



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

63rd Session

8th Assembly

Official Report

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1977

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1977

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories was convened in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, at two-thirty o'clock p.m., on Monday, October 17, 1977, for the second session, 1977, this being the sixty-third session.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. David Searle): Please be seated. Mr. Clerk, will you determine whether the Commissioner is present and does he wish to address this House?

ITEM NO. 2: COMMISSIONER'S OPENING ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER (Mr. Hodgson): Mr. Speaker, Members of the Council of the Northwest Territories, much has happened since we last met and this past summer has been very, very busy indeed if not somewhat hectic. It has not been my practice to make an extensive address at the fall session. However, I do believe because of the situation that Northwest Territories residents find themselves in at this time, perhaps some comments would be in order.

I welcome you to this 63rd session of Council and I do so with the knowledge and relief that comes with the realization that with several of the major issues; action and decision have been taken.

Perhaps at this time it is worth noting that while there has been much decentralization from the South to the North, and that certain power, authority and responsibility has been vested in this Council, the territorial administration, the departments, agencies and crown corporations of the federal government, all major decisions affecting the North are not made in the North, nor are they necessarily made by residents living within northern Canada. Never has this been demonstrated better than by the events of the past few months. Major issues that have been building for years have come to a head and decisions have been taken.

The first and perhaps most spectacular, but not necessarily the most important, was the decision not to build the Mackenzie Valley pipeline at this time, but rather to construct the so-called Alcan route for transporting American gas using a Canadian corridor to the South through the Yukon.

I would not for a moment want to minimize the impact of this decision, as no doubt it is one of the biggest and perhaps most expensive projects ever

undertaken in Canada. For those in the Yukon and in the provinces who will be affected by this project, the problems, repercussions and benefits will be varied. For us in the territories, particularly in the Mackenzie Valley, we should remain relatively unaffected. It is not for me to record the reactions and feelings of people living in this area, as I am sure there has been and will continue to be with us for some time.

Delivering Of Gas From High Arctic

The important issue now is where do we go from here as nothing stands still. Before commenting any further on this matter I have noticed a build-up of concern in other parts of the territories by communities who would be affected by the so-called Polar Gas project. As you know, this is a proposal of a Toronto based company who is looking at the feasibility and practicality of building a pipeline from the High Arctic through the Keewatin for the purpose of delivering to market, gas discoveries made in the Queen Elizabeth Islands.

It would seem to me that while it may be a healthy sign to have matters at this time revealed and discussed, I think it entirely premature for anyone to give the impression that such a project would go ahead in the immediate or foreseeable future. All aspects of oil and gas exploration and the delivery system for bringing the discoveries to market from the High Arctic are under review, but it would seem to me entirely irresponsible for anyone to leave the impression that such a project would be undertaken in this decade.

Canada will be called upon to put together all available resources if we are to meet the deadline to complete the agreement between the United States government and Canada, to build a pipeline through the Yukon, and in my opinion it is not practical or feasible to begin seriously considering the conception of a pipeline through central northern Canada for years to come. In any event, there are other alternative proposals under consideration for moving the gas discoveries to market.

Turning for a moment to the other major announcement made recently in Ottawa; the announcement by the Prime Minister of his policy statement on constitutional development in the Northwest Territories, and the appointment of the Hon. C.M. Drury as special representative to the Prime Minister for those matters articulated in the Prime Minister's statement. I recognize this announcement as an acknowledgment by the Government of Canada to the recommendation made by the Carrothers Commission to review after ten years what had transpired constitutionally in the territories. The announcement and the subsequent terms of reference will probably rank as one of the most important decisions affecting the Northwest Territories in the last half of this decade. I certainly want to add my words of congratulation to the Prime Minister and to offer the full support of the territorial government to Hon. C.M. Drury in the important task he is undertaking.

The Future Of Canadian Confederation

Where, then, do we go from here and what are the issues of concern? I have just returned from attending a very interesting and enlightening conference in Toronto discussing options on the future of Canadian confederation. Major issues facing all Canadians regardless of where they live are the unity of Canada and the present economic difficulties facing the nation.

It is ironic from the northern point of view when Canadians living North of 60 are trying to get this area into confederation. That, of course, is a very simplistic complicated situation. Nevertheless, other Canadians are thinking seriously, I might add, of leaving Canada. The breakup of Canada is a very, very serious situation indeed and not something that should be taken lightly, nor should anyone adopt the attitude that if one ignores it, it will go away. The facts are that Canada was made up in the first instance of a collection of provinces or jurisdictions that were moulded together to form a nation. As other areas were added and new provinces formed and with the addition of several former crown colonies the nation as we know it today was born. That Canada has survived 110 years is something that we tend to take for granted.

The issues are deep seated and extremely complex. It will take a lot of understanding, patience and negotiations if the nation is to survive. No one I am sure would seriously consider armed intervention as a step towards a solution. In the days ahead, members of the Task Force on Unity will be visiting the territories and I would hope that as many people as possible within the areas visited by the Task Force would take advantage of the opportunity to express their views.

The Question Of Economy

The other issue, which is somewhat connected to this is the question of the economy. However, for the moment perhaps we should deal with this subject independently. The country is facing some serious economic repercussions. As to whether they are short term or problems of a lasting nature, it is still too early to tell. Economists seldom agree on anything and are much better at discussing problems than in recommending solutions. It does seem, however, that one of the major causes is a question of productivity and we may just be pricing ourselves out of the world market. Being a receiver of financial support rather than a contributor, there is not really much we can do. The North faces high costs for a variety of reasons which have been well articulated over the years and we will have to depend on Canadians living in the South, the federal government and parliament for support for the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, when the country does face economic problems, sooner or later all Canadians will be affected and it is usually much more noticeable in the North because of the small population and the dependency of the area on the public purse.

By the same token, I appreciate that in the Mackenzie Valley, because of similar decisions this past summer, the employment picture is far from bright. How, then, does one break this down? What does it all mean, and what is the price we have to pay if we are to retain a viable economy and our present standard of living? There is no doubt the full impact of this situation will be felt in some areas of the Mackenzie Valley this winter, and certainly this Council will be faced with some fairly important decisions when discussing in January next year's budget.

