



COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES DEBATES

58th Session

8th Council

Official Report

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1976

Speaker David H. Searle, Q.C.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

29 January 1976

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	121
Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address	121
Questions and Returns	128
Reports of Standing and Special Committees	133
Notices of Motions	135
Motions	136
Orders of the Day	146

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1976

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Steen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Butters, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Barnaby, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Searle, Mr. Nickerson

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Searle): Members of Council, turning to orders of the day. Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Opening Address. I should remind you this item stays on for today and tomorrow only. Mr. Steen.

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

Mr. Steen's Reply To The Commissioner's Opening Address.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, fellow Councillors, Mr. Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen, I rise to congratulate the Commissioner on his excellent presentation, his Opening Address and I am happy to note that the Northwest Territories has not been hit with financial restraints as did the rest of Canada. While Members already have spoken to the Commissioner's Address, I would rather speak to the problems of my constituency.

You will note that the Western Arctic constituency is a very difficult constituency and why I say that is that I represent, or my constituency is made up of three different cultures, the Inuit people, the Indian people, Metis and white. When I go to Fort McPherson and Arctic Red River I am confronted at times by the Indian Brotherhood, and when I go to Sachs Harbour and Paulatuk I am confronted by the Inuit Tapirisat and in Tuktoyaktuk I am confronted with fortune hunters. This brings to mind, with all the problems I am having, of the trip I took to Greenland with the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

I recall on that trip to Greenland, while we were travelling, the Commissioner came and took the opportunity to sit beside me on the aircraft and with all the anticipation of the trip I did not really know what to say to the Commissioner. While there was not too much said, and at the fast pace we were travelling nothing too much was said and the Commissioner began to snore and as he slowly leaned over and laid his head on my shoulder I concluded to myself, "Here lies the problems of the Northwest Territories."

Constituency Division Supported

So, this is what I think, not that I do not want to take any more responsibility, as I welcome responsibility, but you can see in the constituency that I represent, it is pretty difficult and this is one of the reasons why I supported the boundary commission in its division of the Northwest Territories through the tree line, or at the tree line, east to west, because being raised in an Eskimo community, it is easier for me to understand the Eskimo culture and much harder for me to understand the Indian culture.

Legislation Discussed

There are a number of things that I think this Council should be looking at and I will try to be brief on each. We note that there are winter roads in the Western Arctic and it is peculiar to the North I believe, as in the Eastern Arctic you do not have these kinds of roads and the taxi operators or taxi companies should, I feel -- there should be legislation to get them to carry survival gear in their taxis before they can take anyone. There are people

that they pick up or customers they pick up who are just dressed in their oxfords. They will travel 130 miles and they have a good chance of getting stuck on the roads. They claim they have good radios but in a whiteout or if you get a storm nobody is going to find them because of the blowing snow. So I feel that legislation should be drawn up that they must take survival gear.

We also have the problem of bootlegging. I think everyone has this problem, but there is one thing about bootlegging and that is that the receiver of the bootlegged liquor can also be charged for receiving liquor. I think the onus should be taken off that person so that he would be free to testify. If a bootlegger gets convicted he will say to the judge, or whoever, "How come he gets away -- I get convicted and the receiver does not?". I think that we notice also in the Municipal Ordinance you can be on council, be a councillor in a community all the time until you are convicted for five years; in other words, you can be on council even though you have been convicted for five years. I feel that we should lessen that a little bit because we do not want, and I do not think anybody wants, convicts running their towns.

Curfew Bylaw

Also, I note with very much interest the bylaws the communities have, the hamlets and others, that the curfew bylaws are made up in such a way that if your kid is caught out in the street, the parent of that child can be convicted, but I feel that to help the school attendance in the community we should be looking at a different kind of bylaw. At the present time the kids are making a mockery out of the bylaw, the curfew bylaws in the communities. They are making a mockery of the bylaw enforcement officers, they are playing peek-a-boo with them around the houses after dark. I feel that parents of children should be able to lay charges against people who harbour the children of that person. By that I mean that as soon as the bell rings or the siren rings everyone will say, "Okay, get out of my house as the siren is on", and the kid has no place else to go but in the street and they are being confronted with the bylaw enforcement officer and the only place they can go after that is home.

Limited Funds For Travel

I think many of our Councillors have the same problem with people telling us, or reminding us, that we are not the representatives of the people, we do not represent people but I think one of the great problems of this is that Councillors do not have any money to hire secretaries, and we have very limited funds to travel. Now, the native organizations are funded by the federal government and have all kinds of money and it is no wonder that we do not have true representation.

I would like to say a little bit on the seaboard, on the large corporations in the Northwest Territories, especially the ones which will be offshore drilling in the Beaufort Sea. They are planning -- and this should be of interest to Mr. Lafferty -- they are planning to dredge the ocean for eight miles out into the sea so that they can bring in large ships, and I do not think we should be looking at it that way, mainly for two reasons. One is that the ocean is very shallow and the waves will fill in the trench again or the dredged portion and then it will be an ongoing thing every year and who is going to pay for that? It will be the consumer eventually, or the taxpayer. I feel that the corporations or large companies should conform to the environment instead of having the environment conform to them.

Hamlet Councils And Conflict Of Interest

There is an item here, the Municipal Ordinance, and this seems to be my pet peeve. In Tuktoyaktuk just before election in December they allowed councillors, or people running for council, even those people who were working for the hamlets, the hamlet councils, to run until the last day just before election. Then all of a sudden someone from the department sent a telephone call or telegram saying we could not do it, it was against the Municipal Ordinance. I wonder what happened there? They said there was a conflict of interest. Of course, there could be, but I remember way back when I was the chairman of the hamlet council in Tuktoyaktuk, when we first became a hamlet, the department praised Tuktoyaktuk for being a hamlet. They

said we were a model, a model for all other communities to follow. It was the first hamlet built or set up and some of these people were working on the hamlet council and many were employees of the hamlet. All of a sudden it is no more good, we could not do it. I think that on communities under 1000 people, they should be allowed, whether they are working for the hamlets or the towns, they should be allowed to run for a seat on council, because after all, in some towns the village council or the hamlet is the only employer and what will you do then? What you get are the guys on relief who are running the town. I know there will be some controversy on that one but I just feel that you have killed the background of the community and some people have been on that council for years and then all of a sudden you get a greenhorn and nobody knows anything about the town.

Fixed Incomes Should Be Supplemented

I also feel that the old age pension people, people on fixed incomes, there should be some kind of supplement for those people in the territories, especially in the Northwest Territories where you have a high cost of living. It is not the same as it is in southern Canada where they do not have the high cost of freight and the rest of it which is peculiar to the North.

Freight rates should also be subsidized, especially air freight rates. No one can develop here in the North with the high cost of freight rates. This went up three times in one year. I feel there should be some kind of assistance from this Council.

Times Of Television Programming Geared To Vancouver

As well, I guess we have been hearing throughout the North about the times of television programming in the North. I would ask, as we go through this Council session, how we should act on this thing, on television timing. We know that the television is coming directly from Vancouver but no one buys from Vancouver. All the garbage they put on there is not really relevant as we buy from Edmonton. Should we change our times to go with Vancouver, or should we just go to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and say, "Look, adjust to our time?"

