



COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES DEBATES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIESFRIDAY, MAY 2, 1975ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

--- PRAYER

ITEM NO. 2: CONTINUING REPLIES TO THE COMMISSIONER'S OPENING ADDRESS

THE SPEAKER: Item 2, continuing replies to the Commissioner's opening address. The Honourable Member for the Keewatin?

Mr. Ernerk's Reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, may I first of all congratulate you on your election as Speaker. While I am at it I would also like to congratulate Mr. Stewart and Mr. Butters on their new positions. With your experience I am sure that many of us here will learn much about Council procedures. Mr. Commissioner, Mr. Deputy Commissioner, most of us in this Council are very new to this game. However, we will look to you for your help from time to time no doubt. I do not wish to speak too long as I did not have time to prepare my reply to the Commissioner's speech until late last night. I had lots to say when I was campaigning for the territorial Council in the Keewatin District, but I must now admit that for the first time in my life I am lost for words. I would briefly like to talk about the problems which exist in my own riding, the Keewatin District.

I am only sorry that two of the communities being Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay have been eliminated from the rest of the Keewatin District. Repulse Bay of course is my home town and I am very proud of it, for its fine carvings, good hunters, its strong community council, and its ability to move towards a great co-operative society. However, I am sure that with a good man like my colleague to my right, Mr. Evaluarjuk, they will be represented first class.

When I was running for this office I based my campaign on at least five major issues including a need to improve the present educational system, problems with present housing, recreation, air transportation, better communication needs and, most of all, the happiness of the people living in the Keewatin District and the rest of the Northwest Territories. It seems there are a few among the older people and younger people, who think that everything that is going on in life, the development of mining exploration, the oil and gas exploration in and around the community where they live are bothering the people. That is to say they are not always consulted until after everything has been done. Some begin to worry about what is going to happen next and many just do not understand why so many of these developments, or developments of this type, are taking place at a fast pace.

The majority of parents worry about their young people, they need to understand the way of life on the land and they want to make sure that they are equipped for their own future if they are to survive in the Arctic. On the other hand, younger people want to be respected by their elders so that they can learn from them and eventually take over the responsibilities that their present leaders have. In many cases, both are beginning to work together as community councilors belonging to the education advisory boards, the local welfare committees and whatever else that needs to be done but both are worried because in some cases their views and needs at times have been neglected by the authorities who are responsible for the communities.

Effective Representation

We want effective representation from our territorial Councillors, native brotherhoods and most of all from our governments both in Ottawa and in Yellowknife. Most of us are now beginning to present our ideas and views, but there are others who have not been encouraged to do so. They want their leaders to be their guides, at the same time they want them to be quite prepared to present their ideas and views to our southern governments, so that the North, or rather so that they may come to realize that the North is not just a frozen North after all. Only a handful of years ago southern people never thought of the North that much, but now they want to look for oil and gold because of the views from the people who are involved, the people who live traditionally, that is to say, people who live off the land, the people of the North, or people who trap and fish. Strong representation on behalf of the people of the North is needed. After all, we, the people of the Northwest Territories have a lot to offer as well. Mr. Speaker, when I was campaigning I said I would work for all people of the Northwest Territories and now I am here and am prepared to do what I said, and I think as a team we can start to work together for the benefit of the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you very much.

--- Applause

THE SPEAKER: Before we go on any further with replies, may I on behalf of this Council take the opportunity to invite the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner to join this house in formal session. Are there any further replies? Mr. Lyall?

Mr. Lyall's Reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, my honourable colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. At this time I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Searle, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Butters on their new appointments, and also I would like to add that by knowing them, from what they did in the past, I know they will do their very best for all of us. I would also like to congratulate the Commissioner and all the heads of departments for all the wonderful jobs they have been doing in the past, in view of the fact that they have to meet commitments on them under the budget. When I ran in the election I did not promise my people anything, I just told them that I would try my very best for all the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories, and at all times to do the same thing towards my fellow colleagues, and that fellow Members I will do. Thank you.

--- Applause

THE SPEAKER: Mr. Nickerson?

Mr. Nickerson's Reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, it might be of interest to point out that as the Member for Yellowknife North, not only do I now have the honour and the privilege of counting among my more illustrious constituents, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner, the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, but now I also have the added pleasure and responsibility of representing the Speaker of the house. I assure you, sir, that should you ever approach me on matters appertaining to the riding in which you live I will do everything in my power to resolve such matters to your satisfaction. Thank you.

--- Applause

THE SPEAKER: Now that you mention it, Mr. Nickerson, there is the slight matter

of the paving of my street.

MR. NICKERSON: That is out of my jurisdiction, sir.

THE SPEAKER: Are there any further replies?

Mr. Evaluarjuk's Reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, I am very inexperienced about the procedures in Council, but I do want to say a few words as I now have a better understanding of the procedures. I am very happy to be here, to be working with you, and I would like to congratulate the people on their appointments, and I am very happy with the people who have been appointed.

I would like to say at this time, that on my campaign, on the make-up of my constituency, I would say I feel very disappointed for the people in Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour as I do not know how we will get to them, and that is what I am most concerned about at this time. I said that if I got elected I would try and correct this mistake as I see it. Transportation to the settlements is extremely difficult from Igloolik and other places and there is no transportation now between these settlements. I know that Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour, and Igloolik are closely tied and old people have relatives in all these places. The only way they can find to reach any of these areas is by ski-doo. This is extremely difficult on the older people.

I am saying this because I promised my constituents that I would bring it to the attention of the Council as soon as possible. I also understand that this can not be solved immediately and it may take many years, but I would like to see within the next few years that this problem could be corrected. I would like to see aircraft based in Igloolik. I do not know who would be responsible to look after this, either Nordair or Transair, but I think that one of those companies should be based there. This is my biggest concern at the moment but I will wait until June to say further what my viewpoints are.

--- Applause

THE SPEAKER: Are there any further replies?

Mr. Kilabuk's Reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address

MR. KILABUK: I have been elected as a Member of the standing committee on finance to this Council in Yellowknife. I have some experience as Councillor in the settlements, and in the hamlets but this is a problem. It is different from a settlement council. I have had many difficulties in my past experience but also in our community we are making or trying to make things easier for the people of the Northwest Territories.

