



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

60th Session

8th Assembly

Official Report

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1976.

Speaker The Honourable David H. Searle, O.C.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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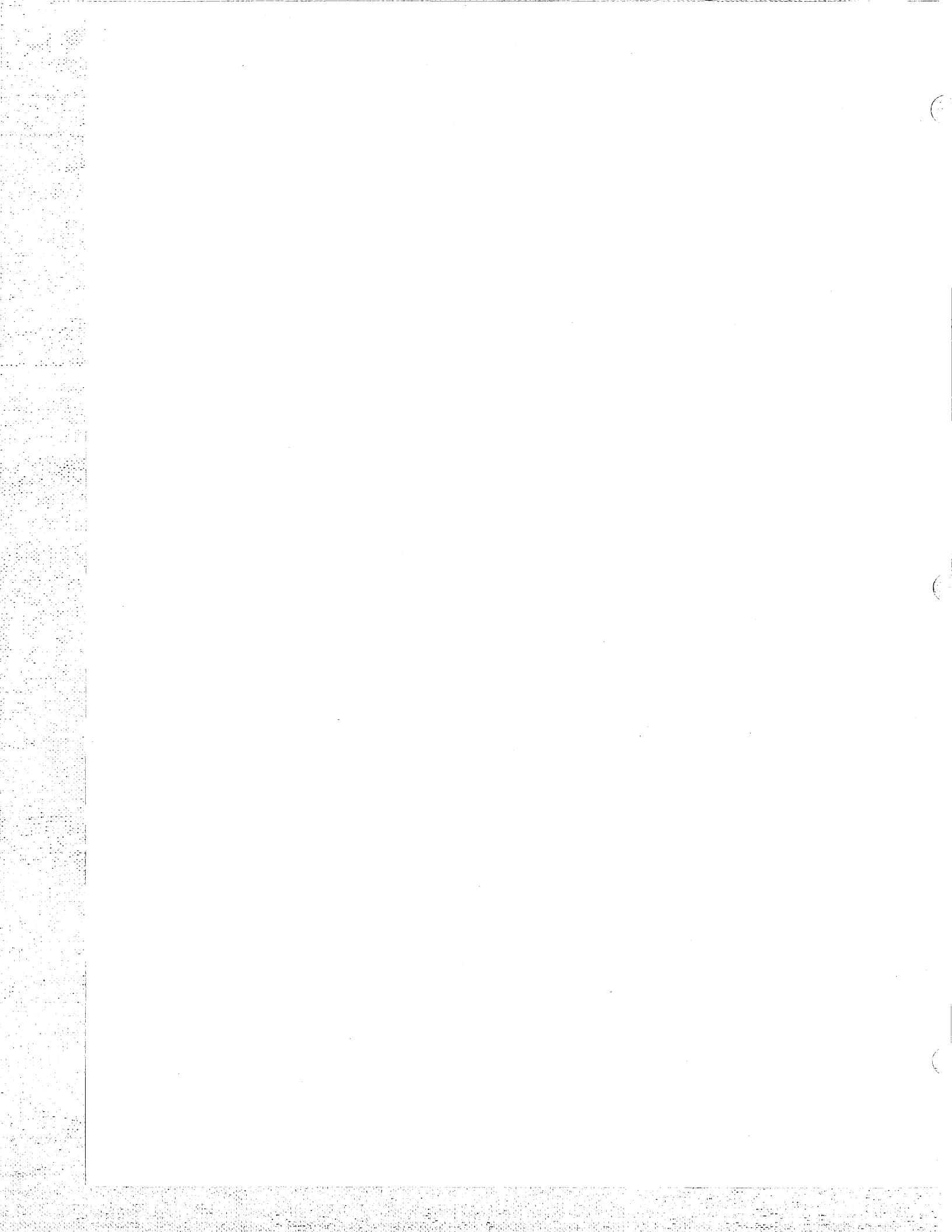
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RANKIN INLET, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1976.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories was convened in Rankin Inlet, Northwest Territories at ten fifty-five o'clock a.m., on Monday, October 18, 1976, for the third session, 1976, this being the sixtieth session.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Steen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Lyall, Mr. Butters, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Fraser, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Hon. Peter Ernerk, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. David Searle, Mr. Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER.

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

Introduction Of New Members.

SPEAKER (The Hon. David Searle): Mr. Deputy Speaker, would you be so kind as to escort Mr. Fraser and Mr. Whitford to their places, please?

MR. STEWART: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: May I, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, offer a word of congratulation to you, Mr. Fraser, and you, Mr. Whitford, for your election to this Legislature.

Recognition Of Dr. And Mrs. Williamson.

Before calling in the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to address the house and deliver his Opening Remarks, may I take this opportunity to recognize in the gallery a very distinguished couple, Dr. and Mrs. Williamson. Would you stand please Dr. Williamson?

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, would you determine whether or not the Commissioner is available to address this house?

ITEM NO. 2: COMMISSIONER'S OPENING REMARKS.

COMMISSIONER (Mr. Hodgson): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to this, the sixtieth session of the Council of the Northwest Territories. I am sure that the people of Rankin Inlet join me in wishing you well in your deliberations during the sessions of Council. The Council is meeting at a most significant point in the history of northern Canada, and great interest is being centered on the points of view expressed by Members of Council and the resolutions and decisions finally approved.

Welcome To Minister

I am very pleased to have The Hon. Warren Allmand, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, with us here today. I had the opportunity of welcoming him to the Northwest Territories when he attended our recent directors' seminar in Snowdrift. It is worth noting that Mr. Allmand had only been appointed, and that he chose in his first week of office to visit both the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. He is most welcome.

His approach to his new portfolio reminds me of two previous ministers -- the late Senator Arthur Laing and the Hon. Jean Chrétien, now Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. These two ministers paid particular attention to the Northwest Territories, and whenever the occasion allowed they took the opportunity of sitting down and spending time with the Council. This is indeed encouraging, and I must say the people of the Northwest Territories will be very impressed.

During his stay with us at Snowdrift, the administration took the opportunity to fully brief the Minister on the goals and objectives, programs and policies of the territorial government.

Since leaving Ottawa back in 1967, much has been achieved, and it is worthwhile once in a while to stop, review and reflect on the success or failure of government in the Northwest Territories.

I am sure you are all delighted to be in Rankin Inlet. This is the first time that Council has had the opportunity to hold a session in the hamlet of Rankin Inlet. Council's policy of holding the third session of each year in one of the outside communities gives the residents of the communities an opportunity to see the Council in action, while at the same time affords the Members of Council an opportunity to see first hand the results of their deliberations and decisions as they apply at the local level.

Importance Of Committee Work

These past four and a half months have been extremely busy and Council is to be congratulated for the many hours you have spent outside of regular sessions working on important matters affecting the Northwest Territories. It is often said that many times the real work of Council passes unnoticed, and this is due to the fact that sessions of committee are not exposed to the full focus of public view.

Council's legislative and finance committees have worked hard on the legislative program that will be presented later today. The finance committee has been working on the program forecasts that precede the preparation of estimates for presentation to Council's budget session to be held next January. Council has also been meeting in committee of the whole, discussing a number of matters of some importance, and I understand things have gone quite well.

I think it is quite proper from time to time for Council to sit down away from the glare of the public forum, to discuss and reflect on the events of the past and the direction in which your efforts should be focused during the remaining life of this Council. Having done that, of course, the success of those discussions depends on how well you can convey them to your constituents and the public at large. The success of any politician is measured not on the problems they create, but on the solutions and leadership they provide.

These are indeed interesting times, and I harken back 34 sessions ago, to my first Council meeting in the spring of 1964. At that time a lot of people were offering their ideas and suggestions on what should happen to the Northwest Territories. Few of them had any real ongoing experience, nor did they have any intention of living with the results, if accepted, of their proposals. It is worth remembering that a lot of people offered a multitude of advice and seemed bent on foisting their particular points of view in an area where they had little or no first hand experience. They reminded one of misplaced lighthouses whose lights flickered on and off, and if followed would surely drive the ship of state on to the rocks.

Finally, in the fall of that year the Council decided to act and put forward ideas that the Government of Canada accepted, which brought about the most significant evolution to ever take place in the history of the Northwest Territories.

Terms Of Reference Of Council To Give Leadership

In recent months, this Council, for the first time in years, has shown signs of recognizing that it is within their jurisdiction, to not only offer advice but to give leadership and mark out a true course worth considering on the development of government within the Northwest Territories. To put it another way, Council has sat back these past couple of years while various groups, organizations and individuals have voiced their opinion on a multitude of issues that will decidedly affect the future of the Northwest Territories. It must be remembered that with the exception of the Member of Parliament, Council Members are the only people who are chosen or elected by referendum ballot of all the people in the Northwest Territories. Further that this Council is recognized by law as a representative body whose terms of reference are set in federal legislation.

Recently you decided to make a presentation to the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, and shortly after, to the National Energy Board, and I understand that you intend to make further representations in the coming months. To me this makes sense, as who is in a better position than Council to be able to present an over-all point of view? My comments are not made to detract from the presentation of other public interest organizations or associations, or municipal councils based in the Northwest Territories. Certainly in a democracy there must be room for the expression of all points of view, but it is the duty of this Council, as the only fully territorial-elected body, to give leadership and guidance on events and issues of major importance.

District Service Centre Concept

Turning to some matters concerning your administration, as you know I have made a practice of travelling as much as possible to the various communities. These past four months I have had the opportunity of talking to a lot of people, and I found that there is a genuine feeling that if this government is to face the challenges of the last half of the seventies, it is of the utmost importance that the administration get closer to the people. We had hoped to do this through the district service centre concept presently in existence in the Keewatin. As a matter of fact, based on the outcome of this concept we had hoped to introduce the system in the Fort Smith region. I believe we have to face facts, and for a variety of reasons we have found that the concept is not working. Instead of solving problems and permitting the government to work more closely with the communities, we find that the opposite is the case. As a result, as of today the Keewatin district service office is being changed and upgraded to that of a regional office. What this means is that almost immediately we will begin to transfer those disciplines and authorities taken from the Keewatin when the office was transferred from Churchill to Rankin, to the reorganized Keewatin regional office.

