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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

64th Session

8th Assembly

Official Report



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1978

Pages 879 to 950

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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Assent to Bills:

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1978

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

ITEM NO. 2: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

SPEAKER (Hon. David Searle): Item 2, questions and returns. Written questions. Mr. Nickerson.

Question W56-64: Appointment To Executive Committee

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, when will the Commissioner confirm the appointment to the Executive Committee of the person recommended by this House and when will he assign a particular portfolio to that person?

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Return To Question W56-64: Appointment To Executive Committee

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, the matter has been considered by the Commissioner and I am confident that he will make that announcement and give that confirmation tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Further written questions?

Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 057-64: Transportation For Members

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question. When we finish this session I would like to know if Mr. Evaluarjuk and I would be going straight to Frobisher Bay because it is very tiring going through southern...

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Return To Question 057-64: Transportation For Members

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, when the Honourable Members of this Legislature have made the decision to conclude their business then the administration will make the very best possible arrangements for the return of the Member and Mr. Evaluarjuk to their homes.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further questions?

Item 4, petitions.

Item 5, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 6, notices of motion.

Item 7, motions for the production of papers.

Item 8, motions. There are no motions in the book.

Item 9, tabling of documents. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

ITEM NO. 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 24-64, a short reply concerning Mr. Brian Davies, the executive director of International Fund for Animal Welfare. He simply indicated that Mr. Davies will return from United Kingdom sometime in April. He suggested if the Assembly is willing to arrange a meeting to discuss the position, meaning the sealskins, he will be most willing to participate, and this is signed by J.D. Nye, International Fund for Animal Welfare.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I may have the House's approval to go to notices of motion, agenda Item 6.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent required to return to Item 6, notices of motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

ITEM NO. 6: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 17-64: Appointments To N.W.T. Water Board

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would give notice that on Tuesday, February 14th, I will introduce the following motion:

WHEREAS there are at present a number of vacancies on the Northwest Territories Water Board;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the following persons be recommended by the Commissioner in Council to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for appointment to the Northwest Territories Water Board: Mr. G. Warner of Yellowknife; Mr. F. Hansen of Inuvik; Mr. D.P. Mersereau of Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Item 10, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters. I assume it is the wish of the Executive to finish Bill 11-64, is it?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will resolve into committee of the whole for continued consideration of Bill 11-64, Appropriation Ordinance.

ITEM NO. 10: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Lyall, were you in the chair on that? Do you want to continue?

MR. LYALL: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: With Mr. Lyall in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 11-64, Appropriation Ordinance, 1978-79, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 11-64, APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1978-79

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): This committee will come to order. I will direct your attention to page 1.01, Executive. Comments of a general nature? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Before commencing on this particular activity Mr. Chairman, I wonder if you might permit me on a point of privilege to point out to the administration that, according to my records, there are four unanswered questions dealing with this particular bill. Questions to which I and quite possibly the other Members of this House would like answers prior to the passage of this particular document.

This first one, of course, concerns involvement of any of the officials of the Government of the Northwest Territories in the caribou -- the involvement in the shipment of caribou from the Northwest Territories to Montreal to Hon. Warren Allmand's banquet there. The second question was actually promised by the Commissioner, to report on steps made at Fort Franklin towards the legitimation of the situation there with respect to the local government situation. The third one concerns the expenditure of funds made on behalf of the Government of Canada by the Government of the Northwest Territories in respect of the Yellowknife bilingual program and the administration promised to tell us what the Yellowknife bilingual program was. The fourth question yet remaining unanswered deals with the rationale behind contributions made by this government to the Credit Union Central.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I am indebted to the Member for reminding us of those questions. They indeed have not been answered and I will seek the answers. It may well be tomorrow before I have them all. There were two of them, I must admit, that I had missed during the debate. Two of them I knew about.

Department Of The Executive

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I direct your attention to page 1.01. Comments of a general nature. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have two questions concerning matters in general with which the Executive are involved. I see in the text before the dollar summary, references to the meaningful role in land claims negotiations now being played by the Executive of the Government of the Northwest Territories. I think it would be very useful if we could have on the public record exactly what this meaningful role is and what is the involvement of the Government of the Northwest Territories in these very important matters.