In the meantime it would seem to me of the utmost importance that we take a serious look at where we are going and utilize every possible plan and means of taking advantage of renewable resources available to northerners. More and more people should be encouraged to take advantage of the resources from the land. This may very well hold out much more hope than to look for the creation of new jobs. Every available northern dollar is important and we should make use of every possible means of obtaining not only the benefit of the investment and the return, but make sure that the work performed in the application of the dollar is retained in the North. Another way of saying it is: wherever possible

when job opportunities are available, if the material, as is many times the case, can not be produced in the North, certainly the maximum use must be made of the employment opportunities.

Problems Facing The Communities

As you know, I have spent a lot of time these past ten years in the communities and by Christmas hopefully I will have visited all communities within a 13 month period. One can not help but notice the problems facing the communities which I am sure are reflected by the discussions and meetings of this Council and certainly should be in the plans and programs presented by the administration. On the capital side, there are tremendous problems of supplying water and proper sanitation. The maintenance of buildings, offices, houses, and recreation centres and the need for new equipment and up-to-date maintenance on existing equipment. A new high school will have to be built perhaps somewhere in the Keewatin by the end of this decade.

On the O and M side more money is needed for providing educational, linguistic, cultural and the traditional life. Hospital costs are going up and while most communities have recreational centres, there is not enough money to provide equipment to be used within the centres or for recreational programs. Consumer co-ops are facing difficult times because of the high costs of food, transportation and money. On the arts and crafts side, I have been appalled to see the intrusions being made on traditional carvings by people in the South. Companies have been formed to produce carvings or mass produced copies of originals made from moulds. These can be found now in all major cities in the South and in time they will make serious inroads and cause financial problems for our communities.

So we are faced with many problems. There is a lot of work that has to be done before the next session and, while I would like to spend more time discussing some of these things with you, I think perhaps I have gone far enough.

Recently the Prime Minister announced several changes to his cabinet. I should like to express my thanks to the Hon. Warren Allmand. Over the past 12 months he has spent a lot of time talking to many people in the North and I am sure we appreciate the time he made available to northern people. We have a new Minister, the Hon. Hugh Faulkner, who is certainly no stranger to the Northwest Territories. Hon. Hugh Faulkner has visited the North both in his former official capacities and as an ardent outdoorsman. During his canoe trips the new Minister has developed an appreciation for the width, breadth and size of the territories. I shall be looking forward to seeing him when he visits us in his new capacity.

Commissioner's Awards

I am pleased to announce that in recent months I have approved three recommendations of the Commissioner's Awards committee for the presentation of Commissioner's Awards for public service and for bravery. These awards will be given to Dr. J. Dewey Soper of Edmonton for public service at the highest level to recognize his very significant contributions to the territories in the fields of science and exploration. Some of you may be aware of Dr. Soper's activities on Baffin, Devon and Ellesmere Islands as well as in the area which later became Wood Buffalo National Park. He was from 1948 to 1952 chief of wildlife services with the Canadian Wildlife Service for Alberta, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

And Mrs. Harriet Gladue of Fort Norman for public service at the highest level to recognize her contributions in the provision of a rudimentary form of health and medical services to the people of the Fort Norman area on a voluntary basis for a period of approximately 50 years beginning in 1913. In this period Mrs. Gladue delivered over 100 babies.

And to Mr. Colin Sangster of Hay River for bravery at the highest level for rescuing a woman from a burning house in December, 1976, at considerable risk to himself. Official reports on this incident indicate that but for Mr. Sangster's action the woman would have perished.

At this session the administration will place before you for consideration four new bills.

The most important of these and, as Members know, the principal reason for convening this session, is the Wildlife Ordinance. This legislation will replace the existing Game Ordinance and would also provide for the replacement of the existing regulations.

The people of the Northwest Territories depend to a much greater extent on wildlife resources for sustenance than people elsewhere in Canada. This ordinance would recognize that distinction and was designed to reflect the special needs of subsistence to hunters and trappers. It is the result of over two years consultation with affected groups and individuals.

The Northwest Territories would be empowered by the Income Tax Ordinance to impose a territorial income tax and to enter into agreements with the Government of Canada respecting the collection and administration of that income tax.

To facilitate conversion to the metric system of measurement and in keeping with practices being followed in other Canadian jurisdictions, the Metric Conversion Ordinance, 1977, would enact amendments to those ordinances containing references to distance and area in the imperial measure.

A Supplementary Appropriations Ordinance would provide the additional funds required to meet previously unanticipated expenditures in the current fiscal year.

You will be asked to consider proposals relating to the pricing of liquor in the territories and concerning proposed amendments to the Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance.

A representative of Canadian National Telecommunications has been invited at your request to appear before you during this session to discuss that corporation's operations in the Northwest Territories. In addition, several reports will be placed before you for your information or consideration.

Mr. Speaker, at this time it is my pleasure to welcome all Members to this session as I officially declare open this, the 63rd session, of the Council of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

ITEM NO. 3: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. The House will come to order. Turning to the orders of the day, Item 3, notices of motion for first reading of bills, Bill 1-63, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Introduction Of Bill 1-63: Income Tax Ordinance

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October the 17th, I shall move that Bill 1-63, An Ordinance Respecting Income Tax, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 2-63, Wildlife Ordinance, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Introduction Of Bill 2-63: Wildlife Ordinance

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 17th, I shall move that Bill 2-63, An Ordinance Respecting Wildlife, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 4-63, Metric Conversion Ordinance, 1977, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Introduction Of Bill 4-63: Metric Conversion Ordinance, 1977

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 17th, I shall move that Bill 4-63, An Ordinance to Facilitate Conversion to the Metric System of Measurement, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, tabling of documents, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 4: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 3-63, A Report on "Right to Work" Legislation, compiled by Professor Gall, University of Alberta.

MR. SPEAKER: Further documents to be tabled, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 1-63, Report of the Commissioner's Orders and Regulations for the period April 1, 1977 to September 30, 1977.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further tabled documents? Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 2-63, Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation for the year 1976.

MR. SPEAKER: Further tabled documents? Item 5, replies to the Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 5: REPLIES TO THE COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Is there a Member of the Legislative Assembly ready to reply? Mr. Pudluk.

Mr. Pudluk's Reply

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I have a bit of a problem here. I have my right copy, I have English here and I was going to speak in Inuktitut. I wonder if I could take a minute to find my speech? It must be here somewhere but I do not know where it is.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk, the Clerk tells me he sent a Page for your syllabic copy and it will be here in a moment.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, it is here now.