I think with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further replies, gentlemen, to the Commissioner's Address? Mr. McCallum.

Mr. McCallum's Reply To The Commissioner's Opening Address

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the motion of appreciation of the Commissioner's Address at this, the 58th sitting of the Council of the Northwest Territories, I want to voice my support and hopefully that of Council to the basic principle that the Commissioner referred to in his Address. That principle being the transfer of responsibility to the governing bodies of the communities of the North. To my mind, this is indeed a most significant step in the advancement of responsible government in the territories, and as one of your Executive Committee Members, I shall pursue this end on your behalf because I believe this to be a major concern of this Council.

Federal Government Concept Changing

This years financial discussions between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government have gained for us, I believe, a considerable amount of credibility. I suggest to you that the federal government have not only come to realize that we have a peculiar situation in the North, but that more importantly, the federal government, I believe, have realized that this government is one with which to be reckoned, and are now in agreement that we should be addressed as a government, and not a division of a federal government department. Recent communications on my part with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs officials have reinforced this concept.

As one of your Executive Committee Members, I am in complete accord with the Commissioner in turning over to the communities more responsibility in the operation of their duties. The acquisition of \$3 million in the "B" level of the budget, I suggest to you, should make each and every Councillor aware of the power and authority that this Council possesses. The implications behind this large step forward are simple; in our financial discussions with the federal government, that government is now prepared to address itself to the political pressures of this Council. Not only this Council should view it favourably, but also the past Councils and such an acquisition as we have gained reflects most favourably on the efforts of the past, as indeed it does on the awareness the administration has of the direction that Council wishes to pursue.

Government Expenditures Should Reflect Wishes Of Council

In our deliberations over these next two weeks, we shall comment and discuss, indeed question and direct the administration even more. It seems to me that if the federal government acknowledges not only this Council but the North's peculiar status, we as Councillors have the direct responsibility to ensure that government expenditures truly reflect our wishes. It is my hope that future meetings between the administration and this Council's standing committee on finance will emphasize the five people programs and give the administration a list of priorities that reflect the services those five departments deliver and place the other government departments in their proper perspective as support programs.

I believe, where it is humanly possible, we should insist that projects are completed in the shortest possible time; for example as we did with the central museum, and not short fund them or cut them back. If we are to cut back programs, I personally would consider deferral of such programs. I would rather finish five projects, for example, than partially fund ten or 12 or more.

It may well be that some programs have to be cut, but we can no longer continue to cut back programs that deliver services to people and retain the staff of that program. With the high incidence of mobility that this government enjoys with its employees, we should have no difficulty in redeploying personnel. Yet, if we have to cut programs, we must cut personnel. I would hope that this government will go on record as insisting that your two Executive Committee Members pursue these principles and I do not believe it would be distasteful to the other Executive Committee Members.

Council Must Move Towards More Responsibility

In the Commissioner's Address, reference as I have said, was made to pass over to others more responsibility. So also with this government, we must work towards more responsible government. We must insist that we acquire more responsible power. No one questions the fact that this Council is truly representative, but we must move towards more responsibility. This I have always felt to be our Holy Grail and if we are to truly represent our constituents, we must in our government programs ensure that our efforts reflect the needs of the North and its people. If we direct our attention to the deliverance of the people programs, and if we ensure that the budgets of these programs reflect our thinking, then we can truly hold the administration accountable and our constituents can truly hold us accountable.

In the area for which you as a Council have made me responsible, I have directed my attention to those things the social development paper stated. From the fall session, you directed that legislation be drafted for an Education Ordinance. I expect that such an ordinance will be ready for your evaluation in the May session this year.

If I may, I wish to make mention that this ordinance will reflect your thoughts in passing responsibility for education -- however much and to whomever desires it and at whatever time -- but to the communities. I interpret your direction to mean that local people should assume more and more of the decision making process as regards education. The proposed ordinance will do that and it will enable local people to aspire to complete control. When this occurs, in fact, before it occurs, the department's role will change. It will then become more and more a support and advice department, notwithstanding that it and the government has an educational responsibility. It will be necessary to reorganize the Department of Education to better reflect the direction Council wants it to move and for the department to take the steps to provide assistance to local communities. I do not mean that we then say "Okay, guys, now you are a school authority," and then we pull a Pontius Pilate and wash our hands. I mean the department should give assistance before and after the move.

Native Culture And Guidance Services In Curriculum

Our budget this year also reflects certain concerns this Council has had as regards the inclusion of native culture in the curriculum as well as the initiation of guidance services and the department will make every effort, I assure you, to improve these programs.

In terms of another area of concern that Council has expressed, the setting up of an institution of higher learning, the main thrust of this department's "B" level submission next year will be in this regard. It is my belief that we must do something tangible in this area and cease to pay lip service to our concerns.

An institution such as I envisage will do much to better meet the needs of all the North than does our present system of sending all students south and/or attempting to provide educational opportunities in the North at a poorly funded facility that is supposed to produce a high calibre of training.

Success In Various Programs

The successes, and there are many, enjoyed by various programs at existing facilities are as a direct result of the fortitude and ingenuity as well as energy of those people involved and less to do with the funding that Council has provided in the past. Such an institution as I envisage will not serve just one community, but will serve the community of the North. At the same time, it will be necessary, at first, to set up a co-ordinating centre as a beginning for the whole concept and such a beginning has been made. It has been in existence, and as I have stated, we have enjoyed considerable success in various programs.

Extensions Of Grades In Communities

To ensure that these successes are found in all our programs will necessitate more funding. This Council has indicated it endorses the extension of grades in communities, and in the various communities that I have visited, this refrain is repeated over and over. I too, have stated that such extensions much occur if we are to have students receive as much education as possible.

As such, next year, Pine Point will have grades 11 and 12 taught in the town. The practice of busing students back and forth to Hay River on a daily basis will cease. In the Keewatin communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour, and if there are others, every effort will be made to have grade 9 taught locally. In addition, as the Commissioner has stated, the Department of Education is seriously viewing the establishment of high schools for both the Arctic coast and the Keewatin. The exact locations of these schools have not been identified and will not be until I am satisfied that there is a consensus of opinion by the people involved. At the same time, I must admit to you that I have reservations as to the form such schools should take. It is my belief that to institute more schools of the southern variety to the North would do a disservice to the people involved. It is my belief that such schools should reflect the needs of the people in curriculum and staff, as well as programs.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. McCALLUM: Such schools should not emphasize one aspect of education over another, and yet, not be detrimental to the requirements for mobility of the students. I am not talking about watered down courses but more specifically, of offering to all students, regardless of age, what is not only educationally required, but what people require. Each person who comes to the school, regardless of time, sex or age, should be able to pursue his or her education, either on a short term or long term basis, and not be short-changed in the process.

Constituency Problems

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make reference to some of my constituency problems in the great expectation that they may evoke a sympathetic response from this legislature. I believe them to be fairly representative of those that other Members have.

The difficulty of communications and road conditions that the residents of Pine Point must endure are of great concern to me and the citizens. I realize that this government enters into agreements with the senior government on roads, but it is my hope that this Council will direct the administration to better not only the maintenance of highway number five, but also to improve the actual construction. The fact finding force on northern roads was told in no uncertain terms the necessity of improving this means of communication and I trust it will recommend its priority to be top level.