Role Of Government Of N.W.T. In Land Claims Negotiations

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, our role in land claims negotiations has not been an easy one to define because we have been invited to attend some of the negotiations and we have not been invited to attend perhaps some of the others. What we have done is, in order to maintain a continuity at all land claims discussions involving the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories and the Metis Association, we have assigned a primary responsibility to Assistant Commissioner Mullins and he has attended each of the meetings where the Minister or the Minister's senior people have been present.

With regard to the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada claim and to the COPE, Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement negotiations, we have played a particularly meaningful role in the latter. We were represented at the COPE negotiations by Mr. Murray Smith and Mr. Ray Creery and at all times their reporting relationship was directly to the Commissioner and to the Executive Committee. We have maintained files of complete material on all aspects of the negotiations. It is my view and I think it is the view of the Executive that we must make our roles even more firm and take a strong position of attending all meetings and simply making ourselves part of that negotiation process.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: That concludes the questions I had on the matter of our role in land claims negotiations. I do not know if anybody else wanted to speak on that particular subject, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Any comments of a general nature? Mr. Nickerson.

Decentralization And Devolution

MR. NICKERSON: If not, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make one or two comments appertaining to the decentralization process. It appears there seems to be some difference in what is meant by decentralization, when the same term is used by Members of the Legislature and by members of the government. Now we are talking of decentralization, not necessarily of the process of devolution which we would like to see go on concurrently. But it seems that many Members of the Legislature support decentralization because they look upon it in two things: One, is to share the wealth and to move outside of Yellowknife those activities of the government which can equally well be carried on from other places. I think Mr. Stewart has spoken strongly in this regard on several occasions as have the other Members from particularly, the Mackenzie Valley which is in such poor economic straits at the present time.

That would be the main reason why decentralization seems to be supported by the Members of the Legislature. On the other hand I see that the Executive might have something different in mind. They are talking more about a process of having budgets finalized, for instance, at the regional levels rather than at headquarters. It seems that their idea of decentralization is to delegate to the regions more responsibility for Executive matters. Now this could have a twofold effect, I guess. First of all, it could cut off the local communities from Yellowknife, from the seat of authority and particularly cut them off from having political input into the decisions of the government.

I could imagine people on the Arctic coast for instance, would not be too pleased in having to go through Fort Smith for every conceivable thing and have Fort Smith tell them how many dollars they can get for this and that. I think that they would rather operate through Yellowknife. So I have some queries as to how this process of decentralization is actually seen by the Executive.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Administration's Conception Of Decentralization

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the conception that the administration has of decentralization is one that calls for the decentralizing from headquarters to places that are closer to the action, that is closer to the point where decisions should be made and at the present time we see that as a decentralization to our regional offices. There will be and is a further decentralization from those very regional offices into the communities. This has all come about with the growing capability in the area of local government which is being demonstrated by people through their work in hamlet councils, town, village and settlement councils.

We believe that for the communities on Baffin Island for instance, there are all sorts of things for which they should look to their regional officers in Frobisher Bay for decision. It is our understanding and belief that if the Frobisher regional office is properly staffed for the job, then they can give a much more rapid and a much more understanding response to the requirements of the communities of their region than can be given from Yellowknife.

Now I understand what Mr. Nickerson is saying about the possibility that this could water down the policy-making direction which must come from the Executive Committee and in particular the elected Members on that Executive Committee. This certainly is not the intention and I think we would guard against that happening. It is a matter of defining which decisions are non-policy and which decisions are policy-making and the role that would be assigned to the regions would be in operational areas, that is conducting programs under policies already set by headquarters.

Moving Of Departments To Depressed Areas

With regard to the requests that have been made for decentralization of the government which would consist of actually moving departments or headquarters elements of departments to other places to continue to act as headquarters units, this was not an aspect of decentralization that we had considered previously. A motion has been passed in this committee that such an action be considered and that a report be prepared for the May session and of course the administration will be pleased to comply with that request and so it is not proper for me to prejudge the results of such a study.

I suppose one statement that can be made, though, is that there are certain headquarters' functions that are in headquarters by definition and that they must be made as efficiently as possible by people who have very close contact with each other. I would not go beyond that in making any judgment of the review because we will conduct a proper review and it will be placed before this House.