As I mentioned in my Opening Address to the fifty-eighth session of the Council of the Northwest Territories in January of this year, it is the intention of the Government of the Northwest Territories to transfer responsibilities from the Government of the Northwest Territories to communities. In January, my remarks took the form of a major decision in principle. Today, I am able to provide you with a progress report on what has been done and to outline in greater detail our plans in this area for the months ahead.

Task Force On Transfer Of Responsibilities And Delegation Of Responsibilities

The method chosen for determining the programs, responsibilities and positions to be transferred to communities will be a consultation process. Communities will be asked to identify to the territorial government those kinds of services which they would prefer to be provided under local direction. This consultation process will take place under the direction of a task force on transfer of responsibilities and delegation of responsibilities chaired by the Assistant Commissioner. Under his

direction, I have appointed as a task force director, Mr. Ray Creery, whose responsibilities will be to work closely with our regional directors and with communities to assist them in the selection and to determine the appropriate timing of the transfer of responsibilities. Mr. Creery will be responsible for advising the Executive Committee and co-ordinating the activities of directors and regional directors on these matters. The appointment of Mr. Creery to this position reflects the priority which I attach to this task and my recognition of the need for it to be done well.

I have also appointed Mr. Alex Gordon as a task force director responsible for increasing the decentralization of authority within the territorial government to regional directors. The purpose in delegating additional responsibilities to regional offices, is to ensure that decisions are taking place in a streamlined manner, as close as possible to the people affected by those decisions. It is my intention that this process of streamlining will result in speedier decisions taken on a more flexible basis, in a manner which recognizes the needs of communities as articulated by them. The delegation of responsibilities to the regions will also permit the different characteristics of the various areas of the Northwest Territories to be more easily recognized.

Freeze On Public Servants In Headquarters

To assist in accomplishing this objective, I have instructed the executive subcommittee on finance to halt the expansion of the number of public servants in headquarters. The freeze in the number of public servants will not be limited on a department-by-department basis, but increases in one area must be fully offset by decreases in other areas.

Reorganization Of Department Of Economic Development.

An example of both decentralization and a reduction of headquarters staff is the reorganization of the Department of Economic Development, approved by the Executive Committee this summer. In short, the director of Economic Development has transferred most of his responsibility for the day-to-day management of operations to the regional offices. Economic Development projects throughout the Northwest Territories will be managed directly within the regions rather than from headquarters. To assist in this process, there will be increased delegation of responsibility to project managers, and provision of additional support from the regional treasury and supply officers. The capacity of the regions to manage arts and crafts and other project activities will be augmented by a transfer of staff from headquarters to the regions. A total of nine positions are being moved out of headquarters and transferred to the regions.

The process used by the director of Economic Development and the regional directors to accomplish that department's reorganization will be followed by other departments. Basically, the form of decentralization will be unique to each department, reflecting each department's own program, operational and control requirements. There is no one simple straightforward model of decentralization: each department and regional director will have to find the right mix of headquarters and regional responsibilities. This process will be carried out over the course of the next six months, with the major staff transfers that will result being scheduled for the summer of 1977.

In order to ensure that the work of the task force progresses unimpeded, I have asked the Assistant Commissioner to provide a progress report to the Executive Committee each month.

Object Of Decentralization

Our objective in the exercise of decentralization is to streamline decision making, eliminate any remaining areas of "red-tape" and permit faster, more flexible decision making in line with the expressed needs of communities.

The challenge to the task force is to ensure that this streamlining does not result in any loss of financial or program control. Better management information systems are being developed to ensure that the Executive Committee is kept fully informed of decisions being taken by the departments and regional directors. Some of these reports are being provided on a regular basis. As more areas of decision making are delegated, the need for executive decision will be replaced by need for an appropriate and timely flow of information.

New Director Of Finance

On the financial side, I am pleased to report that a new director of Finance has been selected and will join the Government of the Northwest Territories in November of this year. The new director of Finance is Mr. Eric Nielsen, currently the director of finance for the city of Calgary. Mr. Nielsen's primary responsibility will be the development and implementation of an up-to-date financial information system providing timely, relevant information for regional directors, program directors and the Executive. The development of these new systems is well timed with the decentralization of responsibility to the regions and the transfer of programs and positions to communities. The development and implementation of the financial information system also reflects the final phase in the implementation of the recommendations of the financial management committee study which I chaired in 1975.

It is my intention to place this entire matter before you in January in the form of a special report to Council. The purpose of doing this is to fully inform you of our plans of decentralization, while at the same time to give you the opportunity to give our administration the benefit of your experience and advice.

The year 1977 may well be the year of decision for the Northwest Territories. As yet we have really no idea on what the future holds for the territories. We all look forward to the early resolution of the land claims, decisions affecting pipeline construction, development in general, and the creation of meaningful opportunities of wage employment for those people who wish to take advantage of wage economy. At the same time the future development of the territories is a subject dear to all territorial residents' hearts.

The administration will at this session introduce a total of seven bills dealing with a variety of matters.

Introduction Of Legislation

The Education Ordinance, first introduced at the fifty-ninth session, would replace the present School Ordinance with up-to-date and revised provisions to more correctly reflect the current philosophies of education and progressive educational trends, and would provide for an increased level of local input into education matters.

As a companion piece of legislation, and in response to the wishes of the previous Council, a revised Teachers' Association Ordinance would extend self-government and self-regulatory powers to the Northwest Territories Association.

Provision would be made for the appointment of boards of management to operate and manage health facilities owned or funded by the territorial government by an amendment to the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance. This amendment would also provide for the appointment of a public administrator to manage a health facility where the Commissioner considers such action to be in the public interest.

Legislative authority would be created by an Accommodation Tax Ordinance for the imposition and collection of a tax on public accommodation in the Northwest Territories.

An Apprentices and Tradesmen's Ordinance would provide for the certification of persons in designated trades and would set out guidelines respecting contracts of apprenticeship.

The creation of an automobile insurance exchange would be provided for by an amendment to the Insurance Ordinance which would ensure that insurance coverage is available to all automobile owners and drivers.

A Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance would provide funds to meet previously anticipated expenditures which would be incurred in the current fiscal year.

A recommendation to Council will be introduced concerning proposed amendments to the Workers' Compensation Ordinance.

It is now my pleasure to wish you well in the days ahead as I officially declare open this, the sixtieth session of the Council of the Northwest Territories. Thank you very much.

---Applause

Recognition Of Guests

MR. SPEAKER: Members of Council, may I take this opportunity to introduce to you our guests we have seated here with us. First of all, a man well known to all of you, having served in this house, Mr. Willie Adams, the chairman of the Rankin Inlet hamlet council.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Then we have Mr. Paul Pudlat, vice-chairman, Coral Harbour hamlet council.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yvo Airut, vice-chairman, Rankin Inlet hamlet council, welcome to you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: And then there is Mr. Charlie Tinashlu, vice-chairman, Repulse Bay settlement council. Welcome, gentlemen.

---Applause

While I am on my feet, Members, may I on your behalf express sincere appreciation to the hamlet, the school, the district service office, and to Siniktarvik Limited, and of course the people of Rankin Inlet for giving such tremendous help to our Clerk in setting this up and making the necessary arrangements for us.

Finally, may I ask you, Mr. Clerk, to escort the Hon. Warren Allmand to the dais to address this house?

Address By Hon. Warren Allmand

HON. WARREN ALLMAND: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Commissioner, Members of the Northwest Territories Council, citizens of northern Canada, since my recent appointment as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I have had an opportunity to visit briefly Whitehorse in your sister territory, the Yukon, and also to spend a few days in Yellowknife and Snowdrift. Immediately after my appointment, I decided to travel to the North and meet at first hand the people of the territories for whom I must work and serve. My feeling was that the briefing sessions and books could come later.

On that trip I attended the general assembly of the National Indian Brotherhood, met members of both territorial Councils. I also met the chairman of Northern Canada Power Commission, both Chambers of Mines, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, Judge Berger, leaders of northern native associations, and a number of northern residents. At Snowdrift on September 21 I met and talked with senior members of the territorial public service, and was most impressed with their quality and dedication.

It is my intention to travel extensively throughout the North as often as my other duties and responsibilities will permit because I believe that the Minister of Northern Affairs should be in direct contact with northern people and situations as much as possible so that he does not have to rely completely on memos and intermediaries. The heat generated by northern problems is never as intense when it reaches Ottawa as it is right here in the North, and for that reason I hope to come here as often as possible. As a result, I welcome the opportunity to be here today because I can meet with the Council Members and discuss their problems and concerns with them, and I hope I will also have a chance to meet as many of the local residents of Rankin Inlet as possible before I leave.

Just over one and a half years has elapsed since this Council was elected by the people of the Northwest Territories. It is the first completely elected Legislature in the Northwest Territories since the creation of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905 and marks the rapid progress you have made in your political and constitutional development since the Carrothers Commission report was issued just over ten years ago.

Increased Role Played By Native People

I have quickly become aware of the large and increasing part which the native people of the territories are now playing in the public affairs of the Northwest Territories. For example, I need only note that they hold a majority of the seats on this Council. I know, too, that all but one of the members of the Rankin Inlet hamlet council are native persons. In fact, I am given to understand that approximately 77 per cent of the seats on municipal councils in the Northwest Territories are held by native persons, and that 23 of these councils are composed entirely of native representatives. This pleases me very much, because I know of and fully support Commissioner Hodgson's plans to follow up on these successes by decentralizing territorial government programs and services to the local municipal level.

In my view, the most effective means of reconciling the varied perceptions and concerns of the different groups which make up your population may well be to ensure that the maximum control of these services and programs is held at the community level. This will only be possible if you continue to be successful at involving all groups within northern society, fully within the territorial government and public service, and in their local governments.