Motion Of Appreciation Of Commissioner's Address

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to move that this Assembly express to the Commissioner its appreciation for his Address. As you know, Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak in Inuktitut from now on.

I am very happy that we are able to meet again to discuss the proposed ordinances affecting the North and I know we will deal with them in the best possible way, even though northerners are all from different cultural backgrounds, I am sure we will all try to come to an agreement acceptable to everyone in the Northwest Territories. It is certain that some problems are greater than others. This is not surprising as the Northwest Territories is not a small area and each individual has his own way of making a living.

I am pleased to express my thanks for the Commissioner's Address on behalf of all the Legislative Members.

I am going to talk about my experience and the experiences of others too with regard to the matter of the proposed Wildlife Ordinance and regulations. We will be discussing this ordinance during our Legislative Assembly. It is up to us now as Members of the Legislative Assembly to pass the proposed Wildlife Ordinance and regulations.

Changes In The Wildlife

Since the early 1970's there has been oil exploration done. It has been seven years since exploration started in our area. There have been noticeable changes in the wildlife, both land and sea animals. Those changes have been noticed mostly by older people. The older people through their hunting habits notice the changes that have taken place since exploration started. The studies done by scientists and biologists who come north to do surveys seem to be well accepted by Ottawa just because the fact is they are well educated in their profession. These scientists and biologists say they have done studies for so many years. Actually they do a study for two to three months out of one year and they say they did a study for one year so they do not do a proper report. Those who were born and grew up in the Northwest Territories can notice the changes better.

With oil spills there have been noticeable changes on the Arctic Islands, especially on the sea animals. The scientists and biologists have not even studied the side effects yet. Where there is an oil exploration in the Arctic waters, it is obvious that the seals have all moved closer to the settlements over the past seven years. I often travel to the communities. People in the communities have spoken to me several times about this. I have no doubt in my mind that the patterns of seal movements have changed. If the pipeline is going to be built it will have side effects on wildlife which the natives depend on as a food resource. I agree with Judge Berger's letter to the Hon. Warren Allmand, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, on April 15, 1977.

Quote From Judge Berger's Letter To The Hon. Warren Allmand

A section on northern science and research is as follows: "Throughout the inquiry we found that there are critical gaps in the information available about the northern environment, about environmental impact and about engineering design and construction on permafrost terrain and under Arctic conditions. I have already referred to the inadequate state of knowledge about frost heave. This is a very practical question. Others, such as the albedo question that seem to be less definite or to be far in the future also demand our attention now. There is a whole range of issues that fall between, many of which are discussed in this report.

"We are entering an era in the North when the government, its departments and agencies, will have to be in a position to assess and to judge the feasibility, desirability and impact of a whole series of proposals for northern oil and gas exploration and development. Industry proposes, government disposes, but for government to make an intelligent disposition of industry's proposals -- whether they be for pipeline in permafrost, for drilling in the Beaufort Sea, for under-the-sea transportation systems or for tankering in Arctic waters, it must have an independent body of knowledge. A continuing and comprehensive program of northern science and research is called for."

When he made this statement he referred to the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. I agree with his letter because I refer it to the proposed Polar Gas pipeline around our area. The only thing that is recognized is the advantages of this proposed Polar Gas pipeline, not the disadvantages. For this reason I think there should be an inquiry done before the construction on Polar Gas pipeline starts.

Native Organizations

Mr. Speaker, it is frightening when you look at the future. There are great conflicts between native organizations and the territorial Assembly on how the North should be governed. My own opinion is that we should be working together instead of creating conflicts. As territorial Assembly Members, discussions we have had, a lot of them have been criticized by other organizations. It seems that these native organizations want more power than any other organization and the territorial Legislative Assembly. It seems the native organizations and our Assembly are all in a vicious circle, just following each others' tracks, picking up each others' misfortunes to criticize each other. Instead of criticizing each other, this is how I would like to see the development of self-government in the North. We all should be working towards this centre of this circle we are in now and carrying out the responsibilities we have each been given. When we reach the centre we all could discuss what we have seen in the past, what we see for the future and how we can develop the best kind of self-government for the North. It is certain we shall continue making mistakes as expected in political business. When the mistakes are recognized, they can always be solved. I am not talking about just the other organizations but also of us as a Legislative Assembly.

I am very pleased to know the Prime Minister of Canada has appointed the Hon. Charles M. Drury, who will be visiting the communities to talk to the people in the North. I think a lot of the northern residents will be happy to know of their opportunity to meet with Hon. Charles M. Drury. I think it would be beneficial for the Hon. Charles M. Drury if he would attend our sessions so he could get a better idea of problems we deal with. If his job will be out in the open, it would be most appreciated. I do not have much more to say. I know we will work hard in dealing with the ordinances. I myself know that I will do my part.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further replies? Is there a seconder to the motion of appreciation? Mr. Kilabuk, are you prepared to speak now? No? That is fine. Are there any other replies? Mr. Steen.

Mr. Steen's Reply

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to speak today, but many of the things that were said today gave me a dig in the rear to get up and speak. I could not help it, but I would like to relate back to the times over the past year where we, northerners, we call ourselves northerners, I think we do, we tried everything to express our views but when we tried to push our views on to the people of southern Canada it was almost a standstill. No one would listen to you in the South.

I do not think this is democracy. I think that the people elected each one of you here, and they should be listening to you. I had people come up to Tuktoyaktuk to look at Dome's operations in the community there. They still did not believe me even after they got there. They thought there was only one man speaking. I do not know what this country is going into now. I do not know really. What does it take to tell one another how to go? What does it take? Do you take your elected representatives to tell you something or do you listen to some other group that says something different? What does it take? What is democracy? I just do not know what is going on.

You see the so-called representatives of the northern native organizations in the country they are all wearing dark glasses. Why do not they take the glasses off so we can get a look at their eyes? You know, I just do not get it. I just do not get why they are wearing those dark glasses, maybe they are blind. Mr. Sam Raddi is blind and he is wearing dark glasses but what about the rest of them? Take them off and let us take a look at your eyes and let us see if you are dropping them when the time comes.

The Housing Corporation

Another thing is the Housing Corporation and I am on the board of directors and I find I can not do a thing. I can not do a thing I want to do and what I want to do is go after the corporation and this is going after income. They are going after income because they think that they are making too much money. Let us go after their income. You take 25 per cent of their income. Think about the poor guy, if they take 25 per cent of his income and he wants to make some money too. What do they make? They make \$400 a day. The Housing Corporation is going to take it. They will take one quarter of his income and as far as I am concerned it is none of their business whether a guy makes \$20 a day or if he makes \$400 a day, it is none of their business.