I would like to add one thing and that is the reference to the people of the Central Arctic who may not wish to relinquish whatever ties they may have with Yellowknife in favour of stronger ties with the regional headquarters in Fort Smith. In fact their ties are with Fort Smith now and we have a major review under way to determine whether that is appropriate and if it is not appropriate, as to what measures we as administration should take to provide for a better and closer to home administration in the Central Arctic.

Again, it would be inappropriate of me to give any indication of the direction that the results of that review will take because we simply have not moved that far. But I am pretty confident that we will be coming up with something that will be very helpful to the people of the Central Arctic before the summer.

Grants And Contributions

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Deputy Commissioner Parker. Mr. Nickerson, comments of a general nature, page 1.01. I direct your attention to page 1.08, detail of grants and contributions, Department of the Executive. Total grants, \$258,000. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Of this \$258,000, Mr. Chairman, how much is committed at the present time and by that I mean how much is earmarked for specific grants to certain organizations and how much just constitutes parts of the Commissioner's slush fund which he may give to people who make application during the course of the year?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I would think that somewhere in the neighbourhood of 50 per cent and perhaps even a little more than that, of this total amount of money consists of grants that go to organizations that receive assistance on a continuing basis. People such as the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides, Mine Safety Association and so on.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, grants to organizations in the North are increasing and since there is going to be an increasing demand for this kind of government expenditure I would like to know what type of control is being put on the grants that are going out to organizations? I ask this question although I am of the opinion and knowledge that you can not control grants, I suppose. I do not think there is accountability for grants. I would like to have it in the public record, what is the government doing to control this type of expenditure?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Control Of Grants And Contributions

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, first of all the grants from this vote are only made on the Commissioner's approval. Very often they are brought to the Executive Committee and then advice is given but the final decision is made by the Commissioner and in that way there is a high level of control against this money being frittered away or misused. Secondly, for those organizations seeking a grant, we make a very careful review of their requirements and their past history including their use of past grants and whether in fact we have evidence that the grants were used for the purposes intended and if we find evidence that they were not then, of course, the grant is not repeated. It is true that a grant carries with it less of a responsibility to report back than does a contribution. A contribution carries with it a responsibility for certain conditions to be accepted along with the acceptance of the money. I think that our review of grants is adequate to the task.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if an explanation could be had of why under this particular item, grants to organizations, why it is shown as O and M? Why is it presented in this manner, differently than all the rest of the grants?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: First of all I want to assure you that we are not going to spend the money twice. It is shown in here on page 1.06 and on page 1.08. We are only seeking one spending authority of course and it is shown in here as an O and M item because it is, in fact an activity under the spending structure.

Explanation Of Grants As Shown In Estimates

In the case of the other grants that have been studied, and somebody will correct me if I am wrong, but I do not think I am, when we detail the grants on the "grant" page we are really not seeking spending authority; those grants are also included under individual allotments or individual activities. They are shown delineated on the grants page because we feel that it is important that the Members see where grants are actually made and that grant money is specifically defined. The actual spending authority for the grant money is contained within the vote of the individual activities under operations and maintenance.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Deputy Commissioner Parker. Mr. Stewart would you like to follow up on that?

MR. STEWART: Well, I started off confused, now I am worse than I was to start with, so possibly I can get together with the Deputy Commissioner and find out why I -- I can not understand why, if it is done this way here why it is not done the same way all the way through, and this is the only one I have seen done this way.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I think I can correct, or I think I can inform the Member there. In each case, the grants page that has been examined is for information only because the grant money is actually included under the other O and M activities but we have detailed it for information because we think that is an important thing to do. In the case of the Executive, grants to organizations actually form an activity all by themselves whereas in other departments the grants simply form a part of one of the other O and M activities.

In other words under the tourism activity for instance, there are certain grants included there but it is not a separate activity under the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Stewart, are you satisfied?

MR. STEWART: No, Mr. Chairman, but I will get down to the bottom of this sooner or later with the Deputy Commissioner.

