you have to cut the bait and start fishing." I remember those words precisely. He said that he would encourage the government to comply with the people's requests and the restrictions were imposed. That did a lot in Simpson to raise the credibility of the Commissioner and this government.

#### Good Feelings And Attitudes

In 1981, Nogha Enterprises, which is a band company, was set up and the territorial government negotiated with it a highway maintenance contract. This is going very well. Prior to this, we had a southern company doing the highway maintenance, with very little benefit to the people of the North. In regard to the village council in Simpson, there were many local people a number of years ago who said that this was really not their government; it was just the local government of a few business people in town. Through the past few elections there have been more native people involved to the point now where we have a Dene mayor and the credibility of the village council is very high these days and there is much co-operation between the village and the band. So that creates good feelings and positive attitudes in the community.

In 1979, to give an example, in Simpson, there were two native businesses; today, 1983, there are eight. Native people are taking greater part in the business community, government and recreation than ever before. It is a fact that as native people get on their feet economically, politically, socially, it results in a healthier community, more vitality in a community, and results in better relations between native and non-native people. When things get good for native people, you have a situation where white people are not looking down at native people in a kind of pitiful, disgust kind of manner, but rather seeing native people with respect and on an even basis. It seems to me that this is how we are all working together to create fairness and justice in our northern society. The attitude of people in Simpson these days is very, very good and it is in this environment that the community really needs an arena complex. Everybody is involved in it; over \$20,000 has been raised already by the community and it is really hoped that very soon, this fall or certainly this winter at the latest, that moneys will be coming from this government to build the recreation complex.

In the smaller communities in my constituency, there have been, too, some positive changes. In the area of housing, housing in Nahanni Butte was really in need a few years ago, and the Mackenzie Valley housing associations used to go to Nahanni Butte and did so two years in a row, promising houses but nothing materialized. Finally, a special request was made to the Executive of this government and they complied and improved all the houses in Nahanni. Since then, there has been one new house built every year. So that is really helping the community greatly. Wrigley too, I must say, is one of the best little communities along the Mackenzie River, and I get inspired -- I notice a lot of people from Wrigley here.

---Laughter

I get inspired every time I go to Wrigley. It is a real Dene community; language is strong there and people really do use the land and trap and hunt. Each time I go there, there is lots of meat and fish; in fact, Mr. Braden was there last winter and I believe he enjoyed his stay there. People built three SSHAG or HAP houses there last fall, and they are supposed to be getting two more this year -- one of these days, I guess. So the housing situation in Wrigley is reasonably good. Wrigley, too, is the only little town in the North, in my constituency, that has changed the name of the school, and they did that last spring, to Chief Julian Yendo School. So they and I are right in tune on this issue. I was hoping that this would spread or rub off on other communities in my constituency.

Members may have heard last week that Mr. Munro has announced \$100 million for the construction of roads in the North. Wrigley will be one of the communities that will be benefiting and they will be getting 10 miles of road. The community now is very anxious and looking forward to this highway being built to them. Let me just say that in the mid-70s, when the Mackenzie highway was being built, the people did not feel the same way about it then. They did not want the highway and this is why the federal government stopped it 10 miles south of Wrigley. Since then there has been a great deal of change. People now are in control of the community; the Hudson's Bay is gone, the government personnel are gone. Now the community have their own co-op and really the band council does everything. So people are in a better condition and state to take advantage of any benefits that might come to their community along with the highway.

One of the most significant things which has happened in my constituency, the Deh Cho area, during the past three or four years has been the growth and formation of the regional council. For the past three or four years, all the communities have been getting together, two, three or four times a year. This process had actually been started by the Dene Nation but, over the course of the last year, the territorial government has been funding it and lots of good, positive things will come out of this. I am glad to see that we finally will be dealing with a regional and tribal council ordinance this session. I have more to say, but I see that as a gift to the people.

#### Native Involvement In Territorial Election

When we look at government on a general basis and when I look at the communities as I have done, I feel that there have been enough changes to warrant more involvement by native people in the Deh Cho area in the next territorial election. That is the conclusion I have come to, that there have been sufficient changes to warrant the native people being involved and trying to become elected to the next territorial Assembly. I believe that this is also the general view down the Mackenzie River.

Four years ago the Dene Nation, the Dene leaders approached the territorial elections then very cautiously. The debate was whether to boycott the election or whether to support certain candidates in the hope that the Legislative Assembly could be used as a forum for the Dene Nation. And I can remember well in my area, in talking with the chiefs about my running at the time, that there was fear and suspiciousness as to whether whoever was elected would suddenly jump in with the government and become part of the government and not really challenge the government. Four years later, I do believe that the attitude of the native people in my area has changed. Important changes have been made and I think a start has been made with respect to a very important matter that the native people have, and this is with respect to a government that will more truly reflect them in the future. So, through all the constitutional conferences and forums, changes it seems are forthcoming and there is a possibility of having a government eventually which will have some mechanism to protect the interests of the aboriginal people and so forth. There is a feeling that enough good things have happened from this Assembly to warrant people changing their attitudes and being involved; and the message or talk amongst many of the Dene or Metis people in the North now is that they ought to run for the Assembly in the election and once in there, to seek Executive positions. Generally I feel that there will not be a holding back as there had been at the start of this past Assembly and it is thought that there could well be up to eight native people from the western part of the North elected and I think there will generally be wide interest and enthusiasm about getting on the Executive to effect more governmental changes.