Importance Of Executive Committee Members

A very important step within the life of this Council was the appointment of two of your Members to the Executive Committee in May of 1975. It is already clear that the experiment has been a success. I am informed that the Hon. Peter Ernerk and the Hon. Arnold McCallum have performed their duties as Members of the Executive Committee with distinction, and have added a valuable perspective to the Executive Committee's deliberations. I know the Council feels that same way because they have asked that a third Member be placed on the Executive. As you no doubt know, the Commissioner concurs in this proposal.

For all of these reasons, I am happy to be able to announce today that I am authorizing him to proceed immediately, in consultation with this Council, with the appointment of a third elected Member on the Executive Committee.

---Applause

I regard this step as a distinct acknowledgment of your success in making the institutions of government, both legislative and executive, more truly representative of the social and cultural composition of your society. In looking at the factors that most influence the future development of government in the North, and changes to the relationship between federal and territorial governments, surely the success of the territorial government in reaching and involving all groups that constitute northern society, is the most important.

Representation At Interprovincial And Federal-Provincial Conferences

Before I leave the subject of institutions, I just want to touch on another aspect of constitutional development with which you are concerned. This is the matter of territorial representation at interprovincial and federal-

provincial conferences. I do not want to get into a discussion of the status of these representatives, but I do want to tell you that this whole question is being carefully reviewed by the federal government, and it is my hope that very soon we will be able to develop a new set of arrangements which will more adequately reflect your maturing status without impairing the constitutional position of the federal government in its relations with the provinces.

---Applause

Although much remains to be done, the prospects for the future look bright, if you can continue as well as you have in the immediate past. I want to emphasize the importance I personally attach to ensuring that native residents, who are in a majority here, are afforded opportunities to play their full part in all aspects of territorial and community affairs. It is already apparent to me that the greatest challenge facing residents of the North over the next several years will be the task of developing institutions that are capable of accommodating the great cultural and social diversities that exist within your population. At the same time, your institutions must be capable of dealing with the economic disparities that exist, while ensuring that the different peoples of the North are provided with the real opportunity of determining to the greatest extent possible their own future. The reward for your success will be the development of a society in which the differences between people are a source of pride rather than disagreement, in which strength will be gained from diversity, and in which the North will be able to move assuredly to the great future that awaits it. Thank you very much.

---Applause

Minister Thanked By Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you escort the Minister out, please?

I suppose, Members, it is not for me to say, but I might just, on behalf of you, thank the Minister for his very kind remarks. I think it is safe to say, Mr. Minister, that you have most definitely made a couple of statements there that met with the complete approval of this house. It is not for me, however, to go further than that unless the position -- the Speaker is supposed to be completely unbiased and independent, but I think it is safe to say that much. Leave the Members to comment further in their replies to the Commissioner's Address, which I rather suspect may turn out to be replies to the Minister's Address.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, I think we have coffee set up so that our guests can meet with you and introduce themselves, and then we have scheduled for noon a luncheon meeting with the Minister. I would like to suggest that we schedule the return to this house at approximately -- what will we say, 3:00 o'clock or 2:30? Do we have any suggestions? I know the Minister has to get off. He wants to visit another point. Can we set it for 2:30 p.m.? Agreed?

---Agreed

This house stands recessed until 2:30 o'clock p.m.

---LUNCHEON RECESS

ITEM NO. 3: NOTICES OF MOTIONS TO INTRODUCE BILLS FOR FIRST READING.

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, this house will come to order. Turning to the orders of the day, Item 3, notices of motions for first reading of bills.

Bill 1-60: Education Ordinance.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 19, I shall move that Bill 1-60, An Ordinance Respecting Education in the Northwest Territories, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Arnold McCallum. Bill 2-60.

Bill 2-60: Teachers' Association Ordinance.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 19, 1976, I shall move that Bill 2-60, An Ordinance Respecting the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, be read for the first time.

Bill 3-60: Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 3-60, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 19, 1976, I shall move that Bill 3-60, An Ordinance to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 4-60.

Bill 4-60: Accommodation Tax Ordinance.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 19, 1976, I shall move that Bill 4-60, An Ordinance Authorizing the Imposition and Collection of a Tax on Public Accommodation in the Northwest Territories, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 5-60, the Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Bill 5-60: Apprentice And Tradesmen's Qualifications Ordinance.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 19, 1976 I shall move that Bill 5-60, An Ordinance Respecting the Training and Certification of Apprentices and Tradesmen, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 6-60, the Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Bill 6-60: Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 2, 1976-77.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 19, 1976 I shall move that Bill 6-60, An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1977, be read for the first time.

Bill 7-60: Insurance Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 7-60, the Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 19, 1976, I shall move that Bill 7-60, An Ordinance to Amend the Insurance Ordinance, be read for the first time.

ITEM NO. 4: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. SPEAKER: Turning again to the orders of the day, Item 4, tabling of documents.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents:

Recommendation to Council 1-60, Proposed Amendments to the Workers' Compensation Ordinance:

2-60, An Integrated Housing Policy for the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Arnold McCallum. The tabling of documents. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document:

1-60, A Report of Commissioner's Orders and Regulations For the Period May 1, 1976 to October 1, 1976.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, at this time, I wish to table two documents:

3-60, Statement of Evidence of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, Yellowknife, N.W.T., given to Mr. Justice Berger by yourself, sir.

4-60, Statement of Evidence of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to the National Energy Board, Yellowknife, N.W.T., and also by yourself, sir, on our behalf.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Is there any further tabling of documents?

ITEM NO. 5: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S OPENING REMARKS

Item 5, Replies to the Commissioner's Opening Remarks. Is there a mover of a motion of appreciation? Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, if you would allow me to speak now and then in my own native language.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a privilege you have, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Hon. Peter Ernerk's Reply To The Commissioner's Opening Remarks

Motion Of Appreciation By Hon. Peter Ernerk

HON. PETER ERNERK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to say earlier today that I was very, very pleased and happy to see the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, the Hon. Warren Allmand and thank him for his presence here at the opening session of the sixtieth session of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. I am sure that the portfolio as a Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs is an important one and requires a lot of travelling and meeting with people, not only in the Northwest Territories, but also throughout southern Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to move a motion of appreciation at this time to the Commissioner's Opening Remarks at the sixtieth session of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. The contents of the Commissioner's Opening Remarks is a very, very timely one in this critical period in the political evolution of the Northwest Territories. I am one who supports the transfer of responsibilities to the settlements because it means bringing power and authority to the people living in the settlements throughout the Northwest Territories. It allows people at all levels now to have a greater say in government-operated, government-run programs. This means that the people would become responsible for their own destiny in a variety of areas including recreation, education programs, social services programs, health, town planning and other areas that are of direct concern to the northern settlements.

Support For Program Of Decentralization

It is quite obvious from my travels throughout not only my constituency, but many communities in the Arctic that this is exactly what the people want. I pledge my full support to the program of decentralization and, with all the powers granted to me as a Member of the territorial Executive Committee, I am going to ask for my honourable colleagues' support to see that this program of decentralization becomes a reality.

The transferring of responsibilities may sound good to the people of the Northwest Territories living in the communities, however, careful consideration and great care must be taken before all of these responsibilities can be transferred to the settlements. In other words, one must learn to creep before he walks and walk before he runs. Some communities wanted to run before they could walk and we can all learn from the experience gained from Frobisher Bay earlier this year. Having seen what errors can be made or what have been made, I am sure that the elected Members and the elected representatives in the communities will prepare themselves for the time when we will be responsible for all the activities, and in that way, make their community a better place in which to live.

Introduction Of Members

Mr. Speaker, before I go any further, I would like to introduce the Members of the Legislature to the people of Rankin Inlet. May I start off with you, Mr. Speaker; the Hon. David Searle is the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and represents Yellowknife South.

To my far left is Mr. David Nickerson who represents Yellowknife North. Mr. Ludy Pudluk represents the riding of High Arctic. Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk from Pangnirtung. The Hon. Arnold McCallum, who is also the Minister of Education, is from Fort Smith. Mr. Richard Whitford from Fort Rae. Mr. Peter Fraser is from Norman Wells. Mr. Tom Butters, Inuvik. Mr. Bill Lyall, Cambridge Bay. Mr. Bill Lafferty, Fort Simpson. Mr. Don Stewart, the Hay River kid. Mr. John Steen, Tuktoyaktuk.

Mr. Speaker, my honourable colleagues, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I want to tell you, my honourable colleagues, welcome to Nunaga, my land, my country. The people of the Keewatin region welcome all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly to this community. I tell you that it is a big encouragement on the part of the people here to see that their own territorial representatives are meeting here in Rankin Inlet to discuss items that are of concern to them, and may I assure you that the people of Rankin Inlet are very, very pleased to have all of you here and listen to you and no doubt will observe you and find out who the best Member is. If I may say so, that will not be so difficult to see at the end.

Welcome On Behalf Of Residents

On behalf of the people of this community I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to my constituency. It is a great pleasure for me to see that people like ourselves are taking the time to visit our constituencies and let them know that we are thinking about them. It is a great encouragement for me also, Mr. Speaker, to see that the people from the western part of the Northwest Territories are able to make their visit to this community and hopefully, learn from the people here by talking to them and finding out about their feelings and wishes with respect to the kinds of things that are happening in this part of the country; mainly with respect to the problems of the pipeline, the shortage of housing, housing conditions, communications problems, living problems, education problems and other problems that are of concern to the people in this part of the North. I am sure that as the Members of this Assembly will observe, the different lifestyles that are being followed here as opposed to the civilized society in places like Yellowknife, Hay River, or for that matter even in Fort Smith, where my Executive colleague comes from. I am personally very pleased to see that our own Legislature is holding its session for the first time in Rankin Inlet.