We have two big problems in our constituency and one is communications, this is one of our biggest problems. We find it very difficult sometimes to travel and there are no telephones and this is causing great problems in the northern communities. This is our biggest concern and the other problem is that water delivery has been the biggest problem and has been a problem for some time. There are more problems but this has been a problem for some time. I want to discuss this in the very near future, possibly at our next meeting. We have very poor service in this field and we have very poor equipment which is not sufficient to meet the needs of the community. I will be speaking on this for some time.

Housing, in 1966 and 1967 was becoming more expensive each year to maintain and in cold weather during the winter. I have noticed that fuel oil is getting

scarce and very expensive in the settlements and in this past year we think the houses of our settlements should get new insulation and this way they would use less fuel than we used last winter. I want this problem looked at.

In the Northwest Territories -- there is no Member of the Northwest Territories Council, and I will perhaps tell you a few things that this Council has never even heard of. The people who elected us, we want to ask them what they want. They are the people who have the say and I am just a voice for them.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Are there further replies?

MR. BARNABY: I believe I am the last one to reply to the Commissioner's opening address.

THE SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Barnaby. I have been asked by the interpreters indicate if you could somehow attach the mike to your clothing. If you hold it close, apparently it nearly bursts their eardrums -- if Members when **speaking** could remember to attach it to their clothing. I am sorry to interrupt you.

Mr. Barnaby's Reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address

MR. BARNABY: Thank you. How is this? As I did not prepare anything in the way of a speech, I just wanted to say that I am very happy to work for the people in the Great Bear Mackenzie District. I believe a lot in self-government and I think that a lot of misunderstanding in the North today is because people never have a chance to get together. I am happy to say that I think this Council is starting off on the right foot. We are getting a lot of help from the Members who have served on the territorial Council.

I just want to add that I will be trying to get more local autonomy for the communities in my district. Since I have nothing prepared, I think that is all I have to say.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Barnaby.

--- Applause

I think I am correct in believing that everyone has spoken, everyone has made a reply?

Mr. Pudluk's Reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address

MR. PUDLUK: No. Mr. Speaker, I will mix the languages in this speech, Eskimo and English, also, but I will translate it into English.

Myself, I feel it is quite difficult to appear as a Councillor. Anyhow, I have to take it because I was elected from the High Arctic. When I say High Arctic I am starting to feel cold.

There are a lot of things that have to be done in the North. I know some of the difficulties of our government which has been trying to put it up somehow, but there are also problems about money for communicating into each centre which would like to understand each other.

I see myself when the people come up like from Ottawa and ask questions, they seem to be more interested in hearing about their own concerns from the North, and I feel myself they should hire people, like from Yellowknife or Frobisher -- excuse my language -- we have many problems in the High Arctic that I am aware of, but we have to solve each one of them, one at a time, not only in the High Arctic as a place, but as well we have to solve these problems.

The Housing Problem

I campaigned on the subject when I was in the settlements and I am not saying we can solve these problems now, but we have to begin. I think one of the big problems -- many problems are also prevalent, hunting areas, poor health facilities, older people have problems. We are aware we also have the northern rental housing facilities and there are five houses right now. There are only three months of summer and ships arrive in August, the houses are arriving and just sit around for two or three months. After the snow comes the houses are being constructed, only after the snow arrives. The pads, gravel pads, are built after the snow comes and the next year, the next spring, when the snow is starting to go, when the ground is shifting, the houses start coming apart and using more fuel to keep warm. All the parts of the houses are under snow and we find they are damaged. Whether they are missing or damaged, last year I noticed that a lot of insulation was thrown away because it was damaged. I am pointing this out because I feel a lot less money can be used if these problems were avoided. This money could be better used in other areas. It is not good to bring them up and just let them lay around and be damaged and money is wasted.

The Eskimo people and also the Indians in the North, are very adversely affected and need better education to cope with the world today. They need employment, first of all, and the most important thing is being aware of what is going on. They should be taught how to cope with the world today.

This is all I have to say at this time. Thank you very much, and I will work hard with you. I will co-operate and work hard with my fellow Councillors. We have to communicate with each other. In settlement councils the experience is that if things are let go, they just get forgotten. We should try and keep up with the things we have to do. Thank you.

--- Applause

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Am I now correct in assuming that everyone has spoken in reply? That being so, turning to the orders of the day, going to Item 3, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

There might be one return, Mr. Butters, to the question you asked yesterday, if it was transmitted to the Deputy Commissioner. I do not know whether it was. Mr. Parker, did you perchance receive a question asked by Mr. Butters yesterday?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, my understanding was that the question was likely to be resubmitted as a written question. However, if it is your wish, I am prepared to make an oral response now.

THE SPEAKER: Would that satisfy you, Mr. Butters?

MR. BUTTERS: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Proceed.

Return to Question 01-55: Wolf Bounties

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Butters' question was related to the action which we have taken as of the 1st of April, to remove the wolf bounty in the Northwest Territories. I believe Mr. Butters' concern related to the fact that the wolf bounty was originally instituted on a recommendation of a member or members of a previous Council. The matter of a wolf bounty has been under

discussion for some time within the Administration, throughout the country and, I must say, from time to time in previous Councils. We had served notice that the days of the wolf bounty were drawing to a close, but it is true that we had not referred the matter directly to Council.

At this time of very difficult financial restraint for the territorial Administration and also at a time when fur prices were very, very high, or at least reasonably high -- I realize they fluctuate -- we felt that this was something that should not be retained and the very grave danger of the whole business of the taking of fur would be called into question, as it has been in the past. I do not mean to imply that we would submit to public pressure unduly, but I think that we have to take an over-all view and this is what we did, for the good of the fur industry. For us to continue to have a climate in which fur could be taken and marketed, the continuation of a wolf bounty, as such, threw that whole system into question, and it was for this main reason that we removed it.

I have been in communication with Mr. Butters by letter of April 16, in response to his letter to me in this regard and I advised him at that time that we had made a press release some two or three weeks previous to that which gave in some great detail the information and the views of the Administration on this subject. I would be pleased to make copies of either of these documents available to Council, should they not have seen them.