Another form of communication should be explored for the areas around and within my constituency and that is by means of smaller aircraft, a shuttle service by a smaller airline company than Canada's number three firm. Hospital and medical services also hold concern for Pine Point residents and it is hoped that in the near future, not only will the regional medical facilities at Hay River ease this concern, but that increased medical services can be instituted in Pine Point.

Increased Maintenance Grants For Recreation

In Fort Smith and Pine Point, sir, we enjoy some of the best **recreational** facilities in the North. However, as you are well aware, the cost of operating and maintaining these facilities in tax-based municipalities causes a heavy burden on the taxpayer. I am heartened by the administration's proposals in this regard but earnestly request of this Council to recommend the provision of increased grants to municipalities for operation and maintenance purposes.

Mr. Speaker, one of the North's finest, if not the finest museum, is located in my home town. It suffers from financial difficulties as do many similar facilities. I was very pleased to hear this Council direct the administration to complete the central museum, but sir, I would be more pleased, in fact highly elated, to have Council recommend increased financing to regional museums such as the Northern Life Museum in Fort Smith, a museum, sir, that not only holds a magnificent number of artifacts, but one which draws great reviews from all who have visited it.

Economic Development For Fort Smith

In Fort Smith the citizens have great concerns for its future as a viable economic community but they have planned for many years for alternative methods and have indeed raised many questions and proposals. The citizens of the town have expressed their concerns over communications, secondary industries and development. While I congratulate the Economic Development department on the establishment of a furniture plant in Hay River and the setting up of other various projects in other communities, I would trust they would look to Fort Smith as the location for new projects, especially, sir, in light of proposed administrative changes that may occur.

As one of this Council's elected Members to the Executive Committee, my primary responsibility is to bring forward your concerns and directions and see to it that the administration is not only aware of them but act upon them. Also I am responsible for the Department of Education and I am to be held responsible for its operation. As well, I must acquaint myself -- indeed become knowledgeable of other departments, in order to be answerable to Council for administrative decisions. I do not relate this obvious duty to solicit any sympathy. Nothing would please me more than to become fully knowledgeable of all government departments. However, the limited time that I have been, as has Mr. Ernerk, in office makes this highly improbable. Yet I do hope to know more for the next session and I say to the Council, I shall continue to keep you informed as to where matters concern your constituencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further replies to the Commissioner's Address? Mr. Evaluarjuk?

Mr. Evaluarjuk's Reply To The Commissioner's Opening Address

MR. EVALUARJUK: I have two comments on the Commissioner's Address. I will try to make them as short as possible. I do not know very much about territorial government. However, I could ask one of the government officials here. This is for transport and it is on the gas that is highly utilized by the hunters; the cost of gas and all energy is very, very high. I think there should be some kind of assistance in that gasoline is very, very expensive these days and I would refer in particular to the settlement of Cape Dorset.

High Price Of Gasoline In Cape Dorset

The gasoline in Cape Dorset for a skidoo in particular is very high. I think there should be some kind of subsidization from the government. I think everyone knows the situation in those communities as refers to gas because it is steadily utilized by the hunters in the smaller remote communities in the wintertime. They use gasoline very heavily to get their daily bread from the land and it is very difficult for someone who depends on hunting and I know for example, in Cape Dorset the price of gas is ridiculously high. That is my first comment.

Transportation In Eastern Arctic

Secondly, I have brought this subject up on a previous Council session and I had indicated at the time I would bring it up again and again until some kind of action could be taken by the Council or the territorial government and that is the transportation in the Northwest Territories. As we know, there is very little subsidy and as far as transportation goes in the Eastern Arctic, there is the only means of travelling from one community to another, that is by air. We do not have highways. We also do not have railways. I am asking that Council, if there could be any kind of assistance in as far as, say, transportation goes?

In previous questions on the Eastern Arctic, I have asked for a transportation route to be opened in the Eastern Arctic from other communities. I wish to have this to know the transportation situation in the Eastern Arctic in my capacity as a Councillor. That is all I have in reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members of Council, are there further replies? Turning, therefore, to the orders of the day, Item 3, questions and returns. Written questions, please. Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Question W9-58: Retention Of CRTC Tapes

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, as I understand, all stations are required to keep tapes of all broadcasts for a period of four weeks from the time of the broadcast to furnish to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission on demand. CRTC can demand that tapes be kept for eight weeks in unusual circumstances. CRTC operates on a basis of complaints or queries. If certain broadcasts are questioned, which is on my mind and of some people I have spoken to, they could request a station to supply tapes. They would have them transcribed and translated if necessary. Therefore, I am seeking translations in all native languages of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation broadcasts during the period of this Council session. I wonder if I could receive a reply, sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Further questions? Mr. Pudluk?

Question W10-58: Reopening of Grise Fiord Airstrip

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, my question is: On August 12, 1975 the Grise Fiord settlement council has written a letter to myself and our welfare commissioner and Inuit Tapirisat of Canada concerning the airstrip when they are closing it down. There was a question down there then "How can we have it opened again and how do we go about it?" They never received

any reply to this letter regarding the airstrip. They are still waiting for the answer to this letter. I have the letter here. If they want me to read it, I can read it. It will take a little while to read it. I wonder if I could get an answer to this letter as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Further questions? Mr. Butters?

Question W11-58: Continuation Of Commissioner As Director Of Panarctic.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, a recent Canadian press story noted that the Commissioner will be asking Council's advice on whether he should continue as a director of Panarctic Oil Limited. When will this matter be appearing on the Council's order paper?

Question W12-58: Publication Of Decision Of Electoral Boundaries Commission.

My second question, the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission, I believe, recently completed its hearings into establishing a second federal electoral district in the Northwest Territories. I wonder whether the administration might determine when the decision was made public, or, if not yet, when will it be made public?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner?

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, on the last question I understand the commission has concluded their hearings and as to their report, I am uncertain as to when it will be available, but we will check and find out as quickly as we can.

Return To Question W11-58: Continuation Of Commissioner As Director Of Panarctic.

The second point, the first one asked, I thought I would pose the question to Council during the discussion on Economic Development. The reason I chose then is that we would be in committee of the whole and there could be some exchange back and forth.

MR. SPEAKER: Further written questions? Mr. Pudluk.

Question W13-58: Assistant Secretary, Arctic Bay

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, Arctic Bay is coming into hamlet status and they have only a settlement secretary and they have been applying for an assistant settlement secretary which the government in Frobisher Bay will not give them until April. There is a need now for an assistant secretary. Therefore, because it is going to be very difficult to start when it becomes a hamlet without training, we are asking to get some money to start training the assistant secretary. I wonder if that could be possible?

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, I am going to Arctic Bay in February and would invite Mr. Pudluk to come with me. At that time I propose to discuss the details of their transfer to a hamlet which is July 1st of this year and we are prepared to withdraw the settlement manager and make available the funds to Arctic Bay so they would have a position much more -- a more powerful position with more money. So I think we can answer those questions at that time from Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Further questions? Mr. Nickerson.

Question W14-58: Sir John Franklin School

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Education. What action, if any, is the administration taking to set up a school board or school advisory committee to enable some degree of public input into the affairs of the Sir John Franklin School at Yellowknife?