The people of Chesterfield Inlet will no doubt recall when the territorial Council had its session in their community in July of 1959, and only ten years later in the same Keewatin region community of Baker Lake, and that was in October of 1969. Only seven years later another session is being held here now in Rankin. As a result of these three sessions being held in the same region, and knowing now that you are keenly interested in my own constituency, may I suggest that the 1977 fall session be held at Eskimo Point and the one after that in Whale Cove, and then Sanikiluaq, Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour.

Constituency Matters Discussed

I think it is an appropriate time now to briefly report to my constituency, since it was they who elected me to this Assembly in March of 1975, and because of them I was elected as Minister of Social Development by my honourable colleagues in May of 1975. I have made a number of visits to the six communities in this region to try and find out about their problems and attempting to make an improvement on behalf of the settlements here. There have been a lot of projects happening, since my election, on the part of the settlements and also on the part of the Northwest Territories government and certainly on my part. As the people of Rankin Inlet know, there was at one point a doctor stationed here. However, he had to leave and no replacement was made because of some difficulties which occurred during the spring of 1975. The Members of this Legislature and the people of the Keewatin may recall when I made a couple of public statements at the May session of 1975 about the possibility of constructing a prefab plant in the Keewatin. The outcome of my proposal to the Department of Economic Development and the Government of the Northwest Territories was that this was not feasible at this time because of the high cost of freight in this region.

Need For High Schools In Keewatin

A number of people may recall my motion with respect to the high schools for the Keewatin region which read: there is a growing need for higher education in the Keewatin region of the Northwest Territories; hostel operating costs, transportation costs are increasing in the Northwest Territories; I move that the administration give consideration to the establishment of junior and senior high schools in the Keewatin region of the Northwest Territories.

Shortly after that I corresponded with the Minister and the director of the territorial Department of Education supporting my own motion. However, what I was able to gather from that department was that the Keewatin education staff was to do some study with respect to this particular matter in terms of finding out how many eligible high school students would be able to attend such a facility and find out its location. I am continuing to support this matter and continuing to communicate with the senior officials of the Department of Education as well as at the executive level.

Improved Air Services And Communications

The people of the Keewatin region will no doubt recall my correspondence with the senior officials of Transair Limited during the early summer of 1975. At that time I was seeking improvement to the air services to the Keewatin region. Since then I may say that I have received very favourable replies from the president of Transair and just as an observer I have seen improvements with respect to air services to the Keewatin communities from Churchill, Manitoba. People of the Keewatin, especially those people of Repulse Bay, Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove, will no doubt remember my correspondence with Bell Canada as well as with the federal Department of Communications in Ottawa with respect to poor telephone services in these communities. I have spoken to various members of those two bodies and have written letters to them seeking improvements in this area. I am happy to report to you that the people of Chesterfield Inlet will be able to talk to their relatives and friends in other areas of the North and the country through Anik satellite before the end of 1976. This was recently communicated to me by the deputy minister of the Department of Communications in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to come to the main theme of my speech and talk about education for the native people in the Northwest Territories. It seems that education for a lot of people is a difficult thing to discuss and find proper solutions to. However, when people talk about it, people like ourselves, as legislators, we should be able to come out with solutions that would be acceptable to the young people, especially those who are just about to attend organized schools or those young people who are already attending organized institutions. I also see that the people in the Northwest

Territories have been given opportunities to discuss education matters through organized meetings. That is to say, especially the native people who live north of 60 and those people have had the opportunity now for some ten years or so to discuss education and find answers that are or would be acceptable to the young people living in the native communities. I see there is a need for native language in the classrooms, perhaps from kindergarten to grade six. Of course the Department of Education should assume responsibility for all educational programs when children were first encouraged to attend organized schools full time.

Need For Training In Traditional Occupations.

On the other hand, I see a need for vocational training programs and schools and for adult traditional employment occupations such as hunting and trapping. I believe they should be designed using the advantages of modern technology, not as cultural experiences. For example, using a harpoon to hunt seal, walrus and whale. In the past children attending classes were separated for long periods of time from their parents. My own experience was that I was separated from my parents from the middle of August to the middle of May and I would be home from the period of two to two and a half months in Repulse Bay. During my younger years I learned a lot from my father, especially how to hunt seal, caribou, fish and trap. This is no longer being done in the communities, not only because of the educational system, but also the parents no longer take as much interest in teaching their children in the traditional ways of lifestyles and the young people no longer communicate well with their parents because of this long separation from the parents.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

HON. PETER ERNERK: The close relationship between the father and the son is lost. The close relationship between the mother and the daughter is lost. It was so typical of Eskimo families when the father taught his sons from a very young age the skills of hunting, trapping and fishing and the mothers taught the skills of skin preparation, parka making, sewing sealskin mukluks so that they are waterproof. The daughters from a very early age learned child care or responsibilities within their own families. Today children of all types are expected to speak and learn English in the classrooms. They learn about people, races and things that are very unusual to them or not known to their parents, or to the older generation of today. The language difference creates a gap between the parents and the children...

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

HON. PETER ERNERK: ...which the Department of Education as I see it has to fill and which the people of the Northwest Territories as educators from years and years ago must fill. Parents, as I see it, and it has been experienced in the past, no longer assume the responsibility for educating their children because the Department of Education took it away from them. The solution is simple. The people, the adults must look back to the older generation and make an attempt to teach their children the kinds of things their parents or their ancestors did with their children.

Knowledge Of Vehicles Necessary

Speaking of the adults, there are yet many young adults today who, having been brought up through this southern school system, now wish to return to the traditional lifestyles but who lack the knowledge of how to do this. As well, there are many modern tools whose operation has to be learned in order to make a living in the traditional manner. Today outboard motors, aluminum boats, Chestnut canoes and snowmobiles have become transportation vehicles used for hunting, trapping and fishing. The native person who makes use of these vehicles has to know how to operate and repair these vehicles while away from the settlements. This is a matter of survival. As I see it, there is a need for vocational type courses and training programs to be taught with respect to adult education programs so that the people responsible for the adult people in the communities are keeping up to the level into which the people themselves have introduced themselves.

I would like to conclude my remarks this way, Mr. Speaker. The native languages should be taught in schools, as I said earlier, starting in kindergarten and even better in day care programs. Native languages should not be seen as a frill or an extra...

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

HON. PETER ERNERK: ...but should be compulsory for all children attending northern schools. Native languages should not be used as a vehicle for all subjects because it is simply not possible to teach math and science in Inuktitut for instance. There should be native cultural programs taught in the native language. These daily programs should extend throughout the school program from the early grades right up to the higher grades.

If I may briefly refer to my recent visit to Alaska, and mention one or two things, I met with a prominent leader in a native corporation who could not speak his native tongue. It was the philosophy of the department of education there, when this man was a very young boy, to emphasize the use of the English language in the classroom. As a result, the majority of the native people of Alaska no longer speak their Eskimo language. However, in order to solve this problem, the native corporations are now undertaking to re-introduce the language and history of Alaskan natives into the school system. Mr. Speaker, this is why I am placing before you my full support in passing the Education Ordinance during this, the sixtieth session of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much.

---Applause

Mr. Steen's Reply To Commissioner's Opening Remarks

Motion Of Appreciation Seconded By Mr. Steen

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder of the motion of appreciation? Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am totally unprepared to reply to the Commissioner's Opening Remarks, but nevertheless I will second the motion of appreciation for the Commissioner's Opening Remarks. First of all, I believe I should express, or probably do a little more introduction of myself for the benefit of the people here in Rankin Inlet.

I am from Tuktoyaktuk and am from the Western Arctic near the mouth of the Mackenzie River where all the drilling is taking place in the Beaufort Sea. I would like to say further to the people of Rankin that I am pleased to be here and I have already found that the people here are very friendly and very receptive to us as Members. It does not matter, wherever we go, to any town in the territories, it is not really the community that is good or bad,

it is the people who live in it; they are the ones who make it warmer or colder, or which or whatever. I am already finding that the people are very friendly here, they are all smiles, and I would like to commend the Hon. Member Peter Ernerk from Keewatin for taking care of them. I do not quite agree that we should have all our sessions in his constituency. I think he will have a hard time having another session in his constituency during my term. Nevertheless, I am happy to be here.

Now, speaking to the Commissioner's Opening Remarks, I am pleased to note that the administration is beginning to see what we have been talking about during many past sessions of Council, that we should decentralize, move the administration or give more power to the people in the communities so they can run the communities the way they like, and you would not have to go to Yellowknife to get a "yes" or "no" to something that you want. Mr. Speaker, as you said yesterday, I am not a man of many words, but I think you hit the nail right on the head when you said that. So, I am just going to say that that is one of the items from the Commissioner's Opening Remarks I fully agree with.

Groups Continuing To Separate

Another in the Commissioner's Opening Remarks is that he says that we are going to find ourselves continuously busy running this country. We are the elected people, in other words, and we should be recognized as the people to run this country, the North. However, I myself, I am very displeased with what I hear going through, what is happening in the territories. Everyone seems to be going one way and another group going another way, and we find that the whole country is splitting up. When I first came to the territorial Legislative Assembly I said that I would support working towards a province for the territories, but the way that the problem is going right now, we will never get nowhere at the present pace. They are continuing to separate. The Indian Brotherhood goes one way the Metis Association goes another, and the territorial Legislative Assembly is running straight down the line. The Inuit Tapirisat is on the other side of the handle.

However, I believe there is some merit in the Inuit Tapirisat thinking about a federal constituency in that area, but when the question of land claims comes up, the government aspect of land claims in the proposal that the Inuit have put, I have opposed it. The government aspect of the land claims, that is, mainly because I feel that theirs is a different form of government, not quite the same as the one that is running now in the territories. It would be a type of government that would be run by corporations, the Inuit Development Corporation, the way I read through the land claims, and they would be exempt from any control, any taxes. I fear that if nobody, no group of people who have control on them from the federal government existed, they would eventually get out of hand and eventually take over all existing businesses, including hamlets, village councils, everything. There would be no control. They would have the money. The poor hamlets and village councils would have none and would have to go the way they are going at the present time, and so there would be no control. These people would eventually take over the communities.