THE SPEAKER: Do you have a supplementary question?

Changes should be Referred to Council

MR. BUTTERS: I have a supplementary question, sir. The letter the Deputy Commissioner refers to, I would be pleased if it could be made available to Councillors. I do wish to correct one point. That letter did not answer my question, nor did most of the material provided by the Deputy Commissioner today. My question was not on why the bounty was removed, the reasons. My question was: Is the Administration going to act on its own, as it were, and not on the direction of this Council? What is it going to be -- it was the wolf bounty last time and what will it be next? I just wish to have assurance, sir, from the Administration, either through the Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner, that directions given to them by this Council will be carried out and, when changes are to be made, such changes will be referred to Council, as recommendations and proposals before they take arbitrary action.

THE SPEAKER: The supplementary question, I take it, to Mr. Parker, would be asking for assurance?

MR. BUTTERS: Yes.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, certainly we can give that assurance with the proviso that it will, of course, depend upon the issue at stake. The Member's point is well taken that since the matter has been raised by Council it might well have been returned to Council, but, however, the timing in this instance was very difficult and a matter of great concern. However, it is the Commissioner's opinion and mine that in a very great number of instances such matters would be referred to Council, but it would depend upon the issue at stake.

THE SPEAKER: Turning now to questions, and these are written questions. The problem we have here is that they would normally be taken notice of and a written return would be given tomorrow or at some suitable future date. I am sure that both the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner have viewed the fact that this is the last day of this sitting, and would attempt verbally to

answer your questions, but you will appreciate, of course, that if you ask questions that they can not readily answer, and of course they do not want to be inaccurate in their response, you may have to just accept that they will communicate the response direct to you at some future date. So, I think if we appreciate those positions, and act on these sort of ground rules that we can properly proceed and hopefully you will get most of the information that you want.

Now, are there any further questions? Mr. Nickerson?

Question 02-55: Negotiations with Mr. Ray Benoit

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question that could perhaps be answered by the Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner. I wonder if either of these gentlemen could advise the house as to how negotiations between the Government of the Northwest Territories and Mr. Ray Benoit, regarding compensation for the loss of his farm on the Horn River are proceeding. It has come to light that as of a few days ago no appreciable headway had been made at all.

THE SPEAKER: Mr. Parker?

Return to Question 02-55: Negotiations with Mr. Ray Benoit

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ray Benoit had made a claim in the first instance against the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and in the second instance against the territorial government for damages incurred by the Minister's directive that no land lease will be issued to him. The matter, of course, has received a good deal of attention and we have received a copy of a letter which the Minister wrote to Mr. Benoit advising him that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs felt they had no compensation whatsoever to pay him, and that there was no fault that they had incurred in the matter whatsoever. The Minister considered it closed. He did, though, write to the Commissioner and advise that if we felt that through action of any sort, by any officer of the territorial Administration, Mr. Benoit may have a claim, as far as he was concerned we were at liberty to settle that. We have made an offer to Mr. Benoit, on that basis, as an ex gratia payment, accepting no responsibility for any damages, of \$10,000, and he would leave on the site, should he accept this, the one trailer building and a barn and whatever other things were affixed, but he would have the right to remove from his property, of course, machinery, or anything that was movable. To the best of my knowledge Mr. Benoit is considering that offer.

Further, the Commissioner has reminded me that in Hay River the Minister announced, on Tuesday morning of this week, that he proposed to, and I expect he will, appoint a man who will research the files on any of the lease applications if the person who made application would come forward and ask for such a search. This person would then be in a position to make a recommendation to the Minister. This person is to be a private person, that is outside of government and, furthermore, the Minister said, I believe, that his recommendation would not necessarily be binding on the government.

Finally, I must also advise that in another matter in dealing with Mr. Benoit, he was placed in charge of a small herd of cattle in which the territorial government had invested, and this responsibility has been completely discharged. He was paid something in the neighbourhood of \$3000 for his services in that regard.

THE SPEAKER: Any further questions? If there are no further questions, we will go to Item 4. Are there any questions?

MR. ERNERK: Questions and returns or oral questions?

THE SPEAKER: We can stay under questions and returns if you have a question.

MR. ERNERK: May I?

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

Question 03-55: Running Water in Homes, Baker Lake

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, in Baker Lake there are between 25 and 35 new northern rental houses which have flush-o-matic toilets, and fully enclosed water tanks, a septic tank, but there is no running water. To flush the toilet you must get a bucket of water and pour the water into the toilet. I would like to ask if there has been any plan to upgrade this by putting some running water into these new houses in Baker Lake, sometime this summer?

THE SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner?

Return to Question 03-55: Running Water in Homes, Baker Lake

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, if I could divide this question in this order: the first part of it is that the houses are now under the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and it is their responsibility and, therefore, I can not say for certain just what their long-range plans are.

On the second part of the question, and I do not want to beg off or hide by saying, or not commenting on the matter of running water, but at the moment to the best of my knowledge there is no plan to put running water into all of the new houses at Baker Lake. Having said that I realize I have put my foot in the toilet, but I feel that it is only fair to give some indication as to how we see it from a financial point of view.

THE SPEAKER: Any further questions? Supplementary?

Question 04-55: Day Care Centre in Baker Lake

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I have another question which I would like to ask. I understand that the money that is available to day care centres in the Northwest Territories, is for people in the centres in the Northwest Territories, for Yellowknife and Frobisher Bay? My question is that some time ago, I think it was in 1973 or 1974, I am not too sure of the exact year, the day care centre in Baker Lake was encouraged by the Government of the Northwest Territories for the people to operate. Now, the last I heard it was going to be closed down in the very near future if no money was made available to the day care centre at Baker Lake. I wonder how far we have gone in terms of getting any action to keep the day care centre open in Baker Lake.

Return to Question 04-55: Day Care Centre in Baker Lake

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, the history of the day care centres is that they were part of a LIP program of the federal government, and a number of communities were indeed encouraged to put in for these local improvement programs, a number of which, I think it was somewhere between eight or 12, were for day care centres.