MR. SPEAKER: I assume you wish to file a response, do you, Mr. McCallum, or do you wish to make it now?

MR. McCALLUM: I will take it as notice and I will have an answer written up for the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Further questions?

Question W15-58: Manager For Hall Beach

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to ask because I was told about the settlement. We would like to get some assistance of a full time manager. A new manager has not been hired yet and the settlement manager will have to leave right away. I wondered if it will be provided by the government. I think the Inuit people need more help and that is the question I wanted to ask. That is for Hall Beach.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner?

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, it must be, I presume, secretarial help that the Honourable Member is seeking. I would be happy to accommodate him and other Council Members with help, secretarial help, if that is -- no?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may be of some assistance to Mr. Evaluarjuk? The question is that it seems to the people of Hall Beach that the people who are brought into the community with respect to the hamlet or the settlement managers, they continue to leave after staying for only a matter of months or years. This is being repeated and the people of the communities seem to feel they are not receiving the assistance they should.

Return To Question W15-58: Manager For Hall Beach

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, I will be going to Hall Beach also in February and would be pleased to speak to Hall Beach about this. If I might in explanation say that three years ago when I was in Hall Beach the community was very distressed because they had not had a settlement manager, they had been served by mechanics, or teachers, acting in that capacity and we agreed -- and, indeed, admitted that we had been passing Hall Beach by because of their proximity to the main base of the DEWline and had not really given them the attention they deserved.

We brought in Mr. Hamburg from Pond Inlet and he stayed there and gave good service until he left this summer for Cape Dorset and I agree that another man transferred in last November, at the end of November, or in December he left and so, indeed, it is a problem of getting a person who will stay in any one particular spot. However, I will speak to the community and I will see what we can work out for them.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further questions? Any written questions?

MR. PEARSON: May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker?

Council Consent To Supplementary Question, Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Strictly, no. However, you may ask Council's indulgence and get unanimous consent to ask a supplementary question.

---Agreed

MR. PEARSON: Thank you dear colleagues, I will do the same for you some time. Mr. Speaker, I just could not let the moment go without making some comment. With all due respect ---

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask a question but you can not comment.

Question 016-58: Trip To Hall Beach

MR. PEARSON: All right, thank you. I would like to ask, is it not possible for the workings of this administration to be a little swifter rather than the people in Hall Beach having to wait until the Commissioner goes there before the situation could be rectified, or on the situation as outlined by Mr. Pudluk in Arctic Bay, that they have an urgent problem, and is there no way that this could be handled immediately, rather than having to wait for the Commissioner to go into the community and solve it then? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner?

Return To Question 016-58: Trip To Hall Beach

THE COMMISSIONER: In reply to the question, yes, I would be more than happy to direct Mr. Alex Gordon to do it, but what I had in mind was moving the man from Arctic Bay to Hall Beach but I do not want to move him there if six months later he leaves. So, I felt that to keep faith with the Member, that the best thing to do was go myself and secure a commitment from the gentleman that he would stay there for at least two years, preferably three and then perhaps by that time Hall Beach may be ready for a hamlet and they can have whoever they wish. But, I am quite happy if both of them wish to direct Mr. Alex Gordon to do this immediately, but that is what I had in mind.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further written questions? Mr. Pudluk?

Question W17-58: Transportation, Grise Fiord

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to cause headaches, but I seem to have quite a good run of them. I would like you to keep this in mind, before you go into Grise Fiord that they have asked me to ask you: When one of the families has to move out, not a whole settlement, but because of the airstrip closing they want to know whose responsibility it will be for their air charge or going by ship. This question is going to come up when you

go to Grise Fiord, and by that time you can have thought about it, and when you go there you can ask them but for myself right now I do not really have an answer as to whether you are planning on going there, but I just want you to think about it and think about it because they have a good reason to move out from Grise Fiord. Thank you.

Return To Question W17-58: Transportation, Grise Fiord

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, I wish I could say Ministry of Transport. I would think that we will have to take the responsibility, but before doing that we are still negotiating with MOT to try and get some understanding, number one, and number two, some action, and number three, something done which would make that airstrip qualify for MOT's rules.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further questions?

Question W18-58: Repulse Bay Water Trucks

MR. EVALUARJUK: I have just a short question. I went to Repulse Bay and they are still having a problem with water trucks and up until today I have raised this three times, on the truck for Repulse Bay. They need a truck and I would just like to know what the situation is with the truck, if they are going to get a water delivery truck?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Parker?

Return To Question W18-58: Repulse Bay Water Trucks

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: In answer to Mr. Evaluarjuk's question, the water truck situation in Repulse Bay, as we understand it, is being looked after at the present time through the repair of the present truck. We hope to be able to keep this in repair until sealift. However, we have given the community a commitment that as soon as there is enough ice for a Hercules aircraft, and if we can persuade the Canadian Armed Forces to use their aircraft to make this airlift, then we will fly in a water truck. If not, then the costs of flying one in are about the same as the cost of buying a new one and we would hope that we could limp along with the temporary arrangement until sealift. However, just to repeat, if we can possibly fly one in when there is enough ice, and we need 72 inches of ice, we will do so.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further questions? I suspect, Members of Council, that we have slipped into oral questions which is the next item. However, Item 4, oral questions. I am sorry, returns. Mr. Parker?

Return To Question W2-58: Federal-Territorial Fiscal Arrangements

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, on January 27th, 1976, Councillor Butters asked Question W2-58 concerning whether or not the administration had worked out a program to provide for "extraordinary funding" for municipalities facing rapid development or unprecedented development. I have the following reply:

I am pleased to report that as a result of discussions within the inter-departmental committee and elsewhere we are currently developing a policy of deferment of interest charges on debenture funds required for the preparation of serviced lots in municipalities. Interest and repayment of principal would be deferred until such time as the individual lots were required and sold, or placed under long term lease. Federal Treasury Board may suggest a time limitation on the deferment. In the case of rapid increases in a municipality's population, thereby requiring unforeseen increases in operating grants, our new contingency reserve system should permit us to respond in the same fiscal year as the increase occurs.

Return To Question W3-58: Fuel Oil Subsidies

On January 27th, 1976, Councillor Butters asked Question W3-58 concerning what plans the administration has for providing fuel oil subsidies for privately owned homes in the Northwest Territories. I have the following reply:

At the 56th session of the territorial Council in June, 1975, Council gave formal support to the two new housing programs being proposed by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, one of which would provide for a home operations grant. Part of the home operations grant program provides for a subsidy to private homeowners to defray the costs of fuel oil, electricity, and water and sewers. The grant would subsidize these utility costs were they to amount to more than eight per cent of the homeowner's net income. Subsequent to the 56th session, discussions have been held with the Treasury Board, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and Northwest Territories officials in an attempt to gain federal funding support for this program. To date no funds have been approved and we have been advised that the programs in question will have to be deferred until further representations can be made to the Treasury Board to obtain the required funding.