Grants And Contributions - Total Grants, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Comments of a general nature, under page 1.08, grants to organizations. Total grants, \$258,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Grants And Contributions - Total Contributions, Agreed

Contributions, total contributions, \$12,317,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital - Total Executive Office, Agreed

I direct your attention to page 1.09, Department of the Executive, Executive office, total Executive office, \$4000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital - Regional Administration, Agreed

Regional administration, \$16,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Capital - N.W.T. Housing Corporation, Agreed

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, total grants, \$5,900,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M, Executive Offices

I direct your attention to page 1.02, total O and M, Executive offices, \$1,985,000. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I believe this is the activity under which those moneys appear which are made available to Members of the Executive Committee for purposes such as entertaining dignitaries, that type of thing, throwing wild orgies or whatever else they do with that money. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if we can be advised as we were last year, as to how much money is allocated to each Member of the Executive for this particular purpose and how much of that allocation did they actually spend.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Well Mr. Chairman the year is not finished yet. I can answer for the amount that is allocated. I could give the figure spent to date but I think it would be meaningless. There are very few who do not spend all of their allocation, could I put it that way?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson, do you want to pursue that?

MR. NICKERSON: I would like to see the figures and compare them with the previous years figures to see whether there has been a major increase or not but apart from that I would be satisfied.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker, did you get that? He would like to see the figures compared to other years.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, you mean on the allocation or the spending?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Allocation.

MR. NICKERSON: Allocation.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: The allocation has not changed for two or three years. The Commissioner can draw \$4000, I can draw \$2000, the Assistant Commissioner, \$1500 and directors, \$750 each.

MR. NICKERSON: What about the elected Members of the Executive?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: The elected Executive Members, \$750 each also.

Total 0 And M - Executive Offices, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Comments of a general nature. I direct your attention again to page 1.02, \$1,985,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total 0 And M - Regional Administration, Agreed

Page 1.03, \$1,875,000, regional administration. Agreed?

---Agreed

Page 1.04, \$1,173,000 for Clerk of the Council. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, I have no objections to what they are discussing so far. However, I would like to state things that are on my mind concerning -- if my colleagues do not agree with my statements it will not matter with me.

However we should look into the future. If there are going to be Members who will not be able to speak in English, sometimes we will be requiring the interpreters. What I have in mind now is that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories when we are going to have our session in January, May and October, I think that the interpreters and translators should be -- I wonder if you could allocate some money to the interpreters and translators from the Clerk of the Council's funding so that there will be some source of money. They will have to translate for the Legislature's sessional purposes and I am wondering if there is a possibility of them getting pay from the Clerk of the Council. They should be paid slightly higher than what they are getting now because they are somewhat pressed to do extra work during the Assembly session. So I am wondering if there is a possibility of that.

Pay For The Interpreter-Translator Corps

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I do not know but the Interpreter-Translator Corps gets paid through the Department of Information. Deputy Commissioner Parker, would you like to comment on that please?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I think that it would be appropriate for this committee or the caucus to discuss this matter and raise it with the administration. I think that we would look very favourably on providing extra money for those Members who require interpreters in their constituencies if this was a recommendation of the committee.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Evaluarjuk, did you get that? The way I understood the question, Deputy Commissioner Parker, was that this Interpreter-Translator Corps should be getting a bit of extra money while we are having a session because of the fact that they are pressed a little bit more. That is what I understood the question to be.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I got it a bit wrong. Well that is something that we would have to look at. I would certainly be glad to examine that proposal and see whether or not we can support it. I do not really know too much about the conditions at the present time including the pay conditions but we would be glad to have it reviewed.

Total 0 And M - Clerk Of The Council, Agreed

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Agreed? Okay, I direct your attention to page 1.04, Clerk of the Council, \$1,173,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M - Audit Bureau, Agreed

Audit bureau, page 1.05, total O and M, \$569,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M - Grants To Organizations, Agreed

Page 1.06, grants to organizations, \$258,000. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: No comment, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Page 1.06, \$258,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total O And M - Executive, Agreed

I direct your attention to page 1.01, total O and M, Executive, \$18,167,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Total Capital - Executive, Agreed

Total capital, \$5,920,000. Agreed?