When the Government of Canada decided to curtail the activities of the LIP grants and money became scarce, of course, those involved turned to the territorial government for funds. We have been able to keep two of them going, one at Yellowknife, as the Honourable Member from Keewatin has stated, and the

other at Frobisher Bay. Unfortunately, we were not able to get any new money last year and as a result of a visitation to that community I scrambled around and put together \$10,000 which kept that project going for the last fiscal year. I regret to advise that we were unable to get any new program money this year, either, and, as a result, I am not in a position to fund the Baker Lake project any longer. Nevertheless, the Baker Lake people have come back to us and asked for a \$2500 loan and with this loan they feel they would be able to carry on. The loan is now under consideration and every possible step will be taken to try and meet the request for the loan.

Finally, I might mention that the whole subject of day care centres is under very active consideration and will, in all probability, be one of the "B" priority items placed before the Treasury Board when we submit our submission for "B" level program later this month.

THE SPEAKER: If I might comment, it sounds like one of the first of many interesting problems for whoever will be the new Minister of Member in charge of the Department of Social Development. That is an in joke. Now, going on, if I might, to -- are there any further questions?

Question 05-55: Utilador in Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK: I would also like to ask either the Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner about the new location for Resolute. Right now there is a problem, and they were complaining to me about the housing. When they move to the new location will they put in a utilador or will it be done like it used to be, because I would like to know if they are going to put in a utilador for staff housing only, and possibly if you could answer that question I would greatly appreciate it.

Return to Question 05-55: Utilador in Resolute Bay

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: With regard to the houses which will go into the new location of Resolute, the plan certainly is to service all of them. All of the Housing Association houses, as well as staff houses, are intended to be served by a utilador. There is a possibility that in the first year of the move there will be a one-year period where trucked delivery services, will have to be used. However it would be our intention, if we can not get the utilador in that it would be for a one-year period.

THE SPEAKER: Any further questions? I should just remind Members that we are probably bending the rules a little bit in that the questions should be of an emergency nature when you get into oral questions like this which are unwritten. However, I think in view of the fact that you must have many questions on your mind that we will let this go for a reasonable length of time.

MR. BUTTERS: A point of order. Are we on Item 3 at the present time?

THE SPEAKER: Yes, and that is why I made the comment. Now, Mr. Pudluk, I did not mean to stop you, but I was just reminding everyone of the rules. You are certainly free to continue if you wish.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that that is all I wanted to know -- what the rules were. But at the moment I do not wish to ask any more questions.

THE SPEAKER: All right. Further questions? Going to Item 4, oral questions, which is really what we have been having, yes?

ITEM NO. 4: ORAL QUESTIONSQuestion 06-55: Educational Facilities, Gjoa Haven

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, by radio this morning I understand that the people of Gjoa Haven are not sending their children to school and they have said they will not be sending their children to school until such time they get adequate educational facilities. Also, Mr. Speaker, about two years ago the people of Gjoa Haven were promised an eight-room classroom school and that has been cut back to a four-room classroom school. Gjoa Haven at the present time has buildings that are a hodge-podge type of buildings, all shapes, sizes, without any water, and the teachers of Gjoa Haven also complain about their homes. Now it is time, Mr. Speaker, can the Administration tell this house what is being done to meet the needs of the people of Gjoa Haven?

Return to Question 06-55: Educational Facilities, Gjoa Haven

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I know very well the problem at Gjoa Haven and I suppose it does very little good to say how badly we feel at this turn of events. It is true that Gjoa Haven has been scheduled to have a new consolidated school built there for perhaps a year and a half to two years. We went ahead with one design and found that the estimates for it, due to inflation, were coming in very, very much higher than our supply of money would permit, something in the neighbourhood of over two million dollars. Therefore, we went back to our people in Public Works and Education and called for a new design which would incorporate the use of some of the existing buildings that are there, together with a centre core which would contain the facilities the community is now missing. The community does not have a gymnasium-auditorium, they do not have any reasonable shop or home economic facilities and it is these facilities that were very greatly needed.

Mr. Speaker, I agree very much with the Member that the present set-up is one of a number of buildings somewhat spread out. However, I must say that these are good and usable buildings and that is why we were seeking a plan of moving some of these buildings and attaching them in a very proper and safe fashion to this centre core. This is under design right now but the result of all of this is a one-year delay, for which we are very, very sorry. However, we do not see at this stage how we can avoid it. Materials are expected to come in on the sealift this year, at least some of those materials, and the construction period will go on for perhaps a little more than a year. In the meantime, we have made arrangements to locate two more transportable classrooms in Gjoa Haven. They will answer the need for this coming year. We most sincerely regret that the people have seen fit to keep their children home from school and we hope through communications with them and face to face meetings with them that we can convince them of our sincerity in eventually providing a proper school plan and to make due apologies for the one-year's delay.

THE SPEAKER: Further oral questions? Mr. Butters?

Question 07-55: Cuthack of Teaching Positions

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I believe this is the section under which as you instructed me yesterday I should bring up questions dealing with matters of urgency. At another time I would request this question be directed to our Minister for Education but I wonder if it might be handled by a member of the Administration. The question is: Is there any substance to the rumour that 30 to 40 teaching positions will be cut back next year and, if there is any truth to that, has there been any consultation with territorial Council Members, parents, education advisory boards and teachers on this cut back?

Return to Question 07-55: Cutback Teaching Positions

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, not knowing who you have decided is going to be the Minister of Education, I can not speak for him, but I can say that, yes, there is substance to the rumour that we are going to have to cut back what we had planned for the staff of teachers. Largely because this past fall we lost four million dollars out of our budget that we had expected to get and we are convinced that inflation this year will run at, at least 12 and perhaps 13 per cent. At the moment the increased costs of petroleum products, if it is announced as it is anticipated it will be, we are expecting inflation will jump at least three or four points as far as we are concerned, so we are right now today recruiting teachers, so we have taken action this very day.

No, to the second part of the question, we have not consulted the advisory boards because we have not had a chance. I, myself, have not seen all of them, but we have planned on the staff we are going to put in and where we are going to have to cut back a little bit. I have to warn it is not only the Department of Education that will be faced with slight curtailments, but other departments of government will have to also.

THE SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr. Butters?