Return To Question W4-58: Ground Activities, Axe Point

On January 27th, 1976, Councillor Stewart asked Question W4-58, concerning ground exploration activities at Axe Point, Northwest Territories, I have the following reply:

Axe Point is a point of land located on the southwest bank of the Mackenzie River, across from Mills Lake. It was used during the Canol days as a staging area, and there is an abandoned airstrip located there. Last fall a land use permit was issued to Northern Engineering Services Company Limited to conduct geotechnical drilling activity at Axe Point and to test drill approximately 15 miles of road access from Axe Point to the Mackenzie highway. Drilling was conducted up until Christmas and has been suspended since then, but I am advised activity should commence again in the near future. The one land use permit which has been issued permits drilling on about 11 acres of the Axe Point site, and from the site to the Mackenzie highway. The land use permit expires on June 30th, 1976, and to date no application has been received by the federal government for any lease of the Axe Point site and road access.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further returns?

Moving on then to the orders of the day. Item 4, oral questions? Item 5, presenting petitions? Item 6, reports of standing and special committees? Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM NO. 6: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I am in order or not, but my committee report which was tabled yesterday, could I make that report now, sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

Report Of Standing Committee On Finance.

MR. LAFFERTY: The report of the standing committee on finance to the 58th session of the Northwest Territories Council.

The membership of the committee and its Members are, myself, William Lafferty, chairman; Thomas Butters, Councillors Ipeelee Kilabuk, Ludy Pudluk, John Steen, James Wah-Shee, William Lyall, Brian Pearson and Donald Stewart.

The committee meeting, or the finance committee met only once during 1975 from November 5th through to November 10th to consider a department by department review of the main estimates for 1976-77. Because this was the first meeting of this committee and because there were several new Members on it, the complete financial cycle of Council and the preparation of the budget of the territorial government was outlined, as well as its sources of revenue.

At this meeting the two Executive Members were requested to outline each of their views on the main estimates as presented. In addition to our review of the estimates and arising therefrom, the committee made the following observations:

- (1) Insufficient funds are being spent in meeting the objectives of the Department of Education.
- (2) Generally any increases in the estimates have been due to announced price increases in travel, accommodation, fuel oil, fuel rates and contracts.
- (3) The present school tax levy in non-tax-based municipalities is unfair and the whole subject of school taxes should be reviewed.
- (4) There is a discrepancy in the amounts of funding available to the various ethnic groups through the Department of Economic Development.
- (5) The proportion of revenue from liquor sales being spent on preventive measures should be reviewed.
- (6) Definite steps should be taken to encourage home ownership throughout the Northwest Territories.
- (7) The entire housing program should be completely reviewed.

The following recommendations requiring administrative action were proposed by this committee and in order to be enacted require the endorsement of Council: Location of proposed half way house, Department of Social Development; evaluation to be carried out to compare dollars spent to service rendered to Lapointe Hall, Fort Simpson, Department of Social Development; Department of Social Development to develop paper on tax relief for pensioners owning their own residences; change name of Social Development to Department of Social Services; Department of Local Government to prepare information paper on function of regional councils; Department of Local Government to distribute copies of the water and sewer policy in English as well as in syllabics; Department of Local Government to prepare paper on school tax levied in non-tax-based municipalities; Commissioner to advise Minister of committees concerning the Eskimo loan fund depleted and of the inequalities of the various loan funds; each elected Member of the Executive should have an assistant; letter from the Metis Association regarding request for grant to be referred to caucus; Council to consider proportion of revenue from liquor sales being spent on preventive measures...

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. LAFFERTY: ... Council to review the housing program. All of which is respectfully submitted, signed by myself as chairman of the standing committee on finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, may the Chair suggest that when you get into committee of the whole on the appropriations as we deal with each specific department that your recommendations refer to and would be appropriate for you then as chairman to raise the specific recommendations for discussion and for a motion to come out of committee of the whole on it.

Are there any further reports of standing or special committees? Going on then, to Item 7, notices of motions. Mr. Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice Of Motion 4-58: Public Control Over NCPC

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, the 2nd of February, I intend to introduce the following motion to Council:

WHEREAS it would appear that the Northern Canada Power Commission has not always operated in a way completely acceptable to the people of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Northern Canada Power Commission is exempt from the requirements of other public utilities operating in the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that it be a recommendation of this Council that:

I. The Northern Canada Power Commission Act be amended so that Northern Canada Power Commission becomes subject to the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board.

and II. The head office of Northern Canada Power Commission be moved to a location north of the sixtieth parallel.

MR. SPEAKER: Further notices of motions? Mr. Ernerk.

Notice Of Motion 5-58: Inuit Television Service

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, can you hear me all right? Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Monday, February 2nd, 1976, I shall introduce the following motion:

WHEREAS television service through Anik satellite has been introduced to some parts of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS in some Eastern Arctic centres, Rankin Inlet for example, the English television service has been in existence for over a year now;

AND WHEREAS only three-quarters of an hour of Inuit programming is provided on a once-a-week basis;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation provide an improved Inuit programming service by increasing the hours of native programming.

MR. SPEAKER: Further notices of motions? Turning to the orders of the day, Item 8, motions.

Gentlemen, coffee break is normally at four o'clock. I think we have Motion 1-58 and I assume Mr. Wah-Shee, that you would like to move that motion today, would you?

MR. WAH-SHEE: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Motion 3-58. I should think that there might be some discussion with respect to each of those motions, so should we have coffee first and then attack them on a refreshed basis? Agreed?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Council stands recessed for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

ITEM NO. 8: MOTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Members of Council, Council will come to order. Turning to the order paper, Item 8, motions. I draw Members' attention to the books in which are contained motions. Motion 1-58, Deferral of Political Development Paper, Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, Motion 1-58.

Motion 1-58: Deferral Of Political Development Paper

WHEREAS the Northwest Territories Council at its 57th session agreed to defer the consideration of the political development paper at that session to permit consultation with the people with the expectation that it be brought back at the January 1976 session;

AND WHEREAS it is considered desirable that this document be fully debated by this the eighth Council of the Northwest Territories, but that such debate be postponed, if possible, until after native land claims have been settled;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that consideration of the political development paper by the eighth Council of the Northwest Territories be deferred until all native land claims in the Northwest Territories have been settled, or until the January, 1979, session of Council, whichever is the sooner.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by Mr. Wah-Shee. Seconder? Mr. Ernerk. Discussion. Mr. Wah-Shee, you are entitled to lead off and to conclude after everyone else has spoken. In formal session, gentlemen, as you know, you are entitled to speak only once with the exception, of course, of the mover who speaks initially and then he winds up the debate. Okay? Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I believe my colleagues are quite aware of my position on this particular development paper. I believe that it is premature because of the fact that the implication of this particular paper does have very deep concern on the part of the native organizations in regard to native land claims. I believe that in my consultation with the communities I am aware that the communities that I represent are opposed to this particular paper and I believe that if we are going to have a meaningful discussion on political development of the Northwest Territories, that it has to involve all the people of the Northwest Territories, the organizations, the agencies, and it has to be understood and everyone has to participate.

I do not believe that particular documents should be put together and passed at this particular Council without consulting the people, various groups, both native and non-native groups. I also believe as to native land claims, the native people are very concerned and that they do have their point of view that they would like to discuss this particular matter, not only among themselves, but with each other in terms of both Indian and Inuit People.