The Commissioner a little while ago was saying that we have to look at the economic situation in the Northwest Territories. I do not claim to be good at it, but I can see it in the Western Arctic where I can see what is happening. I can see that we have some renewable and non-renewable resources. I can see that. I can see what the Northern Canada Power Commission is doing to our country. I can see what NCPC is doing to our country, they are taking out everything that we are putting into it. What is happening in economics? Why are those coal mines not being worked in Paulatuk and Aklavik? They have got coal mines there. Why do we not take an assessment and find out if it is feasible to put people to work on those coal mines and supply other people who are under the housing association who are renting houses? Why not put people on it? Let us find out if it is feasible. Let us not sit back and let NCPC draw all the money away, the money we are putting into the country. I really believe that there is money in the country, there are renewable resources and we should get people to use these resources. Maybe it is cheaper but who knows? Who knows unless we take a look at it? Where is Economic Development? Let us take a look at it. I think, you know, we have to give them a boot once in a while. I do not know if it is Hon. Peter Ernerk there or whoever it is. It could be down the line there. What are you doing? Take a look at it.

The Need For Additional Members.

One other thing, I want to get into politics a little bit here. You know the Indian Brotherhood is giving us a hard time, the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement is giving us a hard time. I am not afraid of them and I know none of you are afraid of them. We always know we are right. It may not be true, but we are always right. Well, I think the need for Hon. Charles Drury when he comes around here, you can tell him that in order to get good native participation in this Assembly, we have got to enlarge to 25 Members. Then when it is based on the number of population in the whole country, if you break up the constituencies here and there, then those people get a chance to get their say. They do not have a say right now and that is where all the bickering comes from. I think that if we enlarge, giving special attention to places where there are many Metis and a few Indians and a few Eskimos, give those lads a little of the North, but not all of it. I would think that it would quieten down the whole thought of separating in there.

I think, you know, I would tell Hon. Charles Drury to throw the country open, get more people involved in the thing. You should have 25 Members instead of just 15. This is the way to go. Let the people know that a lot of people can not get in there because the competition is too stiff. I did not think much of the competition when I got elected really.

Concerning Prohibition.

Mr. Speaker, I guess I have blown myself out here. I am glad to see the Liquor Ordinance is going to come up. I am not against bootleggers this time. I will support them. We need them because Inuvik said that they want to close down the liquor store there. There is no money in this country now, nothing, but Tuktoyaktuk is the only place there is any money at the present time. Too bad Mr. Butters is not here today because he would be pushing for money for the pockets of his constituents. If they close the liquor store down in Inuvik, that is fine, but leave it open for outlying settlements which is in my area. My area will say, "You guys want the booze, just call me up. Just call me up, you know, I will give it to you because it is open to me but it is not open to Inuvik. I will take that money that Mr. Butters does not want in his constituency and put it in my constituency." It is as simple as that.

All very well. It is a good idea, but I think there was no thought. I am sure glad that Deputy Commissioner Parker's office is back in the community again. I am glad he did not say, "Okay, the thing is going to be closed and that is that." They asked him to close it and he did not. The people from the outlying settlements who do not make any money, you know.

A Choice Of Lifestyles.

I think one other thing is that in this country, Mr. Speaker, we are in kind of a dilemma. Where do we go from here? There is no pipeline. Do we see the development in Tuktoyaktuk? The people of Tuk, I think they have spearheaded it completely, they have got the only common sense in the country. They say, "Okay, we are agreed to development to put regulations on the oil companies," and they have communications with the government and the oil companies. There is no real problem with the oil companies because we have the companies and the government listening to the people of Tuk to cure all the problems that might develop. Really all you have to do is listen to the tape that Mr. Larry Saunders recorded there. People have to have two things now, part have development and part live off the land. You choose the lifestyle you like. If you do not like this one, you go to the other one, then you will have a chance to go back and try this one. It is as simple as that.

I was listening to that guy from the High Arctic there a little while ago who said they did not want anything going on up there. Take a look at what we are doing up there. See what the people are doing, see the debts that are coming out of it. The people around are doing something and they can not make a dollar. They are hard up. The interest on a skidoo is good for one year at how much per cent? If you do not pay it off this year, you put another per cent on it next year. What about it? Who is paying? Are we going to be the ones who pay it? We have got to have some incentive for people to pay off their own debts whenever they can do it and if you can not pay it off living off the land, then they should be able to pay it off living on another economy.

One other thing. I am sorry to butt into your area, but if that guy over there in Arctic Bay where you are talking about drilling gas, the army coming in with a bunch of drills, I do not think the Eskimos, the natives of that country would complain because they are going to get it to put in their skidoos anyway. This white guy, this settlement manager, he is the one who is fading off on the radio. What is wrong? I say that all these people coming in from the South, speaking for the native people, let them speak when they want to. If it hurts them, they can complain but, if it does not, do not leave it to the natives. The white people are coming in from the South. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, I am advised by the Clerk that coffee is ready. At 3:30 o'clock p.m., I would like the guests to join us and to that extent we would stand adjourned for coffee for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall come to order. The Chair recognizes a quorum. Returning to the orders of the day. Item 5, replies to Commissioner's Address. Are there any further replies this afternoon? Mr. Lafferty.

Mr. Lafferty's Reply

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen. I had a prepared statement of my reply that I worked on for some time. I have been listening to my other colleagues, particularly Mr. Steen talk off the top of his head and I have been picking out a few points in the Commissioner's Address today and I thought maybe now is the time to address the public at large and probably state the things which I feel as a person, things that I see in the future and things that I see happening to the people in the North. Perhaps I could also add that I wish for the sake of the people in the North that some of the things that we do were different and one of these is probably the practice before the Legislative Assembly where you have the question period, where we may ask certain questions whether embarrassing or not to other Members. It seems that in the North like all organizations, including the political organizations that we have to show unity for the sake of appearance. I do not think in my own mind that this is the role of the Legislative Assembly or a House of representatives. I think that we have to express our differences of opinion, our differences of interest in all respects to the people that we represent. For example, the Northwest Territories is a very large area and we differ greatly from one region to another.