Question 08-55: Approach Treasury Board re Educational Spending

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, on the basis of 25 students per classroom, that would appear to be a thousand students who could be affected by this reduction. I believe that figures can be developed to show that across Canada, annually education spending increased by 14 or 15 per cent in Canada as a whole and it would appear the increase in the territories approximately is only seven per cent. I wonder if, in view of that statement if those figures are correct, that these might be good figures to take to Treasury Board to seek at least equitable and equal treatment to our fellow Canadians to the South in this matter of education. Obviously it is not possible in our budget but possibly a direct approach should be made to the Treasury Board because of this emergency situation.

Return to Question 08-55: Approach Treasury Board re Educational Spending

THE COMMISSIONER: To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, we will have no more classroom enrolment than 23 per teacher per class in elementary school and seventeen in the high schools. This is just off the top of my head, as I recall the discussion. I agree that it is quite difficult -- becoming very difficult for us to function with such tight restrictions on us. I think I said this when I announced the results of last year's restrictions that we had placed against the various departments. I think that it is unfair and very difficult to expect the Administration, and the Council in the Northwest Territories, who have no other means of raising the necessary funds, keeping in mind we are a developing area. I do not mean to say -- I am not talking of oil and gas and mines -- I am talking about a developing area as regards to our local government programs, Social Development programs, our educational program, and we are hoping to go back several times to the Treasury Board this year to try to hammer this point home.

THE SPEAKER: Further oral questions?

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, I am just itching to get into this but I have to try and phrase my statement in the form of a question.

THE SPEAKER: It must be of an emergency nature.

Question 09-55: Inadequacies in Education

MR. PEARSON: It is actually. The problems -- does the Commissioner agree that the problems we are now experiencing in education, as soon as the people start sniffing at the purse's strings, the inadequateness, the poor set-up of education in the Northwest Territories begins to manifest itself and it is things like I think it is a 74 per cent turnover in teaching staff at the Nakasuk school in Frobisher Bay this year, 75 per cent turnover in teaching staff last year, 60 per cent turnover in teaching staff the year before, the costs of shipping those teachers, at the government rate, stress and strain on its pocket strings. Does the Commissioner agree that ...

THE SPEAKER: I was wondering when the question was going to be.

MR. PEARSON: Well, if more careful effort was made in good management in these areas, if we stopped squandering millions of dollars on these magnificent facilities with absolutely inadequate forms of education taking place inside these palaces, for example, both schools in Frobisher Bay which are magnificent buildings, fabulous facilities and absolutely the lowest possible standards of education going on inside those beautiful buildings. Does the Commissioner agree?

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the question.

THE SPEAKER: And I am not going to permit it to be restated. Further oral questions? Moving on then to Item 5, presenting petitions, are there any petitions to be presented? Item 6, reports of standing and special committees?

ITEM NO. 6: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The Member for Yellowknife.

MR. NICKERSON: The special committee set up to inquire into other committees that might be needed as required by section 75 of the Rules of Council has met and deliberated. It has been our intention to follow the precedents of previous Councils and set up a number of standing committees. Due to the shortage of time at this particular Council session, we advised the establishment of most of these committees be left over to the June session. Nevertheless, there are two important committees, finance and legislation, which it is necessary for us to establish at the present time so that the government can work through these committees or with these committees to have legislation, etc., ready for the forthcoming session.

Mr. Speaker, we have set up these various committees and have a list of names of people who are willing and able to serve on them, and I think it probably would be proper, considering there are quite a number of names, to bring this up under the next item on the agenda.

THE SPEAKER: So, this is the special committee that was set up yesterday pursuant to that motion and you have made that committee's report?

MR. NICKERSON: That is correct.

THE SPEAKER: I do not think there are any other committees and hence there can be no further committee reports.

Going on then to Item 7, notices of motions.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

MR. NICKERSON: Is it correct for me at this time to read out the motion?

Notice of Motion 7-55: Establishment and Membership of Standing Committees

THE SPEAKER: Under notices of motions all you need do, Mr. Nickerson, is indicate the sense of the motion in your notice and then once you have then when you actually move it, you read the motion word for word. However, I think it would suffice for you to say that you now hereby give notice that you intend to move a motion today respecting the establishment of standing committees and naming the membership thereof.

MR. NICKERSON: You said it very well. Could it be considered that I have already repeated that?

THE SPEAKER: Yes. We will deem you to have said that and maybe the people transcribing the minutes could just switch the names. Are there any further notices of motions?

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I have a motion which I wish to make:

Notice of Motion 6-55: Appointment of Executive Committee Members

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Great Slave Lake, that this house respectfully request that the Commissioner appoint to the Executive Committee of the Government of the Northwest Territories Mr. Peter Ernerk, the Honourable Member for Keewatin, and Mr. Arnold McCallum, the Honourable Member for Slave River.

THE SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Lafferty, but we are at notices of motions and you have just given notice that you will move that motion, and when we come on to the next item, motions, you can stand up again and give it.

MR. LAFFERTY: All right, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Are there any further notices of motions? In that case we will move on to Item 8, motions.

ITEM NO. 8: MOTIONS

Now, you will have to ask for unanimous consent, each one of you, to move your motions, in that the rules provide that there should be a day between the notice and the motion. However, I am sure the house will indulge you to that extent.

Now, going to motions perhaps we could just reverse the order, Mr. Nickerson and Mr. Lafferty, if you would like to rise and move your motion, after I request unanimous consent from the house. Is there unanimous consent for Mr. Lafferty to move the motion that you just heard him give notice of? Is it agreed?

--- Agreed

Mr. Lafferty?

Motion 6-55: Appointment of Executive Committee Members

MR. LAFFERTY:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Great Slave Lake, that this house respectfully request that the

Commissioner appoint to the Executive Committee fo the Government of the Northwest Territories Mr. Peter Ernerk, the Honourable Member for Keewatin, and Mr. Arnold McCallum, the Honourable Member for Slave River.

THE SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee, are you prepared to second the motion?

MR. WAH-SHEE: I second the motion, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. You have heard the motion, is there any discussion? There being no discussion, all in favour? Carried virtually unanimously.