---Agreed

Take your binder and you will find Bill 11-64. Deputy Commissioner Parker, would you tell us what amount should be put on clause 2?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, \$268,725,000.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The figure, gentlemen, is \$268,725,000. Is it the wish of this House that we go clause by clause? Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 2, amount granted for 1978-79. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 3, purpose and effect of each item. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 4, lapsing of appropriations. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 5, transfer of moneys and accountable advances. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 1, short title. Agreed?

---Agreed

Bill as a whole. Agreed?

---Agreed

The bill is now ready for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 11-64, Appropriation Ordinance, 1978-79

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, your committee has concluded Bill 11-64 and it is now ready for third reading with all the motions that have been put into the record as we went along. If you wish to read out all the motions, the motions are with the Clerk.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that we can read them in as we go or I think we can save them all until the end and do it. I do not think there is any point in doing both and since you read them in as you went I think that that is the way we should leave it. What is the wish of the Executive now, Hon. Arnold McCallum?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, could we now move to the Bill 14-64, Financial Agreement Ordinance? And I think that the other two Bills 15-64 and 16-64 deal, or are in the same light, if we could go into committee of the whole to discuss those three particular ordinances.

MR. SPEAKER: Does anyone see any objection to us putting the three bills into committee at the same time? They are all of a financial nature.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, this House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Bills 14-64, 15-64 and 16-64. Mr. Stewart, do you want to take the chair for this?

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lyall has requested to go ahead with it. I have no objections.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Mr. Lyall in the chair.

--- Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 14-64: Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1978; Bill 15-64: Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1978-79 and Bill 16-64: Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance No. 1, 1978, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 14-64: FINANCIAL AGREEMENT ORDINANCE, 1978; BILL 15-64: LOAN AUTHORIZATION ORDINANCE NO. 1, 1978-79 AND BILL 16-64: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HOUSING CORPORATION LOAN ORDINANCE NO. 1, 1978

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): This committee will come to order. Bill 14-64, this House, this committee will come to order. Bill 14-64, An Ordinance Respecting a Financial Agreement Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. Comments of a general nature? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I am very pleased with this bill. Mr. Chairman the offensive clauses to which I took so much offence in previous years I see have been omitted and I will now fully support this bill. One thing that I think might be useful, Mr. Chairman, would be if the administration could make available copies of the agreement so that we would have the opportunity to see what such an agreement looks like. I would not hold up our discussion of the bill for that but perhaps they could undertake either to present us with a copy of this years agreement or last years agreement so that we know what it says.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Comments of a general nature? Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we will be glad to make copies available. Would each Member like a copy or not? Just as you wish. I would

propose we would make a copy available of the existing financial agreement, the one now in force for the current year.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Agreed.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: You know we are satisfied to copy it for everyone but if everyone is not interested then we will just make a limited number of copies.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Could then those people wishing to obtain a copy of the existing agreement see Deputy Commissioner Parker at 2:30 p.m.? Agreed?

---Agreed

Comments of a general nature? Shall we go clause by clause, then?

---Agreed

Clause 2, definitions. Agreed?

---Agreed

Can I hear more agrees, please?

Clause 3, Commissioner may execute agreement. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 4, additional provisions of agreement. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 5, variation and amendment. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 6, ratification. Agreed?

---Agreed

Part II, General, clause 7, Commissioner may implement agreement. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 8, no borrowing after March 31st, 1979. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 1, short title on page one. Agreed?

---Agreed

Bill as a whole. Agreed?

---Agreed

Shall I report this for third reading, then? Agreed?

---Agreed

I direct your attention to Bill 15-64, An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds from the Government of Canada and Make Loans to Persons in the Northwest Territories During the Fiscal Year 1978-79. Comments of a general nature? Clause by clause then? Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 2, authority to borrow from Canada. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 3, Commissioner may execute agreement. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 4, authorization to make loans. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 5, conditions of loans. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 6, guarantee. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 7, power to implement obligations and rights. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 8, regulations. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 1, short title. Agreed?

---Agreed

Bill as a whole. Agreed?

---Agreed

Shall I report this for third reading after we have finished the other bill?
Agreed?

---Agreed

Your attention to Bill 16-64, An Ordinance to Authorize the Northwest
Territories Housing Corporation to Borrow Funds. Comments of a general nature?
So we go by clause by clause.