For instance, I represent an area which is pretty well as far as it may be representative in cultural make-up of the Northwest Territories combined. As I have said on previous sessions that in my constituency there are many people. I have African people there; I have Chinese people; I have white people there; I have Indians there and I have so-called half breeds and Metis, non-status Indians, you name it and they are in my constituency. I think that with this diversity that area is a healthy place to live because it is this diversity which has selected me to stand here before you and express what their interests are. In turn this interest reflects on other people throughout the Mackenzie Valley and possibly even into the Arctic, because again in my constituency there are several Eskimo people who live there. As a matter of fact, several children that I care for and adopted are people of such classes and I do not believe in classes of people. Because of this kind of make-up in my constituency I have always expressed the view that northern people are one small group of people in one heck of a large area of Canada. They are one people in spite of themselves; even if their ethnic cultural past and languages are different.

I think that if we treated the present conditions that we are experiencing with a reflection of this kind of social make-up we would not have to have the Commissioner telling us that we should be encouraged to make use of all those things that are on the land, animal life in particular and particular comments were directed to that.

Utilizing Natural Resources

I think that, of course, our people should be encouraged to make greater use of what is available on the land and that includes the natural resources that are available, the mineral wealth that can be found, the water resource potential that is with us. There is a potential in the Mackenzie area and the rivers that support it to develop hydro energy that probably no other province in the West compares with. Here our people in Fort Simpson are faced with a power rate that is beyond their reach. The people in Fort Simpson are faced with taxes that are out of this world! People on old age incomes that are taxed about two years ago are still paying property taxes that they can not afford and the majority of these people are my relations and they are Metis. They can not afford to pay their taxes because of continuing rising costs of the

necessary items that we have in the stores. These people will lose their properties and it is certainly not their fault because they have made every effort to meet their responsibilities in paying their share. We know, beyond any doubt, that there are problems existing but these problems I feel are very simple problems, so simple that perhaps we are unable to see them. They may be simple because they are in our houses, they are in our towns, yet we focus our attention some place else. We rob one group of people from one area to feed another group in another area that is in the same domestic scene and yet we are told by our politicians and by our responsible people that this is the normal course of events. To me that is not true.

Low Standards Of Education

Of course, I have always said we have encouraged our native people in spite of whatever their cultural background is, language, race or origin, that they must continue in schools so that they can become proficient in the use of the English language and in order to develop the kind of skills that are necessary to run their own affairs, to broaden their thinking so that they can eventually go out on the land and learn to reproduce new ways of doing things. For this they must have a basic education and yet our school students, with no reflection on the part of the people responsible, are suffering from a very low standard or level of education, simply because our decision makers are listening to the political whims of minority groups. We will never produce that airplane pilot that I asked the people for two years ago. For that matter we will never produce the northern doctor that we need or the northern engineer that we need or a northern businessman who is capable of sitting in a bank and managing it and yet our taxes are going up and we are asked to pay to create chaos in our communities.

Of course, it is not the fault of our government, but it is the fault of our people. It is the fault in the way, perhaps some years back, the development had taken place. I think in some instances we know that there was wrongdoing and that we should realize that we can not support wrongdoing. If it is wrongdoing by the majority we must stop it and in this case we in the territorial Assembly and those in the territorial administration and those representing us in the federal areas must take a change of attitude and take a new look and take a new approach to the things that we want for ourselves.

The Need For A New Social Attitude

When I look and think in this light then I see nothing that I was saying all along, that the people in the Northwest Territories and the newcomers to this country, the old and the ones to be born must be borne into a new social attitude. Those that we are educating must come out with new attitudes towards life and towards themselves and towards their community.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. LAFFERTY: Those who are going to make their homes in the Northwest Territories must look at themselves and re-evaluate how their lives will be lived and that must apply equally to the native people. They must say to themselves "What do I want of this life and how do I want it done and where am I going to go and what is it going to provide to my children? What kind of social order are we going to have?" To me this spells socio-economic reforms at every level of society and at every institution, our schools, our police, etc. We must in some instances take very strong stands even against the wishes of the majority if need be, because we know we are a part of the politics and ideologies of the North. If there is such a thing as the wishes of the people, then we would have no alternatives than to get into party politics where we can express what we feel. Why do I say this? Because people are becoming more afraid of even a simple little proposal. People are afraid to act in their communities. Every proposal, no matter how good, is a reason for petition, protest, plebiscite, political action to the point we are hindering the ordinary development of the Northwest Territories. Instead of aiding it and designing it for the future as politicians, we are destroying our future. For instance, as much as we hate to stand divided, as much as we would like to see a show of unity, we are being ripped apart under the blankets, and I think in this instance Prime Minister Trudeau said words something like this: "The government is in your living room, everywhere in your house, but what you do in your bedroom is your business." Of course he said these words because he knows damned well we are being screwed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, your language.

MR. LAFFERTY: I did not mean it that way, Mr. Speaker. I do not mean any defamation to the Prime Minister but it is politics.

The People Of The North Have Been Shafted

Anyway, these things are happening and I would like to believe I could go even a little further and say, you know, looking at all the taxation and the rising Northern Canada Power Commission power rates and looking at everything else that is happening and all the people bellyaching about the few drunks who are creating chaos in the communities, I would like to remember the politicians screaming on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and everything else and then I look at what our Honourable Member of Parliament was screaming about and will be for a long time to come, Hon. Warren Allmand crying on the CBC that he was shafted. I do not think personally that Hon. Warren Allmand got shafted. I think it is the people of the North who got shafted, because we have no hope, no promise, no nothing. We have to have our administration begging the federal government, then when the federal government agrees, the Treasury Board says "You can not."

So, as much as Hon. Warren Allmand has my sympathy, I would like to remember that most of our people in the Northwest Territories, particularly in the Mackenzie Basin, have been shafted and I think we are going to get some more. All these things are done in the best interests of land claims. I think my own personal view is as a Member of this Legislature and as a private citizen of Indian descent, as a Metis person, I do not think that land claims position is the expression of the collective Indian or Metis people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Protection Of Indian Rights And Their Future

MR. LAFFERTY: I talked this summer to the majority of Indian people from Norman Wells right up to Fort Liard, Fort Providence, Hay River and in some instances some Indian people in Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, from Fort Reliance, Yellowknife, from this area, I asked their honest opinion and all they are seeking is for their rights as guaranteed by the Indian Act, their rights and their future protected.

When I see this, then I ask myself which other body, other than the Northwest Territories Legislature could protect these interests and wishes of our native people. There is no other body other than the federal.