Native Concept Of Government

Also, I think that at this particular point of time I firmly believe that we are still governing ourselves at the present time and I have stated many times in the past that we are basically governing ourselves based on a concept of the European people which makes it difficult for the native people to comprehend, and in some cases it makes it very difficult for them to participate. I do not believe that cultural involvement and traditional involvement within this governing structure should only be related to the simple translation from the native languages to the English language. I believe that we have to be prepared to go beyond that, not only that, but also that there might be other ideas that the native people may have in regard to future self-government of the Northwest Territories, not only as a structure but also as to its concept.

Many people have said that in order to have self-government in the Northwest Territories we have to have provincial status. That may be so, but I am very concerned about the whole content of what that self-government will be. I also believe that in discussing self-government for the Northwest Territories, the native people should not be asked to have to compromise their own values and traditions. I believe that the non-native people will also have to appreciate that there are differences in terms of traditions and values and I think that these are the fundamental differences that will have to be dealt with.

I believe that it has to be appreciated on both sides, I believe that this whole process is something that we all have to go through, and when this particular political development paper came out, I made it quite clear to my colleagues the reason why I opposed this particular paper. However, now I am sure my colleagues are quite aware of the position taken by the native organizations on this particular paper. I understand from my colleagues as well that we have to work together as a group on this particular Council and that in order to do this, we have got to try to understand each other's point of view and the reasons why. Therefore, I am asking this Council to defer this particular political development paper until the native land claims have been settled, because I do believe that the native people, through their native organizations, would like to discuss this with the federal government.

Resource Development

I believe that areas of negotiations may also deal with not only the whole area of political development but also resource development and there may be other areas that may be negotiated. I am not saying this, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the native organizations, I am basically giving you my point of view. I hope that when we are dealing with areas of concern, in this particular case -- political development, I believe that we have to go through a long process, and if we move too quickly, we may find that we are leaving out a large majority of the people. I also believe that we should defer this political development paper until the native land claims are settled, and I am looking for support from my colleagues in this regard. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further speakers? Mr. Stewart?

Dene Declaration

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, I stand this afternoon to support my colleague in his motion, but I would like to clarify a point for the record's sake. I have received considerable pressure mail in regard to this particular motion and some of the reasons stated in this, or these pressure memoranda have been that we should support the motion because it is with the Dene Declaration.

I, on that basis, could not support that motion as a Canadian first and as a northerner second, in no way can I support the Dene Declaration. However, this motion is written in such a manner that it is acceptable to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further speakers? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I second the motion supporting the Honourable Member from Great Slave Lake. I do not wish to take too much of your time to speak on this and will do so briefly. I have received also some instructions from my constituents and not only my own constituents, but also various native organizations in the Northwest Territories, including that of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada.

I must also tell you that the political development paper for the Northwest Territories is a very important one as it concerns all of the people of the Northwest Territories. However, speaking on behalf of my constituents in the Keewatin district very briefly, I would also like to state that an organization, basically the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada is soon to negotiate with the federal government of Canada, on their land claim proposal. I feel that at the moment -- this particular negotiation is going to take place next month and will be an important one to the people of the Eastern Arctic.

In Terms Of Their Traditional Way Of Life

Now, if I could speak about my own opinion and views, the proposal by Inuit Tapirisat of Canada will contain such points as that the people, the Inuit people in the Keewatin district or in the Eastern Arctic, should be able to determine their own future in terms of their own education system, in terms of their own justice system and in terms of their own game laws, using their own traditional way of life.

I speak particularly in support of this paper because when I look back to the communities in the Eastern Arctic, I seem to see that the Inuit people in a lot of ways, especially the young people, are losing their own traditional culture. The young people today in the Eastern Arctic communities are unable to speak their own language, they are unable to hunt using their own traditional ways which they have followed for thousands of years. Now I feel these things are very, very important to the present generation of today and I happen to believe that a proposal which is soon to be negotiated by Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the federal government will contain some of the points which I have raised this afternoon. I would like to say I support this paper, or this motion, and I would also like to state that the working relationship or the relationship between the two, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the federal government, should not be destroyed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further speakers? Mr. Barnaby.

A Case Of Contradiction

MR. BARNABY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to support the motion to defer until after the land claims. I think we are contradicting ourselves by getting into all these issues that the native people are involved in with regard to land claims, such as game laws and this political development and so on. I do not feel that this Council should be the only one to represent the people. I think that we might be putting ourselves into a real bad position. It looks like a native majority on this Council now, but after the next election you may have less and after that, even less. I do not agree with the statements that our interests are all the same, or that we are working for the best of everybody. I think that we should be working for the people to run their own affairs, to decide for

themselves, instead of authority for this Council. We do not have to go by the system from the South where you elect a person to make all the decisions and then complain after that.

I see a lot of lobbying going on and a lot of native guys are running down the organizations that are trying to create a future for them and I do not agree with this kind of thing. I support this motion and I think that the people of the North can come up with something good after the land claims are settled when everyone can participate as equals. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further speakers? Mr. Nickerson.

Return To The State Of Fifty Years Ago

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, before I really talk about the subject we have before us, I would like to make known the views of Chief Joe Charlo and Subchief Antoine Liske. These two gentlemen asked that I make their views known publicly. They are not really views, they are observations, but both of the two gentlemen would like it to be known that neither of them nor most of their councillors, that is the people on the Yellowknife Band council, have any comprehension of what the political development paper is all about. Apparently Chief Joe Charlo advised me that in his opinion he has no objection to remaining a ward of the government, as such, and he wishes that things could return to the state they were some 50 years ago. Both Chief Charlo and Subchief Liske are rather elderly gentlemen.

Another observation I would like to make known now is with regard to Mr. Wah-Shee's suggestion that there might be two sides. He is always talking about two sides and I would like to make it known now that as far as the constituency of Yellowknife North is concerned, there is only one side and that is the side of the people, regardless of origin or any other considerations.

Now, Mr. Speaker, on the matter of deferral of the political development paper, I would have a few brief observations. It has become obvious that should the paper itself be voted on, Council would be, more or less, equally divided on the issue and therefore, neither adoption nor rejection to provide the clear direction which Council had sought for itself. I have gone to considerable length to assess the feelings of my constituents on this subject and it appears that the consensus is that, while the people of Yellowknife still anxiously desire the same political rights and responsibilities accorded to their fellow Canadians, their objection to deferral for the time being would not be too vehement. In this they have shown a much greater degree of statesmanship and forbearance than has been displayed by the selfish and unenlightened views of the leaders of the various federal government funded political organizations which have provided the opposition.

A Timorous Council

I can not hide my disappointment that the Council has now no overriding hold. Hithertofore everything we have done has been assessed in light of what progress we were making towards that eventual hallowed state of provincial status. We are now like a rudderless ship and for the balance of our term this Council, whatever our accomplishments, will be regarded merely as marking time.

The eighth Council of the Northwest Territories will go down in the annals of history as a timorous Council. The argument that the political development paper would in some way jeopardize the native land claims is completely and utterly false. The opposition to the paper has been nothing more than a cheap political ploy designed to render the people's duly elected representatives as ineffective as possible. Mr. Speaker, my conscience will not allow me to vote in favour of this motion. Therefore, I beg to abstain.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, there are several things I wish to say. I had intended to make my reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address today but since I was not physically well, I would postpone it until tomorrow. I think that before I make any comments on Mr. Wah-Shee's motion I would like to put before the assembly here and the public and reaffirm what my colleague Mr. Nickerson said.