--- Carried

May I, on behalf of the house, congratulate both Mr. Ernerk and Mr. McCallum as being another first, the first Executive Members of the Council of the Northwest Territories and may we all, certainly from that vote, may we all wish you well and say to you how you can certainly look to each and every one of us for all the help we can give you. Congratulations.

--- Applause

Still on Item 8, are there any further motions? Mr. Nickerson?

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker ...

THE SPEAKER: Would the house indulge Mr. Nickerson by giving him unanimous consent to move the motion he gave notice of? Is it agreed?

--- Agreed

Motion 7-55: Establishment and Membership of Standing Committees

MR. NICKERSON:

WHEREAS a special committee as required by subsection 75(1) of the Rules of Council has met and duly considered the establishment of certain standing committees;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that;

(a) a standing committee on finance be now constituted and that the following be appointed to this committee:

Mr. T. Butters
Mr. D. Stewart
Mr. J. Wah-Shee
Mr. I. Kilabuk
Mr. L. Pudluk
Mr. W. Lyall
Mr. B. Pearson
Mr. J. Steen
Mr. W. Lafferty
Mr. D. Nickerson

(b) a standing committee on legislation be now constituted and that the following Members be appointed to this committee:

Mr. G. Barnaby
Mr. J. Wah-Shee
Mr. J. Steen

Mr. W. Lyall
 Mr. A. McCallum
 Mr. P. Ernerk
 Mr. D. Nickerson;

(c) that the chairman and other officers of the above-mentioned committee be chosen by a majority vote of the committees in question;

(d) that the Commissioner be advised it is the wish of this house that such matters as might properly be considered by these committees be so presented for their consideration in advance of the June 1975 session of Council.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Is there a seconder for that motion? Mr. Butters. Any discussion on the motion? Seeing no discussion, all in favour? Contrary? I think I can say unanimous.

--- Carried

Are there any further motions? Mr. Butters, I think you have one, Motion 5-55.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker ...

THE SPEAKER: For the other Members, you will find a copy of it in your motions book. I am sorry, Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker:

Motion 5-55: Vacation Travel Assistance

WHEREAS the present Vacation Travel Assistance Plan for employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories discriminates against those employees who choose to spend their holidays in the territories;

AND WHEREAS the present policy would appear to be contrary to the spirit of the Fair Practices Ordinances;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the Commissioner be advised of the recommendation of this house that the Vacation Travel Assistance Plan be implemented so that it applies equally and equitably to all employees.

THE SPEAKER: Notwithstanding that the motion touches on money matters it is a recommendation and hence quite in order. Is there a seconder for that motion? Mr. Wah-Shee. Is there any discussion? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the situation, as I understand it, is that hitherto all employees of the territorial government were entitled to receive an amount equal to that of, or up to the scheduled airline fare for an employee and family to their point of departure in the provinces, less a certain amount which was contributed by the employee, and these points of departure were variously, I believe, Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Montreal.

Treat all Employees Equally

Recognizing that government should treat all employees equally, at that time I believe people who would not be taking their holidays in the provinces, south of 60, were entitled to a cash equivalent to assist them to travel in the North by charter or by other means, to go from one place to the other. It has been brought to my attention recently that this has been changed and while the

arrangement with regard to travel outside remains the same the cash equivalent has no longer, or is no longer being turned over to the employee wishing to take his holidays in the territories. This former practice was very, very important to native people of the Northwest Territories because the money that was turned over to them was used jointly in what might be called vacation, getting away from the urban centre, but more importantly in hunting and fishing. Through the pursuit of these activities, naturally the employees were increasing their stock of caribou, moose, and fish for the winter. So, the amount of money provided was very important to such employees who used it in this manner. With the new change there is some concern that some of them may have to consider other employment because, in effect, their total income in the sense of food, country food, has been greatly reduced.

I believe during discussions it was suggested that the people employed, people who wished to take vacation travel or travel locally, would not be entitled to, under the new arrangements, submit vouchers or receipts for so-called holiday travel. This arrangement I do not believe is satisfactory to such employees. I believe that the organization representing the interests of employees to the territorial government has said that it would be much better, as they realize that maybe you can not turn over a cash equivalent as sort of pay, but has suggested that possibly a credit could be arranged in the name of each employee at the beginning of the fiscal year then throughout the fiscal year employees travelling in the territories, in the manner such as I have described, by charter or other means, could bring back their charter receipts and other receipts and turn these in and have them debited from the amount that was credited to them for travel assistance on April 1st. This is what I am suggesting specifically as mover of this motion when I say, or when the motion says, "... applies equally and equitably...", sir.

THE SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion?

Preference to Hunt and Make Claims

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, this is a problem that exists in the Eastern Arctic, and one that I have had some dealings with recently, in fact, for about the last year. There is an agreement between the employees, the native people and Mr. Pilot, the director, who agrees to accept vouchers and what-have-you. I have also taken this matter to National Health and Welfare who have a large number of native people working for them, native people who do not wish to go to southern Canada and prefer to go hunting and make claims. Of course, the federal agencies in the Northwest Territories, have an additional deal now, they get two paid trips to southern Canada per year, and I suppose that when the unions hear of this in the territories they will be knocking on the Commissioner's door, looking for their two trips -- the territorial employees. So, it will be a very expensive matter, but I do think that, as Mr. Butters has pointed out, it is discriminatory and something we should resolve and I hope that the Commissioner's administration can examine this in detail. So, I support Mr. Butters' motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Any further discussion? The normal practice is to permit the mover of the motion to conclude any debate and, Mr. Butters, you have that right if you wish. It does seem that you have the support of some of the Members, though.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. McCallum?

MR. McCALLUM: I think it is the practice in various municipalities within the territories to allow for travel within periods of vacation time to other parts of the territories, rather than having a person move outside. I believe it

is also, or it has been a policy with other government departments to allow for this travel even within the North. I would be speaking for the motion and then I would expect that the principle of it would get the support of most Council Members that are here. Nevertheless, I think that the mechanism would be within the Administration now whereby we could get the effects of the Honourable Member, Mr. Butters' motion. It would, I think, allow for many people to not only look after their own personal needs, as Mr. Butters has indicated, but also could possibly have a side effect that they could move around to various parts of the North as well.