It is only this Legislature that can guarantee and work for their rights, the rights of these people and, secondly, it is correct because it is this Legislature that represents the people of the North, the cultures of the North. It has the responsibility to enshrine, if need be, to guarantee the ongoing of the roots of the people who are in the North. Then on the other hand I look at the Metis land claims and then I ask myself what is the matter with these people. They do not even know their own history. They are a people again like we are, maybe small groups in Canada, but they do have a history and they are unique in the sense that in spite of all their different dialects of native languages, European languages that they speak, they are but one common people, the first Canadian who has a history that the economic expansion rests with. Historically they are the people who have always moved and in that regard we can not say that Metis people are aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley. It is impossible.

When you look further than that, there are many, many Metis people who we regard to be white people who have developed the skills that are necessary to take a place in society. In the service of their country. Then you go beyond that in the Northwest Territories alone here I can name you every one of these people. We have many veterans who served in the second World War. There are several who have served in the first First World War and we have veterans who served in the Korean War. We have people who served in African countries and I am such a man. I served in military service and I have been in many parts of the world. In spite of all these things, the people are northerners. They belong here, their home rests here, their future, they hope, will be here. For them again I asked people in the communities who are Metis what they think of land claims and they indicated to me that they lost their property since the government came into the Northwest Territories. It is quite true because of the habits of the local governments encouraging people to build boundaries, zoning within the communities and so on and many of the Metis people who live there and inherited the land in these communities have found themselves homeless or unable to pay taxes and this is where the resultant land claims came in. Other than those things they have a rights guarantee from the South to hunt and trap, to the use of the land as any other person such as an Indian person, so they are not asking for much. They are only asking for something that is rightfully theirs, something that they have inherited.

Social Make-up.

How do you ask a person to get off the land that he has helped his father to clear with an axe, pick and shovel and the only land that he has known for several generations? He will come back fighting. I was just watching a lady on television the other day saying if somebody asked her to get off her land because she had no wealth, she would take a shotgun. I think this principle applies here. Because of this kind of social fabric, I guess you would call it, or social make-up, we must look at ourselves, not at the other people and not always point our finger somewhere else, because it is the old saying that when you point your finger at somebody there are more fingers pointing back at you and this is true. We have been somehow inclined, rightly or wrongly, to always blame the other guy for our problems, particularly us native people and when I say "us" I am included in that area because I come from a native family. I happen to live in a native community. I happen to love that community and I love those people I represent, but some of the people in my home community are always finding fault and always pointing a finger somewhere else. We must stop that. How do we do it?

That is the responsibility of this Assembly, to pass the kind of legislation that will reflect the good in the community and, if we were to multiply the good in the community and combine the whole thing in the North and divide it into ethnic groups, I think that the picture would be awfully dirty, the good would be very little. In this instance we can take the liquor problem of Inuvik, of Fort Simpson, of Rae and really examine it and say "Where is it coming from?" The people who do the most squawking in my experience are also the people you can not do very much for simply because the squawk is a cover up and that is true.

If you wish to know why I say these things, I am not afraid to tell you that at one time in my life I drank just as much as some of these people, if not more, but for some time in the past 11 years I have not touched a drop and I know what that problem is. It is always easier for a person who is sick and sober and sorry to point his finger at somebody else. Let me tell you something. I have not seen a person throw me down on the ground or lock me up in a room and force me to drink. I drank because I chose to drink and I found it was no good and I quit. I am not sorry. I thank God that I had the courage to stop. I thank God because I do not do these things and I can speak to you honestly and truthfully and if you do not like it that is your problem.

The Individual Right.

I have said these things in my constituency and I have said these very words to them as I meet my constituents and talk to them on the street. If they do not like the things that I say which are the things that I believe in then it is among the things that I hold sacred and that is the individual right, the individual right to the kind of life that he wants for himself, the education that he wants for himself and the kind of home that he wants to live in. If he wants to live in a tent that is his right. If he wants to drive a Cadillac and is willing to make a sacrifice of time, I honour that man. And because of these beliefs I tell the people, if you do not like the things that I do and say then put your "X" somewhere else next time because I am not here to make a career out of this House. I am not here for the money. I am here to do the best job that I can for a short period, four years.

The liquor laws in the North need changing. We must have the kind of laws that would not be too restrictive, but perhaps the kind of laws that would take money out of the liquor profits and put it back into public education institutions such as rehabilitation centres and organizations that may engage in these kinds of things and then create a general public awareness to the kinds of problems that arise out of drinking. It is a health problem. It is a family problem. It is an individual problem and it is the individual that I am concerned about. We always hear on the radio in the articles written by our media people in general of the alcoholic problems of native people. I have read letters on the alcoholic problems of my colleagues in communities high up

in the Arctic and down the river in my own community and from other communities elsewhere and it all stinks of the same thing, that it is only native people who are drunks. Well, let me tell you that I have drunk with Chinese. I have drunk with Africans. I have drunk with Egyptians, Lebanese, Spaniards, Italians in the places that I have been in the world and I did not see them drinking any different than I did. They were just as much of a drunk as I was and of course we always had a good time. Strangely though, we could not remember those good times.

A Community Problem

So, I think it is a community problem and it is something that must be dealt with by the government and maybe in this instance the Health and Social Services department can handle those kinds of things and perhaps we could look at it and undertake a study as part of our new approach to life in the North and as we were told we would have to or else we are going to go back to killing rabbits. I do not think that is what the people want to do.

In the Native Press there was an article which was reflective of the Indian people in Fort Simpson, that because of the closing of Hire North and the lack of any kind of work in the community there are native fellows leaving. Contrary to what was said to Judge Berger just a year and a half or two years ago, that native people do not want development and do not want to work, they want to do their own thing and these people are going South seeking jobs because these people can not go back to the land because they do not know how. It is only the old people who are trying to go back to the land and in which instance in Fort Simpson we have approximately seven people who are attempting to trap, but again if it had not been for government assistance they would not be able to get out so we do have a real problem and let us not fool ourselves by looking elsewhere. Let us look at ourselves and see what we can come up with.