Native People Can Take Part In Government

I think that the people of the North have now accepted the government that has come into the North already. As a matter of fact, the communities are asking to be hamlets, they are applying for hamlet status. Other communities, small ones, are taking the attitude of running the communities through settlement councils, which is done all over. I can not, for one, see this country taking on any other form of government at this stage, because we have gone too far. We have gone too far to change. I think if people in the North, if native people in the North, want to take part in one type of government in the territories, the chances are available to them. The chances were available to the Indian people to be in this Legislative Assembly, and they sat in the Assembly for a couple of terms, but then both Members of this Legislative Assembly resigned. There is something very strange about that. I can not understand why they would turn down the availability or chance to represent their people on such an Assembly.

Viewing the way the territories are going, splitting up, I feel that a band of musk-ox could do a better job. You see them when they are fighting, or running around. They bang their heads together to see who is boss, and then they will form a circle when they want to stick together. They form a circle and no one can touch them, not even their worst enemy, the wolf. So, just with that example, they are doing a better job than we are in the territories, and perhaps what we should do is tour the North with a band of musk-ox and see how it is done. Anyhow, I feel, you know, this is very cynical. I feel very cynical as to how things are going in the North, and am very concerned.

Support For Economic Development Portfolio

Now, as to the other speaker, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Hon. Warren Allmand, I sincerely would like to congratulate him for the speed of him making available a chance to put another Executive Member, or add another Member to the Executive Committee. As I see it, the position probably that we should be taking would be to put him in the Economic Development portfolio for this government because it seems to me that throughout the North the economic people who are really following things are the people who have the insight into what is going on in the communities, what is needed for the people. They see the staff requirements, how they can apply their skills. These people, when they are provided with work, do not tend to sit down and do all the hollering. I believe that people who do not work should not holler as much as those who do.

That is why I supported development in the Beaufort Sea. On the Beaufort Sea, development was taking place there this summer with five wells being drilled, or at least seven in total. There were three ships there, and there was a great deal of development being carried out. Dome Petroleum, the company that is working there, formed a group which I totally supported, the Beaufort Sea advisory group. These people, this group was made up of hamlet members, trappers, members of Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, members of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. They represented the people and they all supported development because this committee was used as a communications link between the people and the company and the company and the people, both ways. The group consisted of members from hamlet councils who knew what kind of development they needed in their communities. There were also trappers in it who knew what to say to the companies, what they should do and should not do or where they should take care, and so on.

Money Spent On Liquor

The result of that development that took place was a large amount of money being made available and a lot of people got work, up to 80 per cent of the people in Tuktoyaktuk alone were employed at one time or another. I found that there was so much work in the beginning, when the people had no money, they all wanted to work. Even the women were working on the ships as cooks or mess or cleaning. But when the pay cheques came in there was a great amount of money in the community and the community did not know exactly what to do with the money. There were people chartering aircraft every day to go to the nearest liquor store, to Inuvik, and they brought in cases and cases of hard liquor. The kids were getting hold of it, they were passing out, some eight year old kids were passing out on the ground. Other native people were passing out on the road, and dogs were sniffing at them when they were passed out, and I felt bad about this, and blamed myself in part for supporting this development. So, I began to think, what is the use of supporting development if the people are going to use their money in that way? Eventually some people began to lose their jobs and they were replaced by people from the South. So, in effect, I felt I was supporting development in the North for the benefit of the people in the South.

Now, I can see how this could happen during the pipeline, even though they say the pipeline would be dry. These ships were supposed to be dry too, but the men on the ships used local native people to get their booze for them and then they got the natives drunk with it. It was a roundabout circle, a chain reaction, and more people would run around dry and then they would get high or need a load of booze and they would get their friends to get another bunch, so there was a chain reaction, and I felt it considerably.

Advice Needed On Handling Money

So, you know, considering what development can do to you, to the people, to the native people who are not used to that kind of sudden influx of money, and to the community, perhaps we need programs showing these people what they can do with their money--maybe they could take their families out on a holiday or something. They do not know where to go, they just think of staying in town, they do not think of other ways of going and seeing their country or the world or whatever. Perhaps that kind of an approach could help steer this. I feel that if we do not do something the native people will end up in the end with no money, the same as they started before development came.

I guess that is the main part of the Minister's address I wanted to touch on. I thought I should just put the point of what I felt as to the position we should be taking. Anyway, you may change my mind after we sit and talk and decide.

Lack Of Meat In Tuktoyaktuk

One other item, Mr. Speaker, I believe is in relation to the administration. I believe Assembly Members got a letter pertaining to a motion that I made in the territorial session about the reindeer herding project. I think the Deputy Commissioner has not been truly informed. I do not believe that his advisers or his people under him are telling him the truth. I believe that as I went through this in my constituency I still find people with no meat. There was no meat in Tuktoyaktuk all summer and the reindeer herd is just a little way away.

They say the main reason for that was there were no facilities to keep it but we have a large pingo which is a hill, with a large hole in it where it

is frozen underground. I understand also, they have told me, that then the meat gets mouldy because of no circulation of air. I used to mine coal before I ever came to Tuktoyaktuk and I worked underground and we know that putting meat underground does not kill you. What we did, we put in the meat and in the wintertime we would put snow in the hole and throw in the meat and cover it with a layer of snow and another layer of meat and a layer of snow and you never get any mould on the meat. You can dip it in the lake in the middle of the winter and form a coating of ice on the meat and that protects the meat from the mould. So I do not believe that people in the field of economic development are asking for or looking around for advice or any experience. They want to put in a deepfreeze plant in Tuktoyaktuk now which will cost more money. That is going to be passed on to the consumer. I was just going to say, Mr. Speaker, that if putting meat underground was contagious or bad I would not be here today.

Another thing I would like to say, come to think of it, I think it is cruelty to animals to cut their horns off when they are breeding and have the velvet on them. They cut them off with shears next to the head and cover it over with a towel to keep the bleeding from getting bad. The purpose of that, I guess if you read some letters, some news reports, was that they cut the horns off and boil them so that some people in the South can have sexual potency or whatever. I do not believe that the reindeer should be put to that kind of cruelty. Maybe we should call in Greenpeace.

CBC Criticized

Another small item here I believe that I would like to touch on a little bit I think is the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. I do not believe that the CBC is covering the North the way we say things sometimes. There are many things I said this summer in public and I find when it is said over the CBC that it is said in a slightly wrong way of saying it, mostly in the opposite, sometimes in the opposite way to what I was saying. I believe maybe we should have some competition on the radio. Competition usually cures problems like that. Sorry about that, CBC, but -- I think, Mr. Speaker, with that I will conclude. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Are there further Members who wish to reply to the Commissioner's Opening Remarks? Mr. Pudluk.

Mr. Pudluk's Reply To The Commissioner's Opening Remarks

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak in Eskimo if you do not mind, do you? First of all I would like to say thank you for welcoming us in Rankin Inlet. I have been here before for not very long when I was working with the co-op. I am very grateful that we could visit here in Rankin Inlet. I would like to say that I have a number of different things to talk about so the interpreters will have no easy time.

First of all I am going to say a few words about what I have had in mind concerning the different levels of government.

Prices Of Merchandise Very High

Two, people in the North are finding it hard to live comfortably because of the high prices they have to pay. The men have had stores for many years now so people could order what they need and all of the things to be bought are so expensive and prices are always going higher. Sometimes some settlements do not even get adequate clothing in their stores. Some settlements are also getting merchandise shipped in by air which is not the best way because the prices of the merchandise shipped by air more than doubles at times. For example, up in Grise Fiord last spring they were selling ten pounds of sugar, less than ten pounds of sugar, for \$18. You had to pay \$18 for it because it was shipped in by air. Another time a man ordered clothes worth \$90. He received a letter asking him to pay another two dollars so he sent the payment. It has been over a year now and he still has not got his order yet. This years shipment of goods is smaller than it was last year but things could still be sold at a reasonable price this year but no one can live by these things alone.

When I became aware of the situation, I asked the government to send knowledgeable people to the communities at about the appropriate times to order merchandise and food for the air supply which would come in by sealift. If the government had people who would do this kind of work it would be so much better. We know that settlements almost always have to send goods by air because they run out so soon. That always makes things more expensive to buy and it is not good for the co-operative stores that operate in the North.

Interest Rates To Hamlets Should Not Be Raised

Three, hamlets in the North. Communities that are hamlets always are short of funds for a year and their employees are always busy because there is always a lot of work involved with hamlets. They always have to buy a lot of things for one year and the prices seem to be getting higher every year and they can go to eight per cent because the eight per cent is not going to start to go downhill. The amount of money that is used by government officials for interest is much too high. The eight per cent that has to be paid for a year should not be raised.

Fourth, I have known for many years that I am not in favour of the -- no northerner should pay the same amount of money for rent paid by the federal. This is discrimination put forward by the federal government in Ottawa. This will stop supplying houses for the North. I am sure that they know about everything in the North being a lot more expensive than in the South. I am also sure that the northerners will not be able to pay rent according to 25 per cent of their income. This is impossible. I would remind the people of Ottawa that everything in the North is so much more expensive.

Five, general. This is a mess. A long time ago in 1967 when the Hon. Otto Lang went through a lot of hard times, a lot of people had kayaks and they wanted motors. They lost a lot of people because they had a lot of famine and they endured a lot of hardships. This happened about 30 years ago and today the North belongs to Canada for about 120 years. It is not the resources that the North has that belong to Canada for 120 years. The increase in the white society is very noticeable but I am certain the white

people also went through some hardships too. I am not saying that I am not in favour of the white man coming to the North. I am grateful for this. We will always have to understand each other and to work together because we will have to live with each other. I will repeat that the government of Ottawa will have to be informed that costs in the North should not be raised because of the high cost of living. This is caused by goods brought in by seairlift. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Are there any further replies to the Commissioner's Opening Remarks? As you know, gentlemen, this item stays on for the first five days so you do have until Friday to complete replies.