Clause 2, definition. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 3, corporation may borrow from CMHC. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 4, agreement as to repayment of principal and interest. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 1, short title. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Referring to the SCHEDULE Mr. Chairman, these various loans are
made pursuant to different sections of the National Housing Act. I wonder if
we could be advised what is the front-end money that the Housing Corporation
has to put up with respect to section 43, section 15 and section 42 loans.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman the corporation puts up ten per cent
of the total loan for section 43 and I am afraid I will have to get an answer
on the other two. I have a notion that we do not put up any but I will have
to look that up and report back to you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson, are you finished?

MR. NICKERSON: I have no further questions regarding the SCHEDULE, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The SCHEDULE. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 1, short title. Agreed?

---Agreed

Bill as a whole. Agreed?

---Agreed

Report for third reading, these three bills. Agreed?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 14-64: Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1978; Bill 15-64: Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1978-79 and Bill 16-64: Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance No. 1, 1978

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 14-64, 15-64 and 16-64 and they are now ready for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like now to go to Bills 4-64 and 6-64, Nursing Profession Ordinance and Corrections Ordinance. There are two amendments to existing pieces of legislation and again I wonder, since we are dealing in effect with the same department if we could deal with both of these at the same time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: This House will resolve into committee of the whole for your consideration of Bill 4-64, Nursing Profession Ordinance and Bill 6-64, Corrections Ordinance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 4-64, Nursing Profession Ordinance, and Bill 6-64, Corrections Ordinance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 4-64, NURSING PROFESSION ORDINANCE, AND BILL 6-64, CORRECTIONS ORDINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Bill 4-64, An Ordinance to Amend the Nursing Profession Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, there are very few clauses to the amendment. Basically the bill will provide temporary certificates of exemption from registration that will allow nurses or people to work as nurses in the months or during that time before they write their registered nurses' examinations and it in effect changes the date of annual registration in the territories. This has been brought about, Mr. Chairman, by the fact that there are hospitals who have indicated they do run into difficulty in this regard concerning people who have taken their registered nurses' courses but for some reason or other they can not under existing legislation work as a registered nurse until they have formally written their examinations and all we are asking here is to allow them to do this on a temporary or interim, for an interim period and then of course, when the student or when that person does write his or her registered nurses' examinations we would change the date on which the registration is made.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Any comments of a general nature? Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: I have been advised, Mr. Chairman, that the Northwest Territories Hospital Association supports this legislation.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Comments of a general nature? Shall we go clause by clause then? Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 1, Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 2, temporary certificate of exemption. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 3. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 4. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 5. Agreed?

---Agreed

The bill as a whole. Agreed?

---Agreed

Shall I report this for third reading? Agreed?

---Agreed

I direct your attention to Bill 6-64, An Ordinance to Amend the Corrections Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman this again is an amendment to the present Corrections Ordinance which will bring it into conformity with the Prisons and Reformatories Act, Canada, that was amended in August of this year. There are as well references in our present legislation to the department of social development and since the department of the territories is now designated as the Department of Health and Social Services, these amendments or corrections had to be made as well. Again there were not that many proposed clauses to the amendment, six in all and the standing committee on legislation I think has gone through this and has approved of these amendments.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Hon. Arnold McCallum. Comments of a general nature. Mr. Nickerson.

How Remission Is Calculated

MR. NICKERSON: I wonder if we could have a brief explanation, Mr. Chairman, as to how an inmate now earns, or otherwise acquires, remission. Say if he is sentenced to jail for six months, what is the minimum period of time he could now spend in jail and how would his remission be calculated?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am not quite certain as to a six month sentence as to how much the inmate would have to serve, how much total he would have to serve of that sentence and in fact the various means by which an inmate may accumulate remission time. I would in effect, I would have to determine that for sure. I am really not aware, I am not confident of the answer I would give as having any great validity. I certainly could acquire that information and if this in fact would hold it up, I would have to wait until I could get that kind of information.

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman this is obviously what the whole bill is about and that surely is the type of information this committee must have in order to deal properly with this matter. I would recommend, Mr. Chairman, that the chief of corrections or some other suitable witness be made available so that he can tell us exactly what we are to be voting on.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I have in fact the chief of corrections coming and I did not think that we would be moving with such rapidity on these bills this afternoon. They are to be present here for these votings on

these particular bills, but I can only indicate they would have to wait. I agree with the Member that this is in fact, the point of the whole amendment, but again the swiftness with which we have dealt with the material before us, of course, I would have to wait until they came down.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson, would it be appropriate then we call coffee at this time and come back here in 15 minutes with Hon. Arnold McCallum's witnesses? Would 15 minutes be enough time for them to get here, Hon. Arnold McCallum?