In our changing world, I say this because the Indian people can not live like they used to when I was a teenager because the half-breed people in the Northwest Territories which comprises a greater part of the population and from among whom a very small percentage of them in the Metis associations. These people have never traditionally lived the life of an Indian, so to say, they live entirely a different lifestyle. Because these things are held sacred by them to the extent that some native people in the North hold their cultural and racial past as sacred and of course they hold onto the good experiences back in the forties and fifties, we have no recourse but to engage in new ideas and new explorations in looking for a new life and a new way of life and looking at a new monetary system whereby the majority of people will benefit, new developments that can be done such as highways, farming, fishing, timber and there are many, many areas that we can look at and we are not doing a heck of a lot there.

Local Incentives.

We must also provide, in my opinion, the kind of local incentives to engage people in businesses but not just anyone who wants to get into a business because you can get government money as is happening in our hunting and trapping system and there are people going out trapping because simply they can get government grants. I do not want to see that happen in my sector. We must encourage these things openly. However, you can be sure that if you did these things you would find political opposition. Here in this House we pride ourselves in being nonpartisan, nonparty politically but you know I think we are darn fools personally, because around us we are surrounded by political ideologies and representative groups and if you do not believe that, when you get home you study it and you will see it written all over.

I think these changes must come about when we engage in the development of our renewable resources and if it does not we should press the federal government into releasing the kinds of lands that our native peoples need and maybe they could be assisted or trained. We can not always be a food gathering society because the animals are rapidly running out and it will not be long, another 15 years when there will not be any animals for us to get. Our Indian population in the North is rapidly increasing. I was reading a study by the Science Council of Canada on the different ethnic birth rates in the Northwest Territories and I notice the native birth rate is away up, compared to the national average and it even exceeds Newfoundland, so we are doing a pretty good job in populating the country, but we had better be careful. Since we are very proficient in one area we had better develop other areas because if we do not we are going to find ourselves without a home or without food.

Getting Together In Spite Of Differences.

I think I have said most of the things that have been coming to my mind and the things I am concerned about, but in closing I will take another few more minutes and I would like to add that time has come in the North when we are going to have to get together in spite of our differences. We are going to have to think together and treat all of the people in the North as the same. I think that is not much of a problem. If those of us who are elected would go out in our communities and take a guy by the hand and say, "You are welcome," invite him in. Let me quote an Indian guy here who asked to come to a meeting and this involved some time and he said to me, "Bill, there are many people in the past who have said to me I am welcome." But he said, "Nobody came to my house and talked to me and asked me in," so I told him that if this was the case that if he came, if he sat side by side with his neighbour and maybe he is from another town but nevertheless he is still a neighbour, then I said, "How would you feel?" He said, "I would appreciate it."

I think this is pretty well the general view of all of the people in the Northwest Territories regardless of their cultural past and regardless of their race, their language, because if the guy can not understand the Inuit language and yet when I talk to an Inuit person I can feel what he is trying to tell me.

A Dangerous Situation

I can not understand the Beaver Indian and yet they in their broken dialect, when they try to tell me something, I can understand what they are trying to say. I feel it. Most of all these people are getting pushed aside even by their own group. We are in a very dangerous situation. Rather than coming right out clearly with a statement, we put it this way: "I believe that it is just as wrong for another Metis to exploit me for his own gain as it is for a white man to exploit me." This is what is happening in the North. Groups that are representative of those they claim to be are exploiting those that they represent for their own interests. That is their feeling to express, not mine, but we are living in a very dangerous time. We must do something but not without caution. We must look at people as either people who need help or people who need to get by or people who do not need help. If you look at it that way, you will find there are many white people in the Northwest Territories who do not need help. There are many Metis people who do not need help and there are many Indian people who do not need help. There are many Eskimo people who do not need help. I know some Eskimos who are earning \$50,000 or \$60,000 a year. I know Indian people who are earning \$60,000 or \$70,000 a year. I know some Metis people who are earning \$100,000 a year but seemingly they are the only ones who get help. The poor are just as poor.

I think the time is now. As I indicated, I look at myself from day to day and in looking at myself and seeing the mistakes I make and a few good things we do, I find out that my mistakes outnumber the good I have done and, so help me God, this is what I want to correct, but I think if we all did look at ourselves and saw the mistakes we make, there really would not be a problem. We are the leaders in the North and what we do reflects on society.

Of course, we know we have got no development now. Our people have no jobs and many of our people are leaving. Many of these people who are leaving are young people who wanted to stay in the North and continue their schooling or find some government assistance to continue schooling but what happened? They have to live, they have to eat, they have to have money and now they are sacrificing school to look elsewhere for a job. I think with that I will close and I hope that anyone here who took seriously what I said, would take it home and think it over and after a short time, after I leave this House, I must live here and the people who take my place I hope will be people we can enthuse enough that they can continue on the work that has been started by this Assembly. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Further replies? Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Hon. Dave Nickerson's Reply

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, my reply has the advantage of being quick. Before I start, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome two new Members to the Yellowknife North constituency, the Hon. Peter Ernerk and Mr. Richard Whitford. They join yourself and of course the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner.

I think you will find that the speech, although it is somewhat loud and abusive, does meet the requirements in that it is couched in parliamentary language, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: We will see.

We Have Been Cheated

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, the people of the Northwest Territories have been cheated! We have been cheated by that false prophet, Justice Thomas Berger, with his book of illustrated socialist lies. We have been cheated by the National Energy Board, the integrity of which is now in question, and most of all, we have been cheated by the gutless politicians of both parties in Ottawa who are apparently quite willing to cast aside the national interest for the sake of a few miserable misguided votes.

With the loss of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline we are condemned to ten years of living on government handouts. The Mackenzie Valley which would have blossomed with industry will remain depressed. The jobs, real jobs, not just pretend make-work schemes such as Canada Works, STEP, and other stopgap measures will not be there and our more ambitious citizens will be forced to leave. We will not be able to afford the high level of social, educational and other services we might otherwise have had. The native people have lost their ace card in the land claim game and we can not expect that negotiations will proceed at any more than the present desultory pace. The older native people, those who should have benefited the most, will be the losers.

I can just imagine Judge Berger, Mr. Watkins and others tarred with the same brush smiling malevolently among themselves from wherever they are now plying their disreputable trade as they contemplate the despondency, the misery and the racial conflict they have generated for those of us who call the Northwest Territories our home and, unlike those who have caused us so much confusion, plan to remain here.