Turning then to the orders of the day, Item 6, questions and returns. There will be no returns, but are there any questions? Mr. Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 6: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Question W1-60: Dominion Coal Blocks

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have two questions and the first question concerns dominion coal blocks and is a repeat of the question I asked at the last session of the Legislature. On the 18th of May, 1976 at the fifty-ninth session of the Legislative Assembly, Question W4-59 was asked concerning dominion coal blocks. Has any information been received from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources concerning this matter?

Question W2-60: Taxation Of Railway Track

The second question, Mr. Speaker, concerns the taxation of railway track. How much revenue was obtained from the taxation of railway track during the last year for which figures are available, and is the administration satisfied that the assessment rate of \$6000 per mile of railway track as specified by section 16(2) of the Taxation Ordinance is realistic in light of present day values?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take those two questions and file a response. We have sought an answer to the first one on coal blocks but to the best of my knowledge the answer has not been received, but we will work on both of those questions if we may.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further questions? Mr. Pearson.

Question W3-60: Frobisher Bay Day Care Centre.

MR. PEARSON: I have a question to direct to the Minister of Social Development. In light of the imminent closure of the Frobisher Bay day care centre due to inadequate financing by this government, does the Minister plan to make any attempt to keep the day care centre functioning until an examination can be made of the entire matter, the day care matter across the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I could only tell the Hon. Member from Frobisher Bay that we recently put together a day care policy for the Northwest Territories but I really can not answer his question specifically so I would like to take that as notice and report back later on.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further written questions?

Item 7, oral questions, questions of an emergency nature.

Item 8, petitions. Are there any petitions to be presented?

Item 9, reports of standing and special committees?

Item 10, notices of motions. Mr. Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 10: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice Of Motion 1-60: Committee Of The Whole Discussion Tour To Alaska

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, October 19, I will move as follows: That at a suitable time to be set by the Speaker, this house resolve itself into committee of the whole to discuss matters arising out of the recent tour of the Legislative Assembly to the State of Alaska.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further notices of motions?

Item 11, motions for the production of papers.

Item 12, motions.

Item 13, first reading of bills. Do we need unanimous consent, Mr. Clerk, for the reading of bills in view of the fact...

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the house prepared to give unanimous consent permitting the first reading of bills today? Is it agreed?

---Agreed

ITEM NO. 13: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1-60, the Hon. Arnold McCallum.

First Reading Of Bill 1-60: Education Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 1-60, An Ordinance Respecting Education in the Northwest Territories, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Lafferty. The question. The question being called. All in favour? Contrary?

---Carried

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, contrary.

MR. SPEAKER: Contrary? One vote is to be recorded contrary, Mr. Pearson.
Bill 2-60. The Hon. Arnold McCallum.

First Reading Of Bill 2-60: Teachers' Association Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 2-60, An Ordinance Respecting the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Butters. The question. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 3-60, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

First Reading Of Bill 3-60: Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 3-60, An Ordinance to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Fraser. The question. Mr. Butters?

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I rise on what may be classed as a point of order, I am not sure, but I recognize that Bill 3-60 is the third bill of seven and that suggests to me that these bills are legislative matters which ordinarily should be discussed at the legislative session held in the summer. I think that the Legislative Assembly was aware that when coming to Rankin we would be examining the two pieces of legislation which have already been moved into second reading, but there seems to be a whole list of other pieces of legislation that have been dumped on our plate.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. BUTTERS: I suggest if we want to deal with legislation, it should be done at the proper time and I suggest that is at the summer session and I suggest that if we find we do not have sufficient time in the summer session to cover legislation then we should extend our sitting, not crowd ourselves with all kinds of legislation at an Assembly meeting which is held in a small community. I think it is unfair to our staff and it is unfair obviously to the Members to do the work to study this legislation, such study as it requires.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters, there is nothing in the Rules unfortunately that would permit me to sustain your objection on that point of order. Now, who moved for first reading? Hon. Peter Ernerk, and I called the seconder, Mr. Fraser. I think so. Yes. The question. All in favour? Eight. Contrary? Three. Carried.

---Carried

Bill 4-60, the Hon. Peter Ernerk.

First Reading Of Bill 4-60: Accommodation Tax Ordinance.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 4-60, An Ordinance Authorizing the Imposition and Collection of a Tax on Public Accommodation in the Northwest Territories, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Arnold McCallum. The question. The question being called, all in favour? Five. Contrary? Two. The first reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 5-60. The Apprentices and Tradesmen's Qualifications Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

First Reading Of Bill 5-60: Apprentices And Tradesmen's Qualifications Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 5-60, An Ordinance Respecting the Training and Certification of Apprentices and Tradesmen, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Peter Ernerk. The question. All in favour? Eight. Contrary? Two. Carried.

---Carried

Bill 6-60. The Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, did you say Bill 5-60?

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 6-60.

First Reading Of Bill 6-60: Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 2, 1976-77.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 6-60, An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1977, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Steen. The question. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 7-60, the Insurance Ordinance, the Hon. Peter Ernerk.

First Reading Of Bill 7-60: Insurance Ordinance

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 7-60, An Ordinance to Amend the Insurance Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. The question. All in favour? Nine. Contrary? Two.

---Carried

Gentlemen, it is 4:00 o'clock, p.m., which is coffee time and we have completed first reading of bills and Item 14 is next, the second reading of bills. I suggest we have coffee. Is that agreed?

---Agreed

Legislative Assembly stands recessed 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

ITEM NO. 14: SECOND READING OF BILLS.

MR. SPEAKER: This house will come to order. Turning back to the orders of the day, Item 14, second reading of bills, Bill 1-60, the Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Second Reading Of Bill 1-60: Education Ordinance.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 1-60, An Ordinance Respecting Education in the Northwest Territories, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to update and revise the present School Ordinance so that it reflects the current philosophy of education and is in keeping with progressive educational trends. I may add, Mr. Speaker, that it in fact is in keeping with trends of the Government of the Northwest Territories in getting decentralization and local authority returned to the communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder? Mr. Butters. Discussion? Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, I do not think we can agree on this at this Rankin Inlet meeting. It might be better to wait until next year because up until now not knowing what this is all about. Therefore, maybe I should not be saying that. If I am wrong, please inform me of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Discussion as to principle of the bill. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I think generally this is an excellent ordinance in that it does what Members of this Assembly have long tried to do, to decentralize the responsibility for the education of their own children to the communities. I think that the drafting of the ordinance has enabled this objective to be reached and I think that with minor amendments, it will receive the wholehearted approval of this house.

Discussion With Constituents.

One thing I would like to say is that I am very thankful to have received over the past two months the assistance in examining this draft legislation of the Inuvik education advisory committee and they have examined with me the provisions of the ordinance and their input and their advice and their direction have been very, very valuable. I think it is important that as much as possible Members of this Assembly should have an opportunity to discuss draft legislation with their constituents, to discuss with their constituents the laws which we make in this chamber, the laws which can affect the lives of them and their families.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion? Discussion, gentlemen. I should just make it clear so that no one misunderstands, this is as to the principle of the bill. You can not discuss the detail, just the principle of the bill, which is what Mr. Butters was doing. Mr. Pearson indicated his wish to speak previously. I will put you on next, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, to the purpose of the bill. After considerable consultation with the people that I represent and after listening to many knowledgeable people on the subject of education, both in the Northwest Territories and in other parts of the country, I have come to the conclusion that this ordinance does not meet the needs of the people it is said to be designed for. It is true that there are some aspects of this which are an improvement upon the previous ordinance, but the very basic, fundamental terms outlined and specified in this ordinance are still basically the same, total domination of the education system by Yellowknife. It is not a decentralization; it is a centralization.

Local Autonomy Through A School Board System

Very little provision is made in this ordinance to allow local autonomy in the area of education. When you discuss school boards in the Northwest Territories, people usually gasp in horror as though at some strange new disease about to be perpetrated upon the residents of the North. Few people realized that virtually every community in southern Canada has autonomy over its school through a school board system.

This ordinance allows for the evolution of school boards and local autonomy but only after they meet very strict and stringent criteria. Ever since I became a Member of this Legislative Assembly, ever since I have lived in the North, I have been aware of a grave and serious problem. Ever since I have lived in the North -- I am now in my twenty-fourth winter -- I have seen a deterioration, not an improvement, a deterioration in the lifestyle of a unique and very special people. I speak only about the matters I know and that is the Eskimo culture. I have seen a deterioration of that. I know that there has been a great deterioration with other native cultures in Canada long before this decay permeated the North. I believe that the cause of the problem of deterioration in the culture was brought about by an inadequate education system.

The Process Begins In Schools

Mr. Butters mentioned a few minutes ago, in Inuvik, Eskimo-speaking Members of this Legislative Assembly have met people, native people, Eskimo people from Inuvik and found that they do not speak Inuktitut. Native Members of this Legislative Assembly see in their own constituencies, their own homes a gradual weakening of the cultural ties that tie them and their families and their communities together. That process begins in the schools. It begins in the schools when a group of white people, southern Canadians march into a community of native people and demand that they speak, think, learn a totally foreign language and culture. They are not prepared to allow the native languages and the native cultures to go along side by side. They are only prepared to give them token tolerance, cultural inclusion, \$15.00 a year, \$30.00 per child per year to learn about themselves and how many thousands of dollars per year to learn about those Kabloona, those strange people who came from the South and came to our community and built this magnificent school -- where the native people are denied their right to participate in the operation, the curriculum and the management of the schools? They are welcomed with open arms but they arrive at the front door with a broom or a mop. They are not welcome unless they meet very special criteria to teach something and to discuss with the Eskimo kids in their own language.