Funding For Housing Corporation Programs

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, just before you do that, could I give an answer that was asked under Bill 16-64 on the percentages of territorial and federal funding for Housing Corporation programs?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Agreed.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you. Under section 15 of the National Housing Act the federal government puts up 95 per cent of the money and the territorial government five per cent. Under section 42, the federal government puts up 90 per cent and the territorial government ten per cent.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Are there any questions? Shall we break then for 15 minutes for coffee to get the witnesses here? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I wonder if the Deputy Commissioner could confirm, Mr. Chairman, that under section 43 of the National Housing Act the proportions there are ten per cent and 90 per cent, as previously given?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes, that is correct and I will check again. If it is not, I will so inform you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I have been told that the coffee would not be ready until 2:30 p.m., so is there anything else we should do before the witnesses come in? Any indication when the witnesses are going to be here?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, all I know is that they were informed or asked to be here and from what I know they are on their way. If we want to set this aside, we can propose Bill 4-64, I think it was, for third reading and report progress on it. I would ask then to go back to committee of the whole to deal with Bill 10-64, An Ordinance Respecting the Designation of Beneficiaries under Retirement Savings Plans.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is the House in agreement? Agreed?

---Agreed

Report progress on Bill 4-64? Agreed?

---Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 4-64, Nursing Profession Ordinance, and Bill 6-64, Corrections Ordinance

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 4-64 and it is now ready for third reading and is reporting progress on Bill 6-64.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lyall. Hon. Arnold McCallum, what was the next bill you wanted to deal with? Bill 10-64?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Bill 10-64, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: This House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 10-64, Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Ordinance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 10-64, Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Ordinance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 10-64, RETIREMENT PLAN BENEFICIARIES ORDINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Would you come to order? Bill 10-64, An Ordinance Respecting the Designation of Beneficiaries under Retirement Savings Plans. Any comments of a general nature? Clause by clause then. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 2, definitions. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 3, designation. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 4, designation in will. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 5, revocation in will. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 6, subsequent designation. Agreed? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: No, no.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Clause 6. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 7, revocation of will. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 8, instrument invalid as a will. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 9, effect of certain events. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 10, earlier designation not revived. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 11, construction. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 12, enforcement of payment. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 13, ordinance inconsistent with plan. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 14, application. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 1, short title. Agreed?

---Agreed

Bill as a whole. Agreed?

---Agreed

Report for third reading. Agreed?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lyall.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 10-64, Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Ordinance

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker your committee has been considering Bill 10-64 and it is now ready for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: We have been proceeding with such speed that Hon. Arnold McCallum has either passed out with shock or left the chamber, one or the other. In any case I can not see him. Maybe someone else from the Executive would care to indicate what bill you wish to deal with next.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, Bill 18-64.

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute, I was going to say I do not think we have dealt with Bill 5-64, have we?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, sorry to interrupt but apparently the witnesses are now available for Bill 6-64.

MR. SPEAKER: We will go back then. This House will resolve into committee of the whole for continued consideration of Bill 6-64, Corrections Ordinance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 6-64, Corrections Ordinance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 6-64, CORRECTIONS ORDINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): We will come to order. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the question was raised by the Member concerning how an inmate would earn remission. Under the present ordinance it is possible for an inmate to get 100 per cent of the available remission time by two methods: one, by what is called statutory remission. For example, if an inmate was incarcerated for six months, one quarter of that time or in fact a month and a half I think is the correct mathematical answer, one quarter

of that time would be given automatically. In addition, an inmate earns three days per month of his sentence and that is really automatic if in fact the evaluation of that inmate's behaviour during the incarceration period is positive, then the inmate may receive three days per month.