One of the few recent bright spots has been the demise of the Hon. Warren Allmand, probably the most incompetent, most biased and the most negative person ever to hold the portfolio of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. His successor, Hon. Hugh Faulkner, will certainly have to work hard to regain the confidence of northerners and it is doubtful, whatever his personal abilities, that the northern public will ever again be conned into believing that Indian Affairs and Northern Development is anything more than a monstrous bureaucratic dinosaur that has long ago outlived its usefulness.

The Appointment Of Hon. Charles Drury

I would like to comment briefly on the appointment of the Hon. C.M. Drury as the Prime Minister's special representative on constitutional reform in the Northwest Territories. Although this approach is probably not as good as the negotiating committee concept originally proposed for this Legislature which would have allowed for direct involvement of territorial representatives rather than having us go through an intermediary, I am sure Hon. Charles Drury will be both businesslike and honest and will not be so inclined to use his position as a platform for personal aggrandizement as was the case with Judge Berger. Hon. Charles Drury will have to move quickly if he is to convince us that his appointment is something more than a delaying tactic on the part of the federal government, but I am sure that he will take his responsibilities seriously and that we can look forward to real, positive changes the next few months.

As a Member of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I feel that part of my duty is to stem the flood of yet more and more legislation, regulation and other governmental infringement on individual liberties. Sometimes I think we are fighting a losing battle. The Northwest Territories must be the only place on earth where a person can stand along 500 miles from the nearest place of human settlement and still feel hemmed in on all sides by bureaucratic regulation. Over the last few years I have known

several northerners who have been unable to stomach this relentless overgovernment and have moved on to places such as Alberta where they are relatively free to live the life they choose. We suffer from an oversophistication of government which, in many respects, is imposed on us by southern public opinion and I have to admit that often we are unresponsive to the real needs of the people we supposedly serve. The North should have a youthful economy where men of vision and vigor can prosper, but we have legislated ourselves into a state of premature senility where we are more concerned with preserving an artificial past than we are with welcoming new ideas. In the Northwest Territories today, a man can neither invest his time, his energy or his money with confidence -- the black cloud of government intervention looms perpetually overhead.

Legislative Control Over The Territorial Government

I do not wish to be completely pessimistic, Mr. Speaker. We have in the territories many resources, not the least of which is the ability and tenacity of our people. Despite certain geographical disadvantages, there is no reason, given a legislative environment conducive to enterprise, why we should not attain through trade and development a level of well-being similar to that of our southern neighbours. This Legislature, representing as it does all the people of the territories, must press for real control over the territorial government which, unfortunately, is still very much a power unto itself and without effective political control by the people it serves. Contemporaneously, we must fight for the transfer from the federal to the territorial government of those powers with which we could control our own destiny. Presently our government has no say in influencing the economy of the territories through, for instance, the disposition of land and mineral rights. We are relegated to a deliverer of services and since we have no command over our own resource revenues, the level of these services is dictated by the largesse of the Ottawa government.

The federal policy of scaring off investment capital, of allowing our resources to lie dormant in the ground and of deliberately dividing our population along racial lines must be resisted. Mr. Speaker, I urge all the people of the Northwest Territories to set aside their narrow self-interests and united under the leadership of this Assembly, press forth resolutely into the changing future. Let us show the rest of Canada that we can stand on our own feet, that we can run our own affairs and that we can again make these great territories a worth-while place in which to live and bring up our children. Thank you, gentlemen.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, are there further replies? If there are no further replies this afternoon, continuing with orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 6: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Are there any questions? Written questions. Mr. Lyall.

Question W1-63: Telephones, Central Arctic

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this administration what, if anything, has been done to try and rectify the very bad situation and inconvenience that we have been having in the Central Arctic with Canadian National Telecommunications. It has been so bad that some of the communities are asking to try and get their radios hooked up again. They were taken out at the time the phones were installed.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I must take the question as notice and file a reply. Perhaps I might add that I believe there is an occasion being presented during this session for a senior officer of CNT to meet with the Assembly and perhaps at that time there may be a further opportunity for the Member to ask his question.

MR. SPEAKER: Further written questions.

Item 7, oral questions.

Item 8, petitions.

Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Lyall.

ITEM NO. 9: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, the standing committee on legislation met last week to consider the legislation being introduced at this session and I will report in detail on the various matters that were considered in committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Further reports of special and standing committees.

Item 10, notices of motion. Hon. Dave Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: I give notice, Mr. Speaker, that on Tuesday the 18th of October I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE, I move that an invitation be extended to the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories to have one or more representatives appear before a committee of the whole of this House, at a time to be determined by the Speaker, in order to advise this House of the land claim that organization has recently proposed to the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: Further notices of motion?

Item 11, motions for the production of papers.

Item 12, motions.

Item 13, introduction of bills for first reading.

Gentlemen, may I remind you of the Rule here, Rule 55(2) which says that a bill may be advanced more than one step on any one day, unless two or more Members oppose the bill being so advanced. In other words, notice of these bills were

given today and I propose to call for first reading unless there are two or more Members who oppose first reading. Are there two or more Members who oppose first reading? One. One is not sufficient. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, just a point of clarification. I would like to know what bill that is, I was reading a magazine.

MR. SPEAKER: On Item 13 on your orders of the day you will see that there is introduction of bills for first reading. I would propose unless there are two Members who otherwise indicate that they do not want first reading, I would propose to call for first reading of Bills 1-63, 2-63 and 4-63, those three bills listed under Item 13. Are there two Members? Mr. Pearson has indicated that he is opposed and is there another? Mr. Lafferty, you are opposed to first reading of the bill?

MR. LAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, orders of the day. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make an announcement regarding a caucus meeting that will be held in Room 303 of the hotel at noon hour tomorrow and I would respectfully request that all Members attend that meeting, 12:00 o'clock noon in Room 303 tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further announcements? May I remind Members of the dinner this evening hosted by the Commissioner at 7:30 o'clock p.m. and the place is the Yellowknife Inn for all of those who may not have received their invitations. If there are no further announcements, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, October 18, 1977, 2:30 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to Commissioner's Address
3. Questions and Returns
4. Oral Questions
5. Petitions
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motion
8. Motions for the Production of Papers
9. Motions
10. Tabling of Documents
11. Introduction of Bills for First Reading: Bill 1-63, Bill 2-63, Bill 4-63
12. Second Reading of Bills: Bill 1-63, Bill 2-63, Bill 4-63
13. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills: Bill 1-63, Bill 2-63, Bill 4-63
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This Legislative Assembly stands adjourned until 2:30 o'clock p.m., October 18, 1977, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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