Situation Created By The Federal Government

I have talked to the old people, the old Indian people such as Philip St. Buck, Louis Norwegian and many others throughout my constituency, and these people have expressed to me that their requirements are not much and they are satisfied with the way life has been with them in the past, provided for by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and they regret that changes have taken place in their lives. I, for one, as I stand before you blame the federal cabinet and some of the civil service people who are responsible and some of the funding projects that are going on. I am ashamed to stand here among you as a representative person of my constituents. I am forced on one hand to be torn apart emotionally. Economically I have got nothing and my people are hungry.

There are a little better than 200 treaty Indian people living in the village of Fort Simpson and nearly 200 of them are on welfare. If anyone here does not believe that, pick up the telephone and call the social development officer in Fort Simpson. This is the kind of situation that has been created by the federal government providing them money to create opposition to the orderly development of people in the Northwest Territories. We are people, however different we may be ethnically, we are people and I am sorry to say that in opposition some who are relatives to me have been designated into an ethnic group comprised of four people. That is not an ideal. Among us it is a regeneration of people who are new. We have many young people coming up of all racial backgrounds and cultures and with racial interaction you have a new idea. These are the things I believe in. I am a Metis and I will stand before you here as such. I am not a Dene and I will not allow the native organization to designate me into something I am not because that is not my idea. So help me God, it will be over my dead body. I for one served in the Canadian armed forces because I believe in being Canadian. I served overseas in the hot suns of the desert, as probably few of you have. I received a decoration of the United Nations for serving my country and I wonder how many have in the North. I did not do these things as an Indian or a Metis but as a Canadian. I am proud to be a Canadian.

---Applause

The Danger Of Being Two-Sided

We talk about the dangers of being two-sided. That already exists and that division has been established through our own negligence and our own fears to step into the unknown as political leaders and lead our people and yet we have the gumption to stand here and say we are the leaders. I for one will step out into the unknown and explore the possibility before

I will tell you anything. I can not vote on the issue of political development simply because it has torn the northern people apart. I can not see my country being torn apart any more than it is presently. When I look around me in my home town and find my own Indian people, my own Metis people sleeping in hallways of apartment buildings, or sleeping in jails and there is no one there to assist them, including their representative spokesmen, I wonder where all that money is going that has been designated by the federal government to aid these people? I wonder too where is all that guarantee of the treaty which gives us the right to subsistence when they are living in shacks.

Then, when I look here at statements by the leaders who claim to be responsible, that their traditional life is of hunting and trapping, then I recall men like Peter McEwan, old Carlson, old Schillenberger, and many others I can name, many of these young people do not know who have taught the very people how to use the northern methods of trapping using the white man's technology because the traditional Indian life style of hunting and trapping was dead. That was dead way before my time. I was here in the Northwest Territories in the 1940's when the trapping economy broke out and all these native people had to get social assistance. It was not social assistance but they had to get assistance and those of us who were able, worked on the boats. That was the end of the time and yet we have all these people sitting around here telling the very person who lived in this country, born in this country and who trapped, hunted and fished and worked on the boats how I live or how I was raised or who my father and mother were. My great grandfather came from France and my other great grandfather came from Ireland and I had great grandfathers who were deeply imbedded in the roots of the Northwest Territories because they were Metis. What right have any of you got to deny me my heritage? I ask you whether you are Indian, white man or whatever you may be, I do not deny you your rights but that is exactly what you are doing.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have been receiving this pressure paper which is a press release and I shall read it to you. I am at a point where they force me publicly not to take sides with anyone. I am prepared to stand here in front of you and declare myself a Metis. I am a Metis and there are hundreds and thousands of us in this country totalling millions and I will not take a backward step for anybody. It will be over my dead body. I will remain a Metis as long as I live and a Canadian. I am a Metis Canadian and a first Canadian. I will not give in to pressure. Some of you people may smile and laugh simply because you do not know yourselves. It tells me here that the board of directors of the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories presently in session in Yellowknife yesterday passed the following motion: "In regard to the statement of position that was released on December 17th, 1975, concerning the political development paper that some Members of the Council of the Northwest Territories are advocating we reiterate our position of being firmly opposed to its passage."

Elected By The People

I was not elected by the Metis Association executive. I was not elected by an Indian band council, just as much as I was not elected by the chambers of commerce or the school board or the town council. I was elected by individual men and women in my constituency who represent nearly 7000 people and I will be damned if I will listen to the executive of the chambers of commerce. Again I publicly say recently I listened to a CBC broadcast accusing me of not visiting native people or communities. I have visited every one of them three times in the course of the last nine months and I have not got the money to do it again. Some of it was at my own expense while the federal government are funding my opposition, they have all the money they need to run me into the ground. It is not my fault if they did not come to the public meetings that I called. This is the kind of situation that I am in. How do you expect me to vote?

People want jobs, they are hungry. We talk about involving all people of the Northwest Territories, and some of these associations claimed in their writing and correspondence publicly that they include and involve all native people of the Northwest Territories. If that is the case, let me ask you, each one of you as you walk down the street today, I would ask you to ask a native when you meet him, ask him if he is a member of the Metis Association or the Indian Brotherhood, or if they get assistance, if they get help. Our people are being thrown in and out of hotel bars, in and out of hotel lobbies, in and out of cafes, they have not got any money to provide the clothes they need or shelter or to buy themselves food.

They are reduced to begging and I am ashamed when I see this because I have a suit on and perhaps this is the reason you see me wearing a dirty coat when you see me on the street. I am ashamed to talk to my own people. If that is something you can be proud of, I ask you, look at your own selves. Do not ask me to take sides. I will not vote on this paper.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that I support the motion and the motion I support is to defer this paper, and I go along with the request of the native associations to defer this until such time as the settlements are settled or, if it is not done before the session of January 1979 that it will come up for discussion at that time. So, I support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum.

We Have Come This Far Through Evolution

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, before talking on the principle of the motion, I would like as well to say that I have made contact with people and organizations within my constituency and I have two written replies from the Fort Smith Band through its Chief Gerry Cheezie, and the Metis Association Local number 50 at Fort Smith, asking me to make known their concerns about the discussion on the political paper. I do not want to get into a discussion on the political paper, but they would like to have it deferred. I, as well, support the motion to defer and I have no hesitation in doing so. I believe that we have come this far in our country through the means of evolution and I personally believe we have done a pretty good job of it. I would rather see us take it easy and when the land claims are finished, fine, and on the motion fine, but I will not get involved in a discussion on the paper.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, we have been talking about deferring this paper until January, 1979. I have been thinking a lot about this and wondering how it would be better for different reasons than those which have already been given. I am not saying this because of race, but there are different arguments put forward on this subject. Everybody should work hard on what has been prepared and I support the motion put forward. I support this paper of Mr. Wah-Shee and the other Members have a problem that -- there are conflicts between different groups in the Northwest Territories. That is what I wanted to say.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion?

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I have a few words to say on this subject. I would like to support this motion. I have been in the Northwest Territories and I have been to places where there are not even any people. They still have not understood about a lot of things. A lot of money is used for the North and with different programs people can understand a little bit but they would understand much better if they had more information.