Now what is being proposed to make it uniform under the Prisons and Reformatories Act that those two methods by which remission is earned are repealed and are in fact replaced now with earned remission. An inmate must apply himself industriously during the period of incarceration and of course that means an evaluation process that is undergone by those who are in control or who administrate that institution. In other words Mr. Chairman an inmate who was incarcerated for six months now must earn remission time, now that again, being the evaluation, as I indicated with that phrase applying oneself industriously.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson.

Maximum Remission

MR. NICKERSON: One question that the Minister has not answered Mr. Chairman, is what is the maximum remission that might be given, what is the maximum percentage of the sentence which may be cut off under the new system?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that it is one third maximum.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Now if I understand correctly, Mr. Chairman, under the old Prisons and Reformatories Act, a judge or a magistrate was unable to take into consideration, he was forbidden by law to take into consideration, when making a disposition the fact that there was statutory remission and earned remission or the possibility of those two things happening. In the amendments to the Prisons and Reformatories Act is a judge or magistrate still under the same prohibition?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, again I am advised it is the same now as it was before.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Comments of a general nature. Bill 6-64. Shall we go clause by clause? Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 1, "Director". Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 2. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 3. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 4, remission and temporary absence. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 5. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 6. Agreed?

---Agreed

Bill as a whole. Agreed?

---Agreed

Shall I report it for third reading? Agreed?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 6-64, Corrections Ordinance

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 6-64 and it is now ready for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: What bill do you want to deal with now, Hon. Arnold McCallum?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, if we could move now to Bill 18-64, Flood Damage Reduction Agreements Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum, have we dealt with Bill 5-64?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: No, Mr. Speaker, we have not.

MR. SPEAKER: This House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 18-64, Flood Damage Reduction Agreements Ordinance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 18-64, Flood Damage Reduction Agreements Ordinance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 18-64, FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION AGREEMENTS ORDINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): This committee will come to order to discuss Bill 18-64. The Chair recognizes the clock. We will recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The Chair recognizes a quorum. I direct your attention to Bill 18-64, An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Enter into Agreements Respecting the Reduction of Flood Damage. Comments of a general nature. Shall we go clause by clause then? Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 2, agreements. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 3, amendments. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 1, short title. Agreed?

---Agreed

Bill as a whole. Agreed?

---Agreed

Shall I report it for third reading? Agreed?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 18-64, Flood Damage Reduction Agreements Ordinance

MR. LYALL: Your committee has been considering Bill 18-64 and it is now ready for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I think that we should discuss some of the other matters on the recommendations and other matters, the motions that are outstanding.

Motion 9-64, Stricken From Orders Of The Day

MR. SPEAKER: With respect to Motion 9-64, that motion was moved by Mr. Pearson and then it was amended to the extent that we were to have discussed it in committee of the whole and that is why it is on here but it still is a motion and in view of the fact that he is not here I propose to just strike it from the orders of the day because it can not be moved by anyone else but him and he is not going to be here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion 12-64, Distinct Native Groups in Northwest Territories, was a motion by Mr. Lafferty and he is here so I would propose that you suggest that we go into committee of the whole for discussion of that motion. Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, Motion 13-64 was my motion, Inland Commercial Fisherman's Association. The witnesses have gone home and they told me that they would like to discuss this in May if it is possible.

MR. SPEAKER: So you want Motion 13-64 put over until May?

MR. LYALL: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Maybe the thing to do, Mr. Lyall, would be we will put it in committee of the whole because it has been moved in there, then you could make that motion in committee of the whole that it would be put over until May and then you could get the reaction of other Members and if they agreed then that is what would happen. I do not think I can unilaterally do that.

MR. LYALL: Okay, Mr. Speaker, I will to that.

MR. SPEAKER: And so, Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, is it not a fact that Bill 5-64, amendments to the Taxation Ordinance, has not been dealt with at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a fact.

MR. NICKERSON: Is it the intention of the administration, known to the Speaker, whether or not they intend to continue with this particular bill?

MR. SPEAKER: Their intentions are not known to me but you could certainly ask that, I think on a point of order, of the Executive, because I have this afternoon asked twice, you may recall, whether or not Bill 5-64 was dealt with and the response is that it has not been. So I do not know what the Executive's intention is. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, we are still in the process of ascertaining some information and I think some technical matters that may require further clarification on this particular ordinance and may, dependent upon the life of this particular session, force us to wait until May to bring this particular bill back to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