THE SPEAKER: Further discussion? Mr. Stewart?

Not a Fit Place to Live

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, I was on Council when this particular matter was brought up some years ago and at that time I opposed the theory of paying money for people who are working for this government to go outside of the territories. It seems to me that with this the admission is that this is not a fit place to live any more. People must get out of here at least once a year or go around the bend. I do not believe that and I opposed the motion at that time on these grounds. However, the motion before us today I can support certainly. To pay money to people to go outside the territories, surely if you pay people to travel inside that is more equitable.

THE SPEAKER: Further discussion? Mr. Barnaby, did you raise your hand, did you indicate a wish to speak?

MR. BARNABY: No, I did not but maybe I will anyway. I see a lot of changes coming in the North, especially with the native people. There seems to be pressure on them from living in the settlements, families are not close any more, so I believe that going out on the land probably for their holidays is a good place to get them back together, so I support the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Further discussion? If I permit Mr. Butters to speak, the debate will be closed. If you do not mind waiting a moment, Mr. Butters.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to agree with what Mr. Butters said. On travelling expenses for vacations, it is really a good turn for the people working for a vacation. He has been working all winter and in April and May it is time to go hunting. He has only a short period of time to take that vacation and he also would like to go and see his friends somewhere else. It is part of that plan. A man takes a week or a couple of weeks to get the caribou or fish, whatever he is hunting for. If there can be some arrangement, I have seen sort of like that in Resolute myself this year and in the High Arctic.

THE SPEAKER: Further discussion?

A Benefit to the Native People

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Honourable Member, Mr. Butters' motion, would benefit the native people in two ways; for those who are unable to get out on their own and employed by the government, they would be able to do so as a learning thing and for those who wish to remain within the Northwest Territories or go to a place of their choice within the Northwest Territories, it would benefit them if they are paid whatever money they would receive as travel allowances. In this regard I believe that it would be very important to our people of the North.

I also like the comment made by the Honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Stewart, that we have to think of keeping our people in the North. But then

I must overrule that idea with the weight of the educational value of our native people travelling to the outside and mixing with people. I do support that bill. I believe it would be very beneficial.

THE SPEAKER: Further discussion? Question? Mr. Butters?

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the motion is worded very generally and it certainly gives no direction to the government except, as I say, to treat all employees equally and equitably. One speaker, the Honourable Minister of Education, suggested that it apply during a holiday period, I would certainly not want to suggest myself it would be for a narrow period. We should be considering the whole year as being referred to here because certainly the usual holiday period is considered by many southerners as the summer, a time which is not necessarily the holiday period considered by many people in the North. I do welcome the assurances of the Minister who is now a Member of the Executive Committee and who will obviously have a decision on this matter, suggesting that something is going ahead along these lines. I am very hopeful we will see something produced in accordance with the direction of this motion, sir.

Motion 5-55: Vacation Travel Assistance Carried

THE SPEAKER: Question? All in favour? Contrary?

--- Carried

You see, Mr. McCallum, how very easy it is to get into trouble.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I do not really believe I have been that much trouble.

THE SPEAKER: I do not either.

MR. McCALLUM: At the same time, Mr. Speaker, having had the experience of working with the municipality, we in the municipality of the town of Fort Smith wholeheartedly endorse people to take their holidays at times other than the summer.

THE SPEAKER: Those are all of the motions that I have notice of here. Therefore, going on to Item 9, tabling of documents, are there any documents to be tabled, Mr. Parker?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: No.

THE SPEAKER: Item 10, continuing consideration in committee of the whole of the terms of reference of Executive Committee Members. Gentlemen, I would not propose to re-convene that committee of the whole at this time, unless there were some very strong feelings for doing that. Remember we left it over yesterday. I would propose to let it simply die on the order paper.

--- Agreed

Sincere and Deep Regrets

The last two items are items requiring the Commissioner's attention. However, before he gets here may I just say on behalf of this house two words of very sincere regret. I am sure you would want me to make them, firstly to our Deputy Commissioner, for the loss which he has just suffered in the recent passing of his mother.

Secondly, General Fulton I notice is in the house. General Fulton, would you convey a signal on behalf of this house to Mrs. Sylvia Coffey with out sincere

and deep regrets on the passing of her husband.

Mr. Clerk, would you see if Mr. Commissioner would attend upon this house to assent to the bill and to prorogue?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I would like to make a little announcement -- not an announcement, but a word of thanks.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

Recognition of Interpreters

MR. ERNERK: It has been a good week, I think, for the past three or four days, and I would like the Council and the public to recognize our translators. I think they have done a good job within the past three or four days. It is difficult to be a translator, especially simultaneous translation. Sometimes you talk a little bit too fast and you can not, you know -- could we thank the translators for the good work they have done the past three or four days.

--- Applause

THE SPEAKER: Are there any further announcements before Mr. Commissioner visits us? No?

ITEM NO. 11: ASSENT TO BILLS

Assent to Bill 1-55: Council Ordinance

THE COMMISSIONER: Please be seated. As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I assent to Bill 1-55.

THE SPEAKER: The Commissioner has conveyed his message that we should prorogue on behalf of this house. Prior to prorogation the Commissioner would like to say a few words.

Commissioner's Closing Remarks

THE COMMISSIONER: For many years, as you know, I guess it was not really that many years -- for many months I should say -- I served on the Council of the Northwest Territories, first joining Council in 1964. Then I became Deputy Commissioner in 1965, and then, when I became Commissioner in 1967, I lost my vote, but I retained my right to speak. I can see I will have to be pretty quick around here when I get this right or I will even lose that.

I would like to say a few words, if I might, to you. First, I am very, very grateful to you for your kind words and sentiments and appreciation for Dr. Mace Coffey. Dr. Mace Coffey was a very valued friend. Last October when it became clear to us the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's attention with regard to the Council that is now functioning, the structure which he wished the Council to take as a result of the amendments to the Northwest Territories Act that had been passed in the spring of last year, Dr. Coffey came forward of his own volition and volunteered free of charge his services to me, to the Administration, and said he would do what he could to help us reorganize our structure to meet this new development. Dr. Coffey worked through October, November, December and January and brought forth the new model that was subsequently adopted both by the Administration and also by the Minister. Thus, it has placed us in a position of being able to meet the new requirements as a result of the changes to the act and the subsequent directions of the Minister. I am very grateful to you for your kind acknowledgement and words of sympathy at the passing of Dr. Mace Coffey. I was very touched with the fact that Mr. Butters noted the passing of the late

Senator Laing who contributed very, very much to the development of this Council and the territorial Administration.