#### Appreciation Of Deputy Commissioner Pilot

Now, with the planned removal of the Deputy Commissioner, we are ending an era. This will provide for an elected person, probably the Elected Leader of the next Executive Council, to be more or less the second-in-command in the North here. I want to say that I have been very impressed with the ability, work and attitude of Mr. Pilot, who is the Deputy Commissioner. During the discussions about the position of Deputy Commissioner, I have appreciated that Mr. Pilot has taken it all very professionally in his conduct and that he did not take any comments seriously. Whenever I was able to see him he still smiled and spoke with me and I appreciate that he did not take the comments or what was happening in a personal way. So after being a federal employee I am sure we would all agree that he is welcome to become a territorial government employee.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SIBBESTON: So in closing I just want to say that the nature of our profession, besides being one of the oldest professions in the world...

---Laughter

...is such that we do not know if we will be back and in the event that I do not get back, I had better say goodbye and say that it has been nice knowing you and working with you and dealing with you over the past few years. I do not know if I should be sorry for throwing a cup as I did. I was actually going to use this as one of my campaign platforms in this coming election and people should note too that I did not really aim it at Mr. Fraser. I threw it at government, at bureaucracy...

---Laughter

...and so now I would hope to say in the upcoming election that I really fought government for you people. But I do hope to be back. I would like to say now that I will be running in the forthcoming territorial election. In fact, the election has been set on my birthday, November 21.

---Laughter

If for no other reason I will be suggesting to my constituents that they ought to vote for me because it is my birthday.

---Laughter



I wanted to say too a special thank you to some of the Members who had come on the Executive Committee, and I appreciate that it is a difficult job. You inherit a bureaucracy, and I guess the whole process has been trying to change that bureaucracy to respond to our wishes and people's wishes. I think we have made some progress and I think you can all feel good about yourselves. I want to say a special thank you to Mr. Braden. I have to watch what I say because I may say such nice things that he decides to run again. But I do hear Mr. Braden is not running and in the event that he is not back, I would like to say that he has done an admirable job. He has kept calm often in the heat of action and he has come forward with compromise solutions which have been satisfactory to all.

Let me just say that I look forward to the next session, which will be in January of 1984 and I hope to see many of you people back. I do hope that we could finish our business actually this week and maybe go for a day or two next week because there is another very important happening in the North which is the Dene Nation Assembly in Resolution. So I just want to conclude by saying thank you very much. It has been my pleasure to be here the last few years and I hope to see you all again. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. The Chair is pleased to recognize Mr. Erwin Boll, German Consul-General from Edmonton, and his wife.

---Applause

I would like to invite the members of the gallery to join with the MLAs for coffee and cake. We will recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

I call the House to order. Returning to the orders of the day for Tuesday, August 30th. Replies to the Commissioner's Address, Item 3, Members' replies. Item 4, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Braden.

ITEM NO. 4: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, given that we have moved on to more routine things I wonder if the press could be asked to turn off the lights? If you want to record first reading of bills, you must be hard up for news.

MR. SPEAKER: I would now ask if the news media would close the lights off then, please.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 1-83(2): Companies Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, September 1, 1983, I shall move that Bill 1-83(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Companies Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 2-83(2): Council Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, September 1, 1983, I shall move that Bill 2-83(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Council Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 3-83(2): Education Ordinance

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, September 1, 1983, I shall move that Bill 3-83(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Education Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 4-83(2): Interpretation Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, September 1, 1983, I shall move that Bill 4-83(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Interpretation Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 5-83(2): Judicature Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, September 1, 1983, I shall move that Bill 5-83(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Judicature Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tologanak.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 6-83(2): Medical Care Ordinance

HON. KANE TOLUGANAK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, September 1, 1983, I shall move that Bill 6-83(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Medical Care Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 8-83(2): Regional And Tribal Councils Ordinance

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, September 1, 1983, I shall move that Bill 8-83(2), An Ordinance Respecting Regional and Tribal Councils, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Braden.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 9-83(2): Regulations Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, September 1, 1983, I shall move that Bill 9-83(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Regulations Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 10-83(2): Water Resources Agreements Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, September 1, 1983, I shall move that Bill 10-83(2), An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner and the Executive Member to Enter into Agreements Respecting Water Resources, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 11-83(2): Wildlife Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, September 1, 1983, I shall move that Bill 11-83(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Wildlife Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices? That appears to conclude notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 5, tabling of documents.

Item 6, oral questions.

Item 7, written questions.

Item 8, returns. Are there any returns?

Item 9, Ministers' statements.

Item 10, petitions.

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, motions.

Item 14, first reading of bills.

Item 15, second reading of bills.

Item 16, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters. I do not believe there is anything on the order paper to go into committee. Mr. Clerk, Item 17, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, announcements. There will be a caucus meeting immediately after adjournment today. At 9:30 tomorrow morning there will be a meeting of the standing committee on rules and procedures in the caucus room, and at 6:30 tomorrow evening there will be a meeting of the standing committee on legislation in the caucus room.

ITEM NO. 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, Wednesday, August 31, 1983.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Oral Questions
4. Written Questions
5. Returns
6. Ministers' Statements
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters
16. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 31, 1983.

—ADJOURNMENT

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\$1.00 per day; \$30.00 for 1st session, \$20.00 for 2nd and 3rd session; or \$50.00 per year  
Published under the Authority of the Commissioner  
of the Northwest Territories