

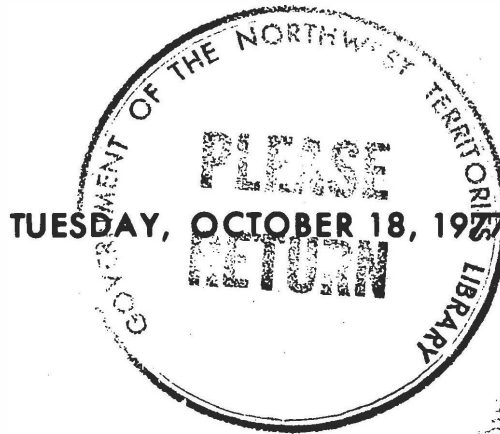


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

63rd Session

8th Assembly

Official Report



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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1977

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Steen, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Lyall, Mr. Butters, 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

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. David Searle): Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. I would like to introduce the members of the Game Advisory Council who are sitting in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon. They are Mr. Norm Simmons; Mr. Simmons is the superintendent of the game division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Affairs; Mr. Glen Warner, Mr. Henry Beaver, Mr. Josiah Kadlutsiak, Mr. Bob Douglas, Mr. David Kaomayok, Mr. Leo Kalluyaq, Mr. Ray Woodburn, Mr. Perry Linton and I believe Mr. Vince Steen who is not here this afternoon who is the chairman of the Game Advisory Council.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

---Applause

Turning to the orders of the day, Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

ITEM NO. 2: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Evaluarjuk's Reply

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, I will try to reply the way Mr. Pudluk replied. At the moment I do not really know what direction to take. Mr. Speaker, at the moment I do not really know what replies to the Commissioner really means because the result, the fact being that when we reply to the Commissioner's Address we end up blaming each other, pointing at each other and blaming each other with our other colleagues. At the moment I do not really know how and what the reply to the Commissioner really means. Whenever the Legislative Assembly is in progress I have from time to time asked the Assembly's support in giving more power to each community.

I would like to say that because this has happened and we also know that things are complicated and take a long time to be resolved. Even things that are not complicated take a long time because they have to go through the Ottawa government. For example, the people in Igloolik, there are signs of alcohol. The ordinance against alcohol, the first time it was refused because they did not like the proposal, but the people from Igloolik were given the power the first time and they would have been used to it by now. One thing that we usually do, with the Commissioner's consent, the reason why I always consult the people in the communities, I think they should be given more control. I will have more to say about that but I have another thing to talk about which is the pipeline proposal.

People Do Not Wish Pipeline

Yesterday I heard somebody say that because the proposed pipeline was not going to be built for the next ten years it was like the sky was going to fall down, there would not be any jobs. The jobs that were going to be available are not going to be available any more. That is what I heard. What is going to happen to the families? After ten years there will be more jobs and more jobs will be needed. The Berger Report, a lot of people are not happy with the Berger Report and a lot of people are not happy because the pipeline is not going to be built. This is mostly by people who have their own businesses and can look after themselves. In my constituency, I was asking the people in my constituency about the pipeline and I asked them if they want the pipeline or not and they wanted me to report that the pipeline not be built in ten years. The Inuit and Indians in our area we really like money like you do too, but we care more for the animals, the wild game because they can not be replaced if they are destroyed. This is because the people in my constituency want me to support that the pipeline not be built.

The part I mentioned about somebody saying this was because a lot of times we are not told the truth by the government. For example, the Wildlife Ordinance proposal was discussed in May and at that time I asked that the proposed Wildlife Ordinance be brought to the communities right after, right away, but even after seeing it some communities did not like it finally. Mr. Speaker, if I can, I would like to say that I do not want the Wildlife Ordinance proposal passed at this meeting.

Also, we are told lies. I am also concerned about housing. Last year I believe that the houses -- they will not raise the rent for a while, but even before they had the meeting in Frobisher Bay the rents were raised. I am not only saying it is only the government, but also we are never told the truth about getting telephones, the native people getting telephones. They never mean what they say. We were told in the fall that the phones were going to be working properly right away but when I asked the government administration they just kept telling me that they were going to get to it but we still have not got them.

Also yesterday when the Commissioner was giving his Address he mentioned that the co-ops were going down in the North and he said that the imitation of the carvings was being done down South. This I know because when the co-ops first started the government said that they would try and help out. The government was going to help with its left hand and at the same time clean them out with the right hand but right now I know they are not going to help a lot more but the price of everything is going up so it is kind of hard. Also, as Members of the Assembly of the Northwest Territories, we could try and tell the people from the South not to duplicate carvings. I would ask for support from the Assembly Members and the government staff. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Any further replies to the Commissioner's opening Address?
Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Kilabuk's Reply

MR. KILABUK: I would like to say right now that Mr. Mark Evaluarjuk has said most of the things I was going to say. Most of the things that are said here are useless. Now, sir, I would like to say something I have wanted to say for a long time. It may not make any sense, but I would just like to say one word.

Also you can think about these things. Ask the people in the Northwest Territories and in Canada, here in Canada we are part of Canada ourselves. And here in the North, in this part of Canada it is hard to live. In the Northwest Territories it is very hard to live, harder than in the South.

Also, as people we have to ask you for a lot of things and we can also think about this. Yesterday Hon. Dave Nickerson said the Prime Minister's helper is going to be here but he is not going to be helping us and some of the people in the federal government are not doing too well in their place. The territorial Assembly, that is what I was thinking about when I heard this and the former minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Hon. Warren Allmand, has said the territorial Assembly will be recognized as the Legislative Assembly. For this matter it seems he is jumping over the organizations like Inuit Tapirisat of Canada in the Northwest Territories where we do not have any power at all. So, this is what I am thinking right now, like we should start working together and we should really start working together and when we make these regulations and bills it would help a lot. We could be recognized a lot easier if we start that.