Sometimes they are tolerated. Sometimes it is permitted we know, we northerners know that, the people sitting around this table know that the schools are not designed to teach the native kids their own things, northern things. It is important, it is vital to the native people that they speak English. It is absolutely essential. It is absolutely essential that they learn English and they learn as much about southern Canada as they possibly can. It is absolutely essential, but they must first of all, before they can do that, they must learn about themselves. Surely to God in Canada in the twentieth century we can allow that to happen! Surely such a simple thing as that could be permitted. Surely the native people can be given autonomy in the schools, the elementary schools. Surely we can pay young native kids \$15,000 a year to assist the white teachers in the schools, to work with them in the schools. Surely we can do that. That is not asking too much. But we do not operate on that basis. We march in with an ordinance,

black and white, pages one to 79 or whatever it is, paragraph so and so --
"The Commissioner shall do this". "The Commissioner shall do that".

Mr. Evaluarjuk says the people in his constituency did not understand this ordinance. The people in my constituency do not understand it. The same in most of the constituencies across the Northwest Territories. I am not qualified, Mr. Speaker, to discuss education academically. I do not feel qualified to be able to draft a piece of legislation. I do not feel qualified to be able to quote this clause by clause, word for word and try to develop a meaningful ordinance that will benefit the people that I represent. There are few men on this Legislative Assembly who are qualified to do that.

A Royal Commission

What I wish to request of my colleagues -- I plead with you to hear this one request, that the matter of education in the Northwest Territories be given to a commission, to a royal commission to examine the matter of education as it applies to the native people in the Northwest Territories and for them to study the matter, for them to come back to this Assembly in one or two years or however long it takes, but international, national, knowledgeable people in the area of education, in underprivileged areas and remote areas -- there are many of them -- to come before this Legislative Assembly to request a study, a commission, a full, complete investigation into the matter of education of native people in northern Canada. I ask you that, my friends, and ask you nothing more. You have the responsibility, I have a vote, one man, one vote, as they say. It is your responsibility and I plead with you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty.

Changes Must Be Slow

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, my honourable colleagues, before us on the table is a very important document. As you heard Mr. Butters, the Honourable Member for Inuvik mention, that it is a worthwhile document and that he has had time to study it with those people who are knowledgeable in the area of education. I am not an expert in this area of the sciences, nevertheless I have put in a lot of time reading the document and, having shared it with several people in consultation with those who know something about education I have come to believe that we should make this document available to the public, whether it is totally accepted or not, simply because we as Members of this Legislature are people who can make amendments. If we find dissatisfaction with it there is nothing to stop us from making amendments, and it was again pointed out by the Honourable Member from Frobisher that there is improvement. I think this is the only thing that we are looking for, improvement. I do not think that anyone in his right mind could ask for a perfect document or a perfect system, but rather to make adjustments that are needed as they arise. Then, if we do arrive at something so perfect it may not suit the purpose because great and sudden change is something that the native people in their histories have been exposed to, to their destruction. Changes have to be slow.

If this growth has a small beginning then it is not so much of a shock. As you have heard my talks at previous sessions, I am a native, and perhaps not to this particular region, but nevertheless I am a native of the Northwest Territories and I too have been exposed to this shock I am talking to you about. To me, how do I understand education?

Education is merely a process by which a person seeks knowledge for his improvement and I have done that both ways, one by practical knowledge, stumbling, and I call that the school of hard knocks. On the other hand, I went to school too and in both approaches I have found certain benefits, or at least am able to get along with all types of people, no matter what corner of the world I might find myself in.

Compete On Equal Terms

Now, using that experience I would like to tell you something about what I see for the kids. I feel sometimes as a native that when I am seeking among the whites the same opportunities for education that they had, I find that I must be treated differently because I am native. It simply means this to me, I am not to be given the opportunity to compete on equal terms, I am treated as something lesser.

Secondly, I want my child to know exactly what every white man knows throughout the world in economic inventions, in sciences, in the arts and, if the white man does not give me that chance, then I am supposed to set up a new school for my own children but how in the heck are these children ever going to get into the running of the great systems we have, with different machinery? I am in sympathy with the argument of my colleague and Honourable Member but I do not think that education has to close doors to us people who are native to the North, no matter what corner of the North we come from. I think that education should open its doors to the knowledge of the white people in this country and that which all people all over the world have, so that our children can take their place side by side with them and become officers in the military forces of the country, to become officers in government, to become officers in the financial structures, to become officers in industry, it is endless. How in the hell are we going to do it if we are not participating on equal terms and equal opportunities with the whites when we have nothing to start with, we have not any money?

Now, this is what I see in the document that we argued so greatly over and tabled last summer, and here it is before us again. Somewhere or another as responsible people for the people of the Northwest Territories and the future, I think we should give it some serious thought and pass this document before us.

MR. BUTTERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion? Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, just to advise Assembly Members how my constituency went, I brought around the Education Ordinance throughout my constituency and their reaction to the ordinance was none of real concern except for the compulsory portion, where there would be a ten dollar fine levied on each parent of a child who did not show up for school on that particular day if it was for a bad reason.

Now, when I went through my constituency I explained to the people that education was a must and we should have some form of education in the territories but it should probably go even beyond what the ordinance says by giving the community education committees a little more power. For instance, each community -- and even in my own constituency -- one is a little different from the other, I feel that after consulting with my constituents that three things should be carried out by the local board.

The Purpose Of Local School Boards

One was the school year, that should be a decision of the local school board; native language should be their decision, how much time should be spent in teaching in each school by the local school board of that particular community and also compulsory education. By compulsory education each school board -- it should be up to each school board to administer compulsory education if they feel it is needed. If they do not wish to use it they do not have to use it. If they want to use it then they can use it.

So, when I went around my constituency I also reminded the people in the community of the importance of education and showed them what to expect if they got no education. As we see it now we see people coming in -- well educated people from the South -- taking over from people in the North because they have all the education and the people in the North could be educated more. We see ourselves as the people of today but what about our children for tomorrow? Do we want them to be under the same pressures of the people from the South taking over our work? Their consensus to that was that we must have education in the North and they agreed with the ordinance except for the compulsory education portion of it. They said there should be some other way to impose a penalty on people who deliberately allowed their kids to run around instead of going to school. There should be some other way to get the kids to school or it should be left up to the local school board. I personally see nothing wrong with the Education Ordinance except perhaps we should give a little more power to the school committees so that they can do this. There is no other way we can run a government and a country unless we follow the wishes of the people and this is one way of doing it, let them administer as much of the education as they can.

So, with that, if they had the chance, if each community decided it wanted to impose compulsory education let them do it, it is under their jurisdiction and if we give them that then we have not got ourselves to blame. I think with that, Mr. Speaker, I would support the Education Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Evaluarjuk, I can not let you speak again because you are entitled to speak only once on a motion unless you have a point of privilege or a point of order. Have you that? All right, go ahead and let us see what you have to say.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, I just wished to stand up to clear up something and the speakers who before me have spoken and I agree with much of what they have said. I think the people in the community should have the power to control education in their community. We would like to see our kids going to school but we want the Inuit to know all about our children's education and then we could agree that the Education Ordinance...

MR. SPEAKER: Do the Members wish to grant unanimous consent to allow Mr. Evaluarjuk to speak the second time?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Continue.

Translation Into Eskimo Syllabics

MR. EVALUARJUK: Thank you. We all agreed this summer that the Education Ordinance that was written has to be reviewed by the people and understood and that they all consent to it and this was understood but up until now the people who have not heard about it, they know nothing about it and have not seen the documents printed in Eskimo syllabics and since in our settlements there are fewer white people it is not the same as some of the other communities because these communities rely much more on the Eskimo syllabics. That is different than those people from the South who have not forgotten their language but these people just do not understand what the Education Ordinance is about because they have not seen it in Eskimo syllabics. Now, they want to understand more about the Education Ordinance but they do not until they see it in syllabics know if they can agree on it. So, for this reason I want to delay the Education Ordinance because I think that the whole Baffin region has shown the view that they want to have it delayed until it can be printed in syllabics. On the other hand, they have agreed that it should not be run by the government, but when the public does not know what is going on I think that we have to get more information and think more of our constituents than just ourselves. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion gentlemen? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say a few words concerning this subject. This is going to cause a lot of problems, the Education Ordinance, and I think we should vote on this matter. My constituents did not want me to have this ordinance delayed. On the other hand, I can not agree to the ordinance.

Another reason is because the Education Ordinance has not been presented in the High Arctic to the communities, and they know nothing about it and I think I would have agreed to this but my constituents were against it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kilabuk.

Views Of Central Baffin People

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Speaker, we have been talking on this matter in October. My questions here are few and must be shared with everybody else because we are going to talk with our people on this matter. My constituents did not agree with the other plan because the people are just starting to hear about the ordinance right now. My people told me, and I have some young people myself, my people did not like this at all, because Mr. Speaker, I feel that the new ordinance which has just come out, my people did not agree on it because they do not like this. When we had the native meeting, we agreed that we would teach our own people and we could also...

MR. SPEAKER: Just a moment, Mr. Kilabuk. They might as well get this now. I understand the English translation is to be on channel four and the Inuit on six. Mr. Remnant, can you see that that is done? If we can accomplish that, would you please proceed, Mr. Kilabuk? Mr. Kilabuk, can we proceed on channel six? Does it really matter? Can we sort this out later? Let us proceed on six. I am sorry, Mr. Kilabuk, you are not responsible for this.

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Speaker, once again, I started to say before that we had an Assembly meeting in May where we agreed that we would talk to our people first and we said that if we did not agree on some of the things that we would be able to add onto the ordinance after speaking to the people properly, but now my people did not want the ordinance for a long time. They did not like this at all. They are sort of turning on me. I feel that we should speak more on the ordinance and our people should look at it some more. The people in the Northwest Territories should think about what can be done on the ordinance by taking our culture and maybe grade one, grade two and grade three should be taught in the Inuktitut language and Inuktitut culture. I think that should be part of the ordinance. I feel that we are rushing and our people say that we are rushing. The people were quite surprised to see the ordinance and I had to make a phone call to say that I did not see this ordinance in Inuktitut. The version I received in Inuktitut, I waited for quite a while. So I walked around and talked to my people, to my constituents, and I told the people that they should think about it, starting right away, that the people thought that we were going too fast and I would like to look at this some way before we can vote on it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion? Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, I personally have also travelled the whole of the Central Arctic discussing this ordinance. This ordinance has been on the go since, I think, 1968 or 1967, and up to now we have got no Education Ordinance. To have education function properly, we have to have an ordinance, whether we like it or not. My people told me to come to this Legislative Assembly session and to pass this ordinance with the amendments that they want me to make. I am going to push to pass this ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion? Mr. Pearson, I am sorry.