I have often thought that if it had not been for Arthur Laing, it is possible that we could still be languishing somewhere in the Centennial Building down in Ottawa. He saw the recommendations of this Council, and brought forth into being what is more commonly known as the Carrothers Commission. When they brought forth their recommendations he immediately accepted a great portion of them and put into being the developments that brought home to the territories, not only the government, but the capital, too. So, it is at times like this that you pause for a moment to reflect and remember the contribution made by such great men as Dr. Coffey and Senator Arthur Laing.

Concerning the Visit of the Prince of Wales

I wish to thank the Members of this Council, the people of the Northwest Territories, and all those who worked so hard to make the visit of the Prince of Wales such a tremendous success. I am very grateful to the Government of Canada for paying 95 per cent of the bill, because in the position we are in we can not really afford to invite his valet, let alone his Royal Highness. Nevertheless, it is something that was a number of years in coming, we worked on it for almost four years, and I believe great benefits come from such visits as this. The Prince of Wales one of these days in the future will be not only King of England, or the United Kingdom, he will be King of Canada under our present structure and head of the British Commonwealth of which we are a member. I think it is important that he knows first hand our people, our country and some of our problems. I think also that it is important that we get to know him. The fact that the Northwest Territories received the lion's share of the time that he spent in Canada, and secondly, when you realize that this is the first visit of a Prince of Wales since 1927, I think the people of the territories can certainly be very proud.

Finally, I should say on this subject that as a result of this the territories are on view all across North America and the United Kingdom and in other Commonwealth countries, as a result of visits such as this. I think that the people of the territories are well served as a result of such events. I was very impressed with His Royal Highness' approach to the various communities, to the people, and I think perhaps not only was it the most relaxed visit I have ever had the privilege of participating in, whether it be a member of the Royal Family or a senior member of any government, but I think it was one in which he took home a good cross section of feeling that came from the people of the territories. I am very, very grateful, and I thank all the people of the Northwest Territories, and particularly those who worked so hard to make it a success for this great achievement.

Difficulties and Challenges of Council

I joined the territorial administration structure, or Council, on the occasion of the 27th session and I have had the privilege of participating in one capacity or another through 28 sessions of the Council of the Northwest Territories. So, I think I have some feeling and some understanding for the history and problems and the difficulties and challenges you are going to have to face over this next four years. I congratulate, all of you, on your deliberations here. I think you certainly have impressed all of us in the manner in which you have reached accord on the various decisions you have had to make. I propose to call the next session of Council on the 9th of June, and I propose to give you some idea of the items that will be coming before you, that the Administration wishes to place before you. As you know, you have made one or two recommendations to the Minister and as soon as we have an answer to these they will be conveyed to you immediately.

The airways have been working very well today and I received your messages of the two people who you have chosen to nominate as per the Minister's wish to the Executive Committee, and I am pleased to tell you that I accept your nominations and, secondly, that as of this moment will name Mr. Peter Ernerk to be head of the Department of Social Development and Mr. Arnold McCallum as head of the Department of Education.

--- Applause

Accomplishments of the 6th and 7th Council

I believe that the first Council that I had the honour and privilege to participate in, its real objective was to bring home to the territories, as I mentioned, not only the capital but the administration and this they achieved within just three years. The sixth Council, from 1967 to 1970, its main preoccupation was in taking over from the old Department of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources which soon became the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, those responsibilities which were of a provincial-like nature, in the headquarters here at Yellowknife, in the Mackenzie area and, finally, in the Eastern Arctic. They accomplished that in three years.

The last Council, it has been a matter of consolidation, and it has not been easy because there have been many other preoccupations which have occupied the minds and attention of the various segments of society within the Northwest Territories. The Northwest Territories has not only come alive in the feelings of the people of the Northwest Territories, but it has done more than just caught the imagination of people in the South and in other parts of the world. It has a special meaning to them, but it is not the same meaning, it means different things to different people. As a result that Council found itself sometimes having to deal with issues and matters that were very difficult to cope with. There were times they almost got discouraged. Now, I think, though that in the main they served the people of the territories well.

Objectives of the Present Council

As to what your commitment will be, as to what you see as your goal, your objective, of course, remains for you to decide. Four years from now when your score is being added up, someone, whether it will be me or someone else, will be assessing the achievement you have made, but the question is what happens in between now and then? Of course, that is for you to decide.

We as an Administration will give you all the support that we can give you. We know the difficulties that we find ourselves in because the Council on the one hand feels strong about various things, and on the other hand other people with responsibilities in the North feel just as strongly. So, it will be a task that will require a lot of patience, a lot of understanding, and sometimes we may have to go a little slow to be able to accommodate, not only the various points of view, but to look like or to ensure that the people feel that they are being properly accommodated. Another way of saying that is that while we may think we know the answer, while we may think that we have been properly briefed, while we may think that we are in a position to speak for the people, there may be times when we will have to ask the people to come here, either in the form of witnesses or in some other way, by delegation or something, to give them the opportunity of stating first hand their feelings. I think if we do this, and not try and do everything at once, all at the same time, that when we do things we tackle it and do it well, and finalize it, then I think that we would not have to look back and say that we wish we had been able to do more.

No one can ask any more of a person than that he give his all and that he give his loyalty and be prepared to work night and day for the people of these

territories. I am convinced, on the basis of the last three days here with this, the 8th Council of the Northwest Territories, that you have the capability, you have the dedication, determination and commitment to do just that. With that I end as I started, by congratulating you on the deliberations of the last two days, and on that note -- it has been suggested that I tell you that coffee is served, but as I said, when I get the floor I will not give it up. So, you can have coffee after we prorogue.

ITEM NO. 12: PROROGATION

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue this, the 55th session of the Council of the Northwest Territories.

--- PROROGATION

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