How can you mind if a native or anybody is able to go to school or not? That would be it. They would not see a lot of people doing this. I am not particularly in favour of this. I look on my own neighbours, all the neighbours in the North who are different races. How come we are all here and we do not talk to each other, treat each other like everybody and say this is a certain person, certain race. Some people have more power because they have more money, more assets and everything. I think a poorer man is always one who always needs more.

Political Development Paper Too Hasty

In this political environment that we are talking about right now, I have been prepared and I agree with some of the things in the paper, but some of the things there have been, I think, too hasty. I would still support people from my constituency but I really do not want to point to the people in my constituency, but talk about all the people of the North. I would like to say that I am still crying inside because of where I used to go caribou hunting and it used to be hard. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Speaker, we are now anxious about this. Every one of us feel differently about it. We are probably all wondering what this other person is thinking. I think I know we are all thinking about the same thing. We all want to go to our constituencies, to our people and some of us can talk to our people in the constituencies, but some of the people were not agreeing with this. I agree with some of the things in this paper too, but I also think that it sounds like it is hard to get people's opinions about this, and then work on it after. We should think about this.

Sorry, I am speaking too fast for my interpreter. We on the Council all seem to have all the territorial residents and we should start to find out all the problems and all the good things. Now we know that there will be problems if we agree to this paper. We know of the problems that are around, if we agree with this paper. So, I am in agreement with the motion to put this off to a later date. That is all I have to say. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add support to the motion mainly because I have not seen what is in these land claims that are causing all the trouble, so just very briefly, that is all I would like to say.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, on a minor point of order, which may be mundane in view of the present debate, but it seems to be you require a motion to continue after 5:30 p.m. on the days business. Is that not correct, sir?

MR. SPEAKER: My record indicates you are the last speaker, subject to Mr. Wah-Shee winding up. I am rather hopeful that we might be able to do that within the next 15 minutes.

Self-Government And Autonomy

MR. BUTTERS: It is just I hope to speak on some of the other motions that are on today. I wish to speak to the motion which is to defer. I do not think that deferment of the motion would retard measurably the progress of this Council towards a greater degree of self-government and autonomy.

I think that as Mr. McCallum mentioned, or suggested, we have reached the point we are at today by a process of evolution, moving slowly, picking up directional momentum as we go along. I, too, would support the deferment of the motion because it is quite obvious that it is important for us to work together as people, not people of this ethnic background or that racial background, but as people of the Northwest Territories. Each and every one of us are seeking to serve people of different racial backgrounds, seeking to serve them so it is important that we work as much as possible as a unit, collectively, together to achieve the objectives that the people have given us to bring to this Council.

The third reason that I will vote to defer the motion, although I feel it is much stronger, really, than is necessary, I notice the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada in approaching Members recently and by resolution at Rankin Inlet only asked for deferment of this paper until agreement in principle is achieved regarding their land claims. Agreement in principle can be carried forward very quickly.

Land Claims Position

As we well know, we see this whole matter of land claims moving to some type of solution. I believe the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada was looking at presenting their land claims position to the federal government on February 11th. The Yukon Indian Brotherhood is looking at having its land claims position developed by March 30th and I see in deferring this present paper that it behooves the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories to get moving. The Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories has for years been considering its land claims position.

Now recently the acting head, the acting president of the Brotherhood said that they already have a position and that the Honourable Judd Buchanan will not sit down with them. If they have that position, the place to take that position is Ottawa, not to provide it to the press of the world or Calgary, but take it to Ottawa. I hope that the position they have is not the Dene Manifesto because Mr. Buchanan refused that Manifesto in this community on August 14th or September 14th of last year.

I vote to defer this to give the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories a chance to get at resolving the land claims situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee, would you like to wind up the debate?

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I was not planning to, but in light of some of the things that were said, I think maybe I should clarify a few points here.

Reason To Delay Political Paper.

I think the reason why the native people want this political paper delayed is not necessarily what I would call a cheap political ploy. I think that a lot has been said about co-operation, understanding, working together in harmony etc. I think all these ideas are fine, I think they are honourable, but I also think that we have to try and understand each other, and I think in doing so we have to be a little more flexible. We must also put ourselves in the situation of trying to gain a little better understanding no matter what type of political developments take place or what type of political structure we have. I think that all these fine ideals will be required to make it work. Like I said, I do not think that the way things have been done in the past should necessarily continue. I think that evolution means that changes do take place, and I think it is time that various groups would want to contribute their own ideas as to how they would like to see things happen in the future. That does not necessarily mean that if your future political structure -- if the official language is not Irish I will not participate, and I am not saying that we are going to take our ball and go home if you do not play our game. I think that that is being immature on my part, if that is what I was going to do.

I do not think that anyone here would disagree that there is nothing about this particular legislative Council which would have a cultural tradition about it or, particularly the native culture. Like I said, the only thing that reflects the natives in here is our very presence and that we have the capability of speaking our native language. Like I say, that is not enough. I think there have to be other changes made, because we have our own ideas about how we would like to see our children educated. The problems that the present education system has, even the thing about local government, I think a lot has been said about municipalities and there might be other types of structure which might be workable as well.

So, I think that as far as I am concerned there are real legitimate concerns, and I do not think they are a gain, I think that if the Northwest Territories' society is going to be a healthy one then I think that various groups have something to offer.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. WAH-SHEE: Now, how do you do this and accept that it is going to determine the type of society that you have in the North. I think it is really important that this is understood. With that I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Members of Council, the debate on the motion is concluded. The only thing left now is the question. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: The question.

Motion 1-58: Deferral Of Political Development Paper Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. All in favour? Ten. Contrary? Nil. Abstentions? Two.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 11: ORDERS OF THE DAY

THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, January 30, 1976, 9:00 a.m.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
3. Questions and Returns

4. Oral Questions
5. Presenting Petitions
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motions
8. Motions
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 4-58, Bill 2-58, Bill 9-58, Bill 12-58 and Report of Task Force on Great Slave Lake Fisheries
11. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any announcements? Mr. McCallum.

Oldtimers Hockey Game.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, perhaps we could end this session, by making an announcement, that there is an activity which will go on this evening at the local ice parlour. It will involve a number of elderly statespeople who are going to try and recapture some of the moments of their youth, and the ages range anywhere from 36 to 66. There are a couple of people who are in the midst of that who have kind of chickened out in the last couple of practices; in other words there is a hockey game and the oldtimers of the Yukon are coming down to play the Yellowknife oldtimers and I would just like to make that announcement.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for simplifying it, Mr. McCallum. Gentlemen, I am advised of two other things I should alert you of. Firstly, copies of the task force report on Great Slave Lake fisheries have been placed in your desks should you wish to review them before consideration in committee of the whole tomorrow.

Number two, there is a caucus meeting tomorrow in the Members' lounge, Room 303, a soup and sandwich luncheon. This meeting I understand is being called to organize our Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Is that correct, Mr. Butters?

MR. BUTTERS: That is one of the items, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: There being no further business, Council stands adjourned until 9:00 o'clock a.m., the 30th of January, at the Explorer Hotel.

--- ADJOURNMENT

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Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T. at \$5.00 per session
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of the Northwest Territories