MR. PEARSON: I wish to move an amendment, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: You can not move an amendment, Mr. Pearson, because you have already spoken. You should have moved the amendment at the time you previously had the floor.

MR. PEARSON: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, there has to be some mechanism for an unlearned Member of the Legislative Assembly to ask unanimous consent.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order, Mr. Butters?

Explanation Of Second Reading Of Bills

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I could -- maybe Members understand this, but if it could be made plain, because I understand that Members have seemingly spoken to defer this ordinance and are going to vote against second reading. I wonder if all Members realize that a vote for second reading only puts it into a discussion stage. It does not pass it or make it law. It just puts it onto the table so we can discuss it in public. What in effect you are doing, if you vote against it in second reading, is preventing us from discussing the bill before these people. You know, I would ask Members here to support the vote for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters, that is pretty close to making a certain point, and after me just having prohibited Mr. Pearson from doing it. It is a fair point of order to make, and I feel I should make it, if anyone does, without getting into debate. Second reading -- this is the point Mr. Butters was trying to make, and did make, but I will reinforce it -- second reading does not pass the bill. The next step is committee of the whole, if it is given second reading, when there is an opportunity for full discussion on it on a clause by clause basis, after which, of course, you can still defeat it and you can defeat it in third reading. I think that is the only point to be made there.

Now, I have had quite a few speakers. I will entertain an indication to speak from anyone who has not spoken. Mr. Pudluk, you have spoken. Mr. Whitford.

The Seating Arrangement Of Members

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, perhaps this is not part of the way the Legislative Assembly is structured, I do not understand it, but we are having a bit of difficulty here. First of all, if I may point out, without the discussion on education, that I would have preferred to have been moved beside a Member who would have been able, first of all, to let me know a little bit more about what is going on for the next two days, and I am sure after that I would be able to talk myself.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford, on that point, I am suggesting we raise that tomorrow morning in caucus about rearranging that so you can sit by someone else who can help you with the Rules. We will do that as quickly as we can.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other point that I wanted to make in terms of the education bill, we had the first copy in Rae most recently. That was about two to three weeks ago. About that time of the year, the people go back to the land for the caribou hunt and do not come back for two to three weeks, and our school board are some of the people who go back to the land. We did not have time to discuss this at any great length or sit down with them, but at the same time I would have liked to hear a little more about it internally. That is why I say this. It is very important to me that I would have sat beside a Member with whom I would be able to discuss this, because to the rest of the constituency -- I was in Resolution and Detah and there as well I did not have a chance to talk to the people about this thing, the Education Ordinance. I would like to hear a bit more about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion? Question. Are you going to wind up the debate, Hon. Arnold McCallum?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would very much...

MR. SPEAKER: Just a moment, Hon. Arnold McCallum. If anyone else has something to say... So that no one misunderstands, if I let the Hon. Arnold McCallum speak now, those who have not spoken can not speak. Do you understand that? He closes the debate on this. After he says what he is going to say, the only thing I can do is call the question. There is no more discussion. Do you understand that? Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Support For Committee Of The Whole Discussion

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I think that that ordinance should be taken into committee of the whole for discussion on various aspects of it as to the ordinance itself and the principle behind it. I can only reiterate again that it is an attempt to legalize the transfer of responsibility for education and matters of education to local people. I think that is the basis upon which we have to look at this particular piece of legislation. It is an attempt whereby we can have more input to bring about some of the things that have been raised by various Members. There have been many things in the past that have changed because they were not the way people wanted them. What this will do, it will allow people in the community to bring these things about more readily, and if things are different in one part of this territory than in another, that is what will happen within the year. It will allow them to do that. If we are serious about any kind of decentralization of authority from on top, we have to have a mechanism that will allow us to do that.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

Mechanism For More Local Control

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yes, it has to be, as has been already stated by this legal document. I do not want to become impassioned about this particular piece of legislation. I think that there are many things that will change. There was nothing to stop this Legislative Assembly directing the Department of Education to carry on further studies, but we must have something by which people can gain some local control. If we do not, it will be up to the administration to dole out local control either at our whim or at some individual's whim.

I do not think that is a good way. I certainly do not agree with that kind of a concept. I believe that people should have control of people programs. This particular piece of legislation takes into effect some of the things that have been voiced by various Members. Mr. Steen will note in a reading of it that his concern and the concerns of his particular constituency have been answered. There were other concerns that were voiced and they have been taken care of here as well. The feedback we have received from people once this kind of an ordinance, once this kind of legislation gives them some kind of control, and I as a person of the Executive and at the same time a Member of this Legislative Assembly that represents a constituency have to bring that kind of viewpoint as well and the message I received was with provisions, but the principle is the same, if you are going to sit around here and talk about giving local people control and more local autonomy do it. This is one way you are going to get it done.

MR. SPEAKER: The question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

MR. SPEAKER: I would ask you to all hold your hands up very clearly as this might be a close vote. All in favour?

MR. PEARSON: Could I have a recorded vote?

Recorded Vote For Second Reading Carried

MR. SPEAKER: A recorded vote being called. Mr. Clerk. When I call all in favour would those in favour please stand and the Clerk will call their names. The question being called. All in favour?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Steen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Lyall, Mr. Butters, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Hon. Peter Ernerk, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Nickerson.

MR. SPEAKER: Contrary?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Pearson.

MR. SPEAKER: The vote is 12 in favour.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, abstentions.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you wish me to call abstentions? Abstentions?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Pudluk.

MR. SPEAKER. That is 12 in favour, one contrary and one abstention, 14 out of 15 votes cast. The fifteenth of course is mine and I can not vote.

---Carried

Turning then to the orders of the day, Bill 2-60, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Second Reading Of Bill 2-60: Teachers' Association Ordinance.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 2-60, An Ordinance Respecting the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to create a self-governing association of teachers in the territories with power to register members and carry out disciplinary procedures.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. Any discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

---Carried

Second Reading Of Bill 3-60: Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 3-60, An Ordinance to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for the appointment of boards of management to manage and operate health facilities funded by the government of the territories. Provision is made for the appointment of a public administrator to manage a health facility where the Commissioner considers it to be in the public interest.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. Any discussion?

MR. BUTTERS: A point of order, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters?

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, sir, I may be wrong but I doubt that Members have received this legislation much before they walked into this chamber today and it was left on our desks. I think that in view of the fact that we have just received it it precludes us being able to speak to second reading or the principle if we have not even read it. I suggest we are proceeding too quickly and it might be better if the second reading of these be left until tomorrow so we have had a chance to read them tonight.

Second Reading Of Bill 3-60 Denied.

MR. SPEAKER: Rule 55, Subrule (2) says, "A bill may be read twice or thrice or advanced two or more steps in any one day unless such action is opposed by two or more Members." I take it Mr. Butters opposes the advancing of this bill to second reading. To be effective there would have to be at least one other Member taking a similar view before I could deny it second reading at this point.

MR. PEARSON: I share the same view as Mr. Butters, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Fine, thank you. That being the case, Bill 3-60 will be put on the order paper for second reading tomorrow, Mr. Clerk. Bill 4-60, the Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Second Reading Of Bill 4-60: Accommodation Tax Ordinance.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 4-60, An Ordinance Authorizing the Imposition and Collection of a Tax on Public Accommodation in the Northwest Territories, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to create legislative authority for the imposition and collection of a tax on the sale of public accommodation in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Arnold McCallum. Any discussion? Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 4-60 Denied.

MR. BUTTERS: A point of order, sir. My position on this bill is the same.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters opposes the advancement of this bill to second reading.

MR. PEARSON: I share the same view as the Honourable Member, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pearson. Bill 4-60 will be given second reading tomorrow. In order to save some time, gentlemen, do you share the same view with respect to any of the other bills?

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Which other bills?

MR. BUTTERS: The three remaining I would like to have a chance to look at.

MR. SPEAKER: Does anyone else share that view with respect to the other bills?

MR. PEARSON: I share that view.

MR. SPEAKER: That being the case, shall we avoid going through the paces? Is it agreed?

---Agreed

The hour now being 5:30 o'clock p.m., are there any announcements before we terminate the business today?

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, you mentioned there would be a caucus meeting tomorrow morning and it will be at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the regional office boardroom and all Members are to be present on time.

MR. PEARSON: I share that view, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I am wondering which one of you is Charlie McCarthy and which is Edgar Bergen. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, orders of the day, October 19th, 1976, 2:30 o'clock p.m., at the Maani Ulujuk School, Rankin Inlet.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Remarks
3. Questions and Returns
4. Oral Questions
5. Petitions
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motions
8. Motions for the Production of Papers
9. Motions
10. Tabling of Documents
11. Second Reading of Bills: Bill 3-60, Bill 4-60, Bill 5-60, Bill 6-60, Bill 7-60

12. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Recommendations to Council: Bill 1-60, Bill 6-60

13. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, have you an announcement?

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, there is a finance meeting tomorrow afternoon at 1:00 o'clock p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: Where?

MR. PEARSON: Anywhere you like.

MR. LAFFERTY: Just one moment, Mr. Speaker. The regional office boardroom.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. There being no further announcements, this Legislative Assembly stands adjourned until 2:30 o'clock p.m., October 19, 1976, at Maani Ulujuk School, Rankin Inlet.

---ADJOURNMENT

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