Ordinance Should Be Delayed.

Also, I think in the North if we start to have more control in the communities it would be a lot easier and if this can be filled by -- we could do a lot of things ourselves but mostly the ordinances and other things, sometimes they do not even fall on our part of land. A lot of decisions are useless up there. The Wildlife Ordinance and a lot of the others are useless up in the North. Another thing, I have really thought about the Wildlife Ordinance and the people who are here are the ones who fix this ordinance and they have given it to the Northwest Territories Assembly and the Assembly will pass it, even though a lot of people are against it. I thought we should not pass it right now. I really thought to myself we should wait until 1979 to get it done. I want the people in the communities to be shown and given time to look it over until 1979 comes up. After 1979 comes, after that they can have a better ordinance. After they have worked together, the people who know how to make ordinances, they can talk to people, they can ask the people what they should do and they would be a lot happier if they did that.

I will want better service in 1978 and I have not heard yet if there is going to be that service in 1978 and if this comes about I will be very happy. Because we can say what we have on our minds here, but there are a lot of times what we say is not put into action. What I would like to say is not very long.

There are times when I think that we should live together. We want things a lot better in the North and I know that we are trying to work together as I said before and I will say it again. I want to say it more because our answer now is in the ... I have said before that I wanted more men working in there and I wanted to see that happen. The people who have had education, and there are a lot of people who have had education, some people are not working even though they have finished school. This should be looked into more, even though we have a hard time getting work we find that a lot of times if we tried we would get it. In this Legislative Assembly I would like to say that we need more people involved and then they will be happier.

I know that we get Inuktitut material and I know when I speak in Inuktitut it is hard on the interpreter and I would like to say more about this. Lastly I would like to say that I am not a very talkative person and I can not speak English, but I can tell you what I think, my colleagues and Mr. Commissioner. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further replies, gentlemen?

Item 3, questions and returns. No returns. Are there any written questions? Mr. Butters.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Question W2-63: Honourable Hugh Faulkner's Visit To N.W.T.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, is the Hon. Hugh Faulkner, the recently appointed Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, planning a visit to the Northwest Territories in the near future, and if so, is a meeting with Members of this Legislature contemplated?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

Return To Question W2-63: Honourable Hugh Faulkner's Visit To N.W.T.

COMMISSIONER (Mr. Hodgson): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the question, the new Minister plans on arriving in the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife on Sunday evening next. He has scheduled some meetings or he is in the process of scheduling meetings and he has set aside the noon hour for a dinner meeting with Council. He will then leave later in the afternoon when he will go on to Inuvik and other points north, leaving the territories on Thursday morning for commitments in, I believe it is, Saskatoon. The itinerary is in the process of being formed up today and that is the latest information we have. If the Assembly is not in session on Monday and whether the Members would want to stay over or not, I do not know.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pearson.

Question W3-63: Welfare Rates In The Territories

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. In view of a study undertaken some time ago to examine welfare rates across the Northwest Territories and whereas it was recommended by that study that there be an increase in the welfare rates at that time, can the Minister inform this Assembly when he plans to make these increases as I am informed that he personally has issued orders that there be no increases made until he decides?

Return To Question W3-63: Welfare Rates In The Territories

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: The answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, remains the same as it did when it was brought up at the session. That is, that I expect in January to bring before this Legislature the proposal for changes in the social assistance rates. These will then come into effect should they be passed by this Legislature and should the money be forthcoming from Treasury Board. It would be hoped that they would be put into effect as of the first of the next fiscal year.

MR. PEARSON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pearson.

Question 04-63: Minister's View On Increase In Welfare

MR. PEARSON: In response to that I should point out to the Minister -- and this is something that people are waiting on -- the increases, there is a tremendous need in the Northwest Territories for an increase in the rates. It was budgeted in this House and these increases should be forthcoming immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pearson, you may ask a supplementary question but you can not make a response.

MR. PEARSON: A supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Will the Minister be prepared to take a different view of that in light of the tremendous increase in inflation across the Northwest Territories in the last few months?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Return To Question 04-63: Minister's View On Increase In Welfare

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further written questions? Mr. Pudluk.

Question W5-63: Move Of Police Detachment, Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the administration when are the Royal Canadian Mounted Police moving into the village of Resolute Bay? They were supposed to be moved from the Ministry of Transport area. What is the reason for the delay?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Return To Question W5-63: Move Of Police Detachment, Resolute Bay

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of discussing the move of the police detachment to the settlement in Resolute Bay from the air base. My recollection is that they will be in the position to make that move next year but for the moment I can give assurance that it is being seriously considered and the details are being worked out.

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

Question W6-63: Gymnasium, Hall Beach

MR. EVALUARJUK: Since Hall Beach school wanted a gymnasium, can the administration tell me what progress has been made concerning the gymnasium? This is my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, the matter of the gymnasium for the Hall Beach school has been discussed. I will have to take the question as notice and provide an answer as to the possible scheduling of construction of such a gymnasium.

MR. SPEAKER: Further written questions? Mr. Lyall and then Mr. Butters.

Question W7-63: Length Of Airstrip In Central Arctic

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this administration what, if any, progress has been made in asking the Ministry of Transport to try and lengthen the airports in the Central Arctic up to 5000 feet instead of the present 3000 feet.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, since the question involves more than one site we would like to take the question as notice and provide a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Question W8-63: Relief To NCPC Consumers

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, as the former minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development was unable to attain his objective of bringing some relief to the domestic and municipal recreation consumers of Northern Canada Power Commission power, will the administration continue to impress on the Hon. Hugh Faulkner the terrible and unprecedented shafting -- I imagine "shafting" is already acceptable, as it is used by some of the best people -- shafting that the Northwest Territories power consumers are currently getting at the hands of the federal government's Frankenstein monster, Northern Canada Power Commission?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think an answer is forthcoming, Mr. Butters. Mr. Fraser.

Question W9-63: Operation Of NTCL On Great Bear River.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, as came up in the Assembly before -- and it is quite a concern in the valley -- could the administration provide me with information as to the rumours of Northern Transportation Company Limited shutting down operations on the Fort Franklin and Fort Norman water transportation?

Return To Question W9-63: Operation Of NTCL On Great Bear River.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, there is a review being carried out right now of the problem of resupply of Great Bear Lake by NTCL and I can not forecast the outcome of it. I can only say that at the present rates the company is losing a very considerable amount of money operating into Great Bear Lake. However, I can not as yet say that the service will be discontinued. That decision will be made at the conclusion of the study and I would think before the next shipping season.

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

Question W10-63: CMHC's "CHIP" Program

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, since energy experts say one can reduce one's domestic fuel heating bill by 50 per cent if one insulates properly, what steps have been taken by the Government of the Northwest Territories to take advantage of this fact and to advise the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation that its recently instituted Canadian Home Insulation Program has little application in the Northwest Territories and is another example of federal government tokenism?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Return To Question W10-63: CMHC's "CHIP" Program

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, CMHC have advised that the CHIP program, the "CHIP" stands for something to do with insulation, is not really applicable in the Northwest Territories. However, we have not found cause to criticize that particular program because it was designed for locations where there are a predominance of older houses. This situation does not apply within the Northwest Territories. We are, though, through the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation embarking on a program, pardon me, hoping to embark on a program to assist people with additional insulation in their homes.

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

Question W11-63: Progress Report On Skill Testing

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, would the administration provide this week, if possible, a brief oral and a more detailed written report on progress being made in testing Northwest Territories students on their grasp of basic academic subjects being taught at all grade levels in the Northwest Territories school system?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: We will endeavour, Mr. Speaker, to provide this information before the session concludes.

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

Question W12-63: Legal Services In Central Arctic

MR. LYALL: I would like to ask this administration whether or not they are going to put court workers into the Central Arctic Communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps on that note I could undertake to take the question as notice and file a more comprehensive report.

MR. SPEAKER: Further questions?

Item 4, oral questions.

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 7, notices of motion. Hon. Dave Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 2-63: Transfer Of Health Services

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: I give notice, Mr. Speaker, that on Wednesday, the 19th of October, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE, I move that at a suitable time to be established by the Speaker, this House resolve itself into a committee of the whole to study the document entitled "National Health and Welfare Proposal for the Transfer of the Delivery of Health Services to the Northwest Territories Government".

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Notice Of Motion 3-63: Appearance Of Regional Director Of Resources Before The House

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, October the 19th, I shall move the following motion:

WHEREAS the regional director of resources of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has indicated his willingness to appear before this House;

NOW THEREFORE, I move (a) that an invitation be extended to him to appear before this House during this session; and (b) that the question of resource management in the Northwest Territories be considered in committee of the whole with the regional director of resources in attendance at an appropriate time during this session.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pearson.

Notice Of Motion 4-63: Increase In Welfare Rates In The Northwest Territories

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Wednesday, October 19th, I will move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Minister of Health and Social Services has emphatically refused to increase the rates paid to welfare recipients;

AND WHEREAS needy people throughout the Northwest Territories are suffering great hardship;

AND WHEREAS funds are available for an immediate increase;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly recommend to the administration that an increase be made immediately in the welfare rates.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pearson I should caution you that the motion as you have explained it could be out of order if it deals with spending. You will have to be careful to read it as a recommendation. Further notices of motion? Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion 5-63: Examination Of Northwest Territories Fiscal Priorities

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on October 19th, tomorrow morning, I would move the following motion:

WHEREAS the decision of the federal government to reject the Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Limited proposal to build a natural gas pipeline through the Mackenzie Valley has cast serious doubt on continuing meaningful economic, political and social development in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the territorial government budget we approved in January 1977 was a budget based on the expectation of the approval by the National Energy Board of this proposed pipeline;

AND WHEREAS the National Energy Board decision has had marked and irreversible effects on the economic and social communities of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS reports currently circulated suggest that the federal Treasury Board will be effecting serious cuts in moneys required and requested for expenditure in the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly convene in committee of the whole, as soon as possible, to examine territorial financial priorities in the light of the decision not to build a Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline.

MR. SPEAKER: Further notices of motion?

Item 9, motions.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

Motion 1-63, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Motion 1-63: Invitation To Metis Association

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker:

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: Moved by Hon. Dave Nickerson. Is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. Discussion? Hon. Dave Nickerson. Hon. Dave Nickerson declines discussion. Anyone else? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Do I understand there is no discussion on the motion today?

MR. SPEAKER: Not by the mover, Mr. Butters. You may wish to discuss it if you are so inclined.

Motion 1-63, Amended

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, sir, I do wish to discuss the motion. I do not know and I had hoped that the mover might have advised whether or not there has been any inclination on the part of the executive of the Metis Association to appear. If there has been, I would certainly very much welcome them to join with us and go over a matter which is in the interest of all people of the Northwest Territories. However, I do not know this. I do not know whether they have indicated their willingness to appear, but I would before I sit down move an amendment to this motion and that is that after the words "Metis Association of the Northwest Territories" I would like to add the words "and COPE" and, having made that amendment, I will sit down and speak to the amendment when it is called, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: In the second line of the motion after the words, "Northwest Territories" as I understand it Mr. Butters is moving the amendment which would add the words "and COPE". Is that correct?

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, sir, COPE stands for the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement.

MR. SPEAKER: The amendment moved by Mr. Butters. Is there a seconder to the amendment? Mr. Fraser. On the amendment, is there any discussion? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Just to inform the House, as the House already knows, that COPE has already placed its land claim before the federal government and, while the members of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, if my recollection is correct, Mr. John Amagoalik and Mr. James Arvaluk did appear before us. We had no representations from COPE and certainly I think an invitation should be extended to that organization as well similar to the one we are contemplating here extending to the Metis Association. I have been advised by the people in the executive of COPE that they would be interested and most willing to make a presentation before this House, sir.

Amendment Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion on the amendment? No, Mr. Butters, if I let you speak then you close the debate on the amendment. Is there further discussion on the amendment? Do you wish to close the debate on the amendment, Mr. Butters? No. I am going to call the question on the amendment and then we go back to complete discussion of the motion. Does everyone understand? On the amendment the question is being called which is to add the words "and COPE" in the second line. Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

Now, on the motion, further discussion? Hon. Dave Nickerson. Hon. Dave Nickerson speaks and he winds up the debate because it is his motion. Is there anyone who wants to speak before I let him speak? Hon. Dave Nickerson.

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: All I wish to add, Mr. Speaker, is an indication has been given to me that, were this invitation to be made, the Metis Association would be pleased to send someone.

Motion 1-63, Carried As Amended

MR. SPEAKER: Question. Question being called on the motion. All in favour? Down. Contrary? One contrary. The motion as amended is carried.

---Carried

Those are all of the motions for today.

Item 10, tabling of documents. Hon. Dave Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 5-63, "National Health and Welfare Proposal for the Transfer of the Delivery of Health Services to the Northwest Territories Government."

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further documents to be tabled?

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading. Bill 1-63, the Hon. Dave Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 11: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS FOR FIRST READING

First Reading Of Bill 1-63: Income Tax Ordinance

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 1-63, An Ordinance Respecting Income Tax, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Arnold McCallum. Question. The question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? First reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 2-63, the Hon. Peter Ernerk.

First Reading Of Bill 2-63: Wildlife Ordinance

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 2-63, An Ordinance Respecting Wildlife, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Pudluk. Question. Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? First reading is carried.

---Carried

First Reading Of Bill 4-63: Metric Conversion Ordinance, 1977.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Question. The question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? First reading is carried.

---Carried

Item 12, second reading of bills. Bill 1-63, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 12: SECOND READING OF BILLS

MR. BUTTERS: A point of order. Will the bills be read on the same day for second reading?

MR. SPEAKER: Rule 55(2) provides that they may be read and involves more than one step on the same day unless two Members indicate to the Chair that they oppose that happening. I went over this yesterday and indicated to Members that they would have to indicate to me whether they oppose two readings in one day. Do you oppose second reading, Mr. Butters?

MR. BUTTERS: I just wondered if there was any other business of the House that could be proceeded with, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing on the order paper. Presumably it is intended to get into committee of the whole to discuss these bills, particularly I think, the Income Tax Ordinance about which there are some advisers present. However, that is up to the House whether they want to do that. Are there any Members opposed to second reading of bills? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Sir, I am opposed to second reading of Bill 1-63.

MR. SPEAKER: He is opposed. Mr. Butters is opposed to second reading of Bill 1-63.

Second reading of bills. Bill 1-63, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Second Reading Of Bill 1-63: Income Tax Ordinance.

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 1-63, An Ordinance Respecting Income Tax be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill is to provide for the imposition and levy of a Northwest Territories income tax.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Peter Ernerk. Question? Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? One contrary.

---Carried

Second reading of Bill 1-63 is carried. Bill 2-63, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Second Reading Of Bill 2-63: Wildlife Ordinance.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 2-63, An Ordinance Respecting Wildlife, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for the management of wildlife in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Arnold McCallum. Discussion, Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: On a point of order I raise the same point that I raised on the previous bill, that I think the House should not proceed so quickly, but I do realize the House is ready and that it has the members of the Game Advisory Council here before us so I will not vote against the continued reading of this bill even though I think we are moving too fast.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not sure, Mr. Butters, how I should record your statement then. Are you opposed to second reading of Bill 2-63 or not?

MR. BUTTERS: No, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any other expression? Discussion? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I think that this is the time when we have an opportunity to speak to the principle of the bill. I think that we would be remiss if we did not use this opportunity because as Members have made it very clear that the Wildlife Ordinance is probably the most important ordinance that comes before this House. It is the one ordinance which I was going to say theoretically, but really it is the one responsibility that the Government of Canada has given to the territorial jurisdiction.

What I am attempting to say is I am in no way diminishing or demeaning the work of the Northwest Territories Game Advisory Council, but I would point out that the Northwest Territories Game Advisory Council was not created by this House. It was set up and created by our Commissioner, Commissioner Hodgson, who went to Fort Norman and as a result of negotiations with the Northwest Territories Metis Association said "Yes, there will be a Game Advisory Council," and there was a Game Advisory Council.

Advice From Hunters' And Trappers' Associations

The bodies that this House created to advise us, advise Members on game matters in the territories were the hunters' and trappers' associations, little groups of people who are actually practising in most cases and in many cases their livelihood or earning a large part of their livelihood from the land. It is this group of people, the hunters' and trappers' associations, which we funded many, many years ago, five or six years ago, a very measly sum, \$500 to organize and get together and discuss wildlife concerns. The existence of these bodies was certainly recognized by the Game Advisory Council for when hiring Mr. Bailey, they directed him to go and consult with all the associations and I believe he did this. I believe his report suggests that he did that same job of consultation and returned to them a study and suggested recommendations which carry very strongly in his words the feelings he heard from the members of the hunters' and trappers' associations.

Now, this ordinance that is before us today is the work of two years of the Northwest Territories Game Advisory Council. I think it is work that these men can be proud of because it is well put together and they have laboured long in doing the job. However, as we have heard in recent weeks the hunters' and trappers' associations and members of those associations have not had the advantage of meeting members of the Game Advisory Council to study these concerns and to make suggestions and to take time to amend the proposed ordinance. I think they will be the first to recognize that and I am quite sure they will be the first to express their shock and concern that it has taken so long for the work of their minds to get before the hunters' and trappers' associations and in this case the members of the hunters' and trappers' associations, because certainly they did their work in good time for this ordinance to be considered here. But we know as the Member from Foxe Basin has pointed out, people have not even seen it yet in some parts of the Northwest Territories. I think members of the Game Advisory Council are just as shocked as we are that there has been so little time to consider this most basic and most important ordinance.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Ordinance And Regulations Available To People

MR. BUTTERS: I would hope that people do not see from those Members who are suggesting the deferment that we are critical of the ordinance or critical of the work that has gone into it, we are not. I think we must compliment the game division under Mr. Simmons because to my knowledge this is the first time that the people of the territories have not only had available to them the ordinance in time but the regulations too. I think we can thank Mr. Simmons and the Game Advisory Council for ensuring that not only the ordinance but the regulations were placed in the hands of people, theoretically in good time for discussion and consideration. This is a real step ahead and I would suggest to any of the Departments this government that if you are contemplating introducing legislation, you emulate the game people and make darn sure that the legislation is in the hands of the people and the regulations are in the hands of the people with as much lead time as was given us theoretically in the case of this ordinance. I have been instructed to defer the passage of this bill. I have been instructed to pass it into second reading so that discussion can take place so that our time will not be wasted and your time will not be wasted, sir, nor the time of the members of the Game Advisory Council who have so kindly joined us on this occasion. So I will be voting to support the bill into second reading.

MR. SPEAKER: On the principle of the bill, is there further discussion?
Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Speaker, I would wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Butters in his recommendation and his commendations to the Game Advisory Council. I think that the ordinance itself is one which is very badly needed, but again if we are to carry out our responsibilities, as I think we should, then the people that we represent must be given an opportunity to be able to read the laws which we pass in this House. Because of many various circumstances to people in my constituency and I know in the Eastern Arctic, they have not had an opportunity to study the new proposed legislation because of the type of interpretation that was provided for them in their own language. It is not adequate and has caused tremendous concern and tremendous consternation on the part of the people that it mostly affects, the hunters and trappers. So I again will go along with Mr. Butters and support the bill into second reading but that is as far as I will go.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion on the principle? Mr. Whitford.

Chiefs And Councils Meeting In December.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have met with the chief and band council in my constituency and as well with hunters and trappers from my constituency and it is agreed that we proceed to discuss the bill, to hear what other Members of this Assembly have to say or how they feel about the Wildlife Ordinance. I would like to remind the House that we have got somewhere in the neighborhood of 12,000 people now in Yellowknife of which there are several numbers going out hunting by air. So what that means to us is that again this agony of accepting people going out hunting and killing caribou is going to shorten the herd. So, our concern and one of the main ones in this is that 12 hour waiting period in which that person has to go out and stay over 12 hours. That is just one of the concerns. We would like to proceed and discuss this again, as I say so that we all have an understanding of the Wildlife Ordinance, but at the same time we do not want to see it passed because we have asked to have a meeting with the rest of the chiefs and councils from other parts of our constituencies to discuss this Wildlife Ordinance further on December 27th, 28th, and 29th. So what I would like to see is the same as for the Education Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: On the principle, further discussion. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to commend the people who are responsible for the piece of legislation that has been brought before us, that has taken many, many years to develop and, contrary to many political statements and hearsay that is expressed that we hear, I think it is something that people themselves throughout the Northwest Territories have been involved in and, if they have not been, it is their own darned fault.

MR. PEARSON: Shame!

Illegal Hunting In South Mackenzie

MR. LAFFERTY: On one hand we have approximately 30,000 native people who are eligible hunters by law, they can hunt almost at will at any time and these people are rapidly increasing in numbers. Probably up in the Arctic areas, in the isolated communities you can not hunt from a highway or from these types of things or that type of hunting, but there are many of us in the south Mackenzie area where the heaviest population is concentrated, being bordered by two different provinces and another territory, which are easily accessible and from these points we have large numbers of people coming in hunting illegally that we can do nothing about.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, excuse me. Mr. Lafferty, we have to be careful to stick to the principle of the bill and not get into the detail.

MR. LAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am just merely trying to point out some of the faults that I see in our attempt to always delay, to always talk about responsible action whenever there is a bill before us. Many of us Members who are elected supposedly to take responsibility for decisions and simply because of political pressures that result, write home to our mothers and fathers and ask them to decide and bring back the message in the House. I think that is a mockery....

MR. PEARSON: Shame, shame!

MR. LAFFERTY: ...of the House. I think we spoke, each of us, and no doubt those we have not heard from will be making the same reply, that it is about time we became responsible. I think there is a lot of work involved in this ordinance. I do know myself that I have attended most of the hunters' and trappers' association meetings in my community and elsewhere, many of them. As a matter of fact, I was in Inuvik attending the Game Advisory Council meeting there last year in November, at the end of November.

Support For Ordinance

I have watched people participate, native people, and then I get another story from the very same people over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. This leads me to doubt that some of the comments coming forth against a further delay or against the ordinance, to even kill it, if possible, is not in the best interests of the northern native people. It is not in the best interests of preserving wildlife on which, in the future, 40,000 people perhaps will be dependent to some degree. Of course I am not speaking in defence of the ordinance but all I am pointing out is that there is a lot of good work being done here and in my constituency, contrary to expressions by a few individuals that you will probably hear. I have resolutions with me from the hunters' and trappers' association and individual persons I have been talking to. I have taken personally this ordinance to people who are in responsible positions for its distribution as early as June after our last session and, of course, there are changes that have been made and these I have made available or made known.

If the other Legislative Members fail to do this, that is their responsibility. I have been asked to support this ordinance and as much I would like to go with the wishes of the Assembly or the majority of the Members, the people that I owe my responsibility to are in the Mackenzie Liard district and they are seeking protection, something that we must have. Of course, I could sit here and debate and probably ask for changes and, with all due respect, I am in favour of the ordinance. Not that I agree with it entirely, but it is about time we had something by which we can protect our northern people and their food. Many do depend on wildlife to supplement the wages that they receive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there further discussion on the principle of the bill?
Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Input Of People Into Ordinances

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to set forth for the people who were speaking first, they have been working on this ordinance for a long time and also I believe they have been working very hard. Also sometimes what we all know, they have argued about the ordinance and also there are often mistakes. There are a majority of the people that we should consult about the thinking and further we have to think hard about the ordinance and also especially for the hunters. They should understand it. I am not saying that there should not be an ordinance for game. There should be a Wildlife Ordinance. The people should have more say on the ordinances that we make. The people should be more involved in the Baffin and Keewatin areas and know about them. They have not yet seen the ordinance. There are very few people who have that before them and for me I had this ordinance for five minutes and I do not fully understand the ordinance. I will have to read it more. I will go with a second reading of the ordinance but I do not want to pass it today because we should go back to our communities again and talk to the people more on it and we should understand it more and talk about it to the people who elected us. I think that we should not pass it right now.

If it should be passed, I think we would have the people from small communities come here and say "Why did you do this when we did not want it?" I care for my constituents. My constituents think that the matters that we talk about, something I disagreed with was passed, that ordinance was passed and my constituents did not like it at all. As for this ordinance, my constituents do not want it passed. I do not want it to pass. We could have second reading on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion on the principle of the bill? Mr. Steen.
People Ask For Delay

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, as you know, I am a man of few words, as you said. I will stick to that.

First of all, speaking on it, I would like to compliment the people who have been working on the ordinance for the past two years. They have done a tremendous job. I saw them in my constituency spending great hours working on the ordinance and knowing also that Mr. Frank Bailey went to every village in my constituency and discussed it with the local people. I think the people had quite a bit of input into the ordinance. In the past few days I was going around in my area and the general consensus at the time when I was going around the last week or so, they have asked me to delay the ordinance. In some communities it did not matter one way or the other. In other communities they wanted a one year delay. Some, they just wanted two months delay.

All they were asking me was that they did not have a chance. They were not hostile or anything; they just asked in a kind way "Let us have a look at it for a couple of months and maybe we will have some input." I am going to go along with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

Game Advisory Council Complimented

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to agree with Mr. Butters on complimenting the Game Advisory Council. I went through this ordinance a couple of times. However, my instructions were from constituents that they do not disagree with the ordinance. They are not against the proposed ordinance. All they want is a little more time to study it and possibly make changes where necessary. We went through the ordinance briefly in a legislation committee meeting. However, we did not make any changes. Most of the times there were only three of us present and we thought that any changes that could be made to the ordinance should be probably made in committee of the whole if it goes to committee of the whole. I have comments from four of the settlements in my constituency and some of the proposed changes that they would like to see in the Wildlife Ordinance. Whether these changes go through or not is up to the Assembly here. However, I will present the changes at the right time. Mr. Bailey was around to all the communities. I heard him getting a few pats on the back but in the settlements I have talked to, Mr. Bailey was more or less there on a visit because he knew the people in the community and he did not say too much about the Wildlife Ordinance. I have all of the minutes of the Game Advisory Council. I have taken the time to sit down and read through them. Some of the comments I thought were pretty good and some of the motions were okay, however, they themselves mentioned at one of their meetings that they were not there to make law, they were just there to advise. Therefore, if the ordinance does come before a committee of the whole it would be up to this House to then decide whether it would go through as law. Again I would like to say I think the Game Advisory Council has put a lot of work into it and they should be given a word of thanks.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Further comments on the bill? Question being called on the motion for second reading.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you having some difficulty, Mr. Whitford? We were discussing the principle of the bill as a result of the motion that it be given second reading and the motion has been made and seconded and now it is time, since we have had discussion, to call the question as to whether or not it gets second reading. Are we all clear on that? The question being called.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All in favour? Down. Contrary? Second reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 4-63, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Second Reading Of Bill 4-63: Metric Conversion Ordinance, 1977

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 4-63, An Ordinance to Facilitate Conversion to the Metric System of Measurement, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide by enacting certain new legislation and by amending certain existing legislation for the transition from existing standards of measurement to the metric system. The attainment of this end is in line with federal policies and all the provinces and the Yukon Territory have enacted or indicated their intention to enact corresponding legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Dave Nickerson. Discussion?
Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, this bill requires the expenditure of money. This change to the metric system requires the expenditure of money and it requires the expenditure of money by the Government of the Northwest Territories and I imagine it will require an expenditure of money by the municipalities in the Northwest Territories. Is it the intention of the mover, the Honourable Minister of Local Government, to ensure the expenditure at the municipal level will be borne by the territorial and federal governments?

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Before Hon. Arnold McCallum answers that question, since as he is the mover of the motion he would close the debate, are there any other Members who wish to speak on the principle of this bill? That being so do you wish to close the debate, Hon. Arnold McCallum?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I think that the bill simply, as I have indicated is a simple conversion to existing legislation. I think there are 19 various ordinances that will be affected by making certain particular changes in areas of measurement, weight, distance. We have had representation by various municipalities and I think by the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities to consider this added expense of conversion to the metric system. We have not determined finally whether or not we are going to assist in payment or in fact to look after the total cost of this conversion. I can not indicate anything else other than that at the present time, Mr. Speaker, to the Member or Members, other than to say we have had representations to assist in the cost of the conversion and in fact in some cases to provide the money outright. I think that the paper or the bill itself will simply change existing ordinances, a few clauses in various of the ordinances will change, miles will change to kilometres and various things such as that.

MR. SPEAKER: Question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The question.

MR. SPEAKER: The debate is closed on that issue. The question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Second reading is carried.

---Carried

As the hour is just past 4:00 o'clock p.m., it is coffee time. This House stands recessed for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, the Chair recognizes a quorum. Item 13, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and recommendations to the Legislature, information items and other matters.

ITEM NO. 13: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE, INFORMATION ITEMS AND OTHER MATTERS

This House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of bills. What is the wish of the Executive? What bill first?
Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, Bill 1-63, the Income Tax Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser, the chairman of committees is not here and you are deputy chairman. Would you be so kind as to chair the committee of the whole for Bill 1-63?

MR. FRASER: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: This House will resolve into committee of the whole to consider Bill 1-63, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

--- Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 1-63, Income Tax Ordinance, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-63, INCOME TAX ORDINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Bill 1-63, An Ordinance Respecting Income Tax and the purpose of this bill is to provide for the imposition and levy of the Northwest Territories income tax. Hon. Dave Nickerson, I understand we have some gentlemen from out of town. Would you like to introduce them and have them come up as witnesses seeing this is your bill?

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, the way that I had proposed to do this was first of all to give a brief introduction to the Income Tax Ordinance and then after that maybe the expert witnesses could be invited by the committee to come forward. The expert witnesses are to be Mr. Eric Nielsen, the director of finance for the Government of the Northwest Territories and Mr. Bob Pilling. We are also fortunate enough to have here as advisers to the advisers Mr. Bob D'Aurelio and Mr. Bruce Muir of the Department of National Revenue and also at the back of the room we have Mr. Real Savreau of the Department of Finance. If I might proceed with some brief introductory remarks, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Yes, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Introduction To Bill

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, this Income Tax Ordinance is legislation that this House has asked for itself. The impetus came from this body and not from the administration. At the 56th session, which I think was the second session of the present Legislature, a motion was moved asking the administration to enter into discussions with the Department of Finance and other agencies of the federal government to try and find out a method whereby we could institute our own income tax.

In May 1976 a recommendation to the Legislature was tabled and this, I believe, received unanimous approval from this body. I think and you will see this in the Carrothers Report and it is one of his postulates, that a government must have a revenue base or sufficient powers of taxation for the purpose or in order to finance those things that the government has to do. This is difficult in the provinces of Canada at the present time and is especially difficult in the Northwest Territories. The territories have jurisdiction over those areas which entail the expenditure of funds -- responsibilities such as education, health and social services. If we are to have the funds to finance these it means eventually that we will have to enter into some form of revenue sharing -- resource revenue sharing with the federal government. Otherwise we just will never be able to generate those funds which we need in order to provide these services to the public.

Provincial-type Status

In the meantime I think we have to go for every source of revenue that we possibly can and of course income tax is one form of revenue which we are quite capable of imposing on ourselves and I think that it is something that we should do. This would be, in my opinion, a step towards greater provincial-type status. All the provinces enact their own income tax legislation and we and the Yukon are the only jurisdictions in Canada which do not. It will not be particularly easy for us to accept this responsibility. This Legislature will be charged then with the responsibility of assessing rates and we will have to answer to the public for the rates that we levy. This in my opinion is the way it should be. There has to be a balance, Mr. Chairman, between the demand for public services and what the taxpayers are prepared to pay, both at the territorial level and at the municipal level. In the Northwest Territories the elected representatives of the people at the present point in time are not obliged to go to those people to raise revenue, so what happens is that ourselves and municipal councils are forever and ever demanding more and more services and more and more money from the senior governments and we do not have that responsibility on us to raise taxes locally.

The enactment of our own taxation legislation would give us some flexibility. It is not proposed at this point in time to tinker around with taxation policy, but over the years we could develop a system of tailoring tax policy to suit local needs. If this ordinance is enacted we estimate it will bring in about \$27.5 million in discretionary income. This means that we will be able to do with this money more or less what we want to, rather than having the federal government dictate to us how the money is to be spent, although of course because they will still be giving us a sizeable deficit grant, they will still maintain some measure of control.

Tax Assessment.

I have never liked the concept of a grant in lieu of taxes which comes in very much the same form as a handout, especially when we are empowered by the Northwest Territories Act to levy our own taxation. I think at this point in time I should point out as far as the individual taxpayer of the Northwest Territories is concerned it will make no difference to the amount of tax that he will have to pay. What will be happening is that instead of paying the present federal surtax which amounts to 30 per cent of basic federal tax, he will be paying this 30 per cent to the territorial government in the form of a territorial income tax.

I would also like to point out that there is a certain gentlemen's agreement that we will not fool around with this rate for at least one year. We will not increase it or decrease it for one taxation year. Of course, after that year has expired, should we feel it necessary, we would be in a position to increase the levy of territorial tax. We could assess a higher rate. Were we to do this, we would have to accept the consequences if this is not what the people of the Northwest Territories wanted. I was saying, Mr. Chairman, that it would be left up to us to assess what rate of taxation we thought would be both sufficient for the purpose of delivering those services the public demanded and at the same time keeping that level of taxation within what the public can be expected to afford to pay. If we made the wrong decisions, we would suffer at the next ballot for the error of our ways.

Taxation Legislation.

Taxation legislation, Mr. Chairman, tends to be very complicated. There is not very much we can do about this. The draft bill that you have before you was prepared by the federal Department of Finance, I believe, and is very much modelled on the Alberta act. There is not too much we can do to change it from its present form. We have to maintain the compatibility with the federal legislation and we would not want to get too far out of line with the existing provincial legislation. Because of the complicated nature of the bill, I recommend to you the summary which has been prepared I think by our legal services department which tries to explain what the bill says in fairly easy language and it only takes up three or four pages.

That, Mr. Chairman, is my introduction. If it is the wish of this committee, which you could perhaps ascertain, perhaps then Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Pilling would like to come forward as witnesses.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Hon. Dave Nickerson. Before I ask the House for permission for the witnesses to come forward I would like to maybe call on Mr. Lyall as chairman of the legislation committee, if he has any comments.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on legislation did not carry out clause by clause study of the Income Tax Ordinance because it was the committee's understanding that this legislation developed by the federal government will be required, if there is to be a territorial income tax, that this House would be virtually unable to change it. The committee supporting the idea of a territorial tax, therefore, recommended acceptance of the bill as presented.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Lyall. I recognize Mr. Pearson. Before I call on Mr. Pearson, I would like to get the feelings of the House, whether they would like to call the witnesses to the witness table, or do you just want to proceed with the ordinance?

---Agreed

I think I got enough "agrees". Hon. Dave Nickerson, would you like to call the witnesses? Are your mikes working okay? Would you like to introduce yourselves to the House?

MR. NIELSEN: Eric Nielsen, director of finance.

MR. PILLING: Bob Pilling, territorial treasurer.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I beg your pardon, I did not get that.

MR. PILLING: Bob Pilling, territorial treasurer.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you very much. Mr. Pearson.

Lack Of Control Over Spending

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any questions of the witnesses at the moment. I just want to make a comment in response to the Hon. Dave Nickerson's comments. On one hand a few moments ago he emphatically refused an increase in welfare rates and on the other hand is now advocating taxation. It is kind of a conflict I think but what bothers me with this particular legislation, and it was pointed out again to me as it often is, by the Speaker, that this Assembly may not make motions or instructions or directions to the government to spend money. We may not do that. We do not have any financial jurisdiction. We can only make recommendations. Hon. Dave Nickerson would lead me to believe that when taxation comes into being in the Northwest Territories we suddenly have, I think, a figure of \$25 million to fool around with. Well, we do not have any money. We do not have any control or any responsibility over funds. We can not spend this money.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PEARSON: Because the federal government refuses to give us the responsibility. I put it to you, my friends, that we should make a deal with the feds, if they would like to introduce a territorial tax, then we will go along with it if they give us some jurisdiction over the spending of those funds. Until they do that I am certainly not prepared to support this Income Tax Ordinance.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Pearson. Before we go into the bill, it is more in line that we have comments of a general nature. Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Increasing Welfare

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: I would like to reply very briefly to some of the comments made by the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Frobisher Bay. If this type of legislation were to be enacted and if Mr. Pearson was able to persuade his colleagues on this Legislative Assembly that we should give every welfare recipient \$1000 a month, then we would probably be able to do that by the method of increasing the amounts of taxation we levied on those people in the Northwest Territories who are earning an income. Now, the question which Mr. Pearson would then face would be at the polls the next time he ran for public office. If everybody in Frobisher Bay was paying 97 per cent of their income in taxes to finance his elaborate welfare scheme then perhaps they would think twice before they marked their "X" against his name on the ballot and that is what I understand by responsible government where people, legislators such as ourselves, have to answer to the citizens for the amount of money we take from them in the form of taxation to spend on other projects, be they worthwhile or not.

Now, \$27.5 million, Mr. Chairman, might sound like a lot of money and indeed it is, but in comparison with the territorial budget it is only about one tenth so we are still very largely dependent, even if this goes through, upon the largesse of the federal government and upon subsidies by southern taxpayers, so in all honesty we can not expect to be completely independent from the federal government if they have to support us with such large amounts of financial assistance.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. Is it the wish of the House that we report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come to order.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 1-63, Income Tax Ordinance

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Bill 1-63, the Income Tax Ordinance, and would like to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the wish of the House that we recognize the clock, as being 5:30 o'clock p.m.?

---Agreed

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, October 19, 1977, 9:00 o'clock a.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to the 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. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature, Information Items and Other Matters
12. Matters Relating to the Metis Association and COPE Land Claims
13. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This Legislative Assembly stands adjourned until 9:00 o'clock a.m., October 19, 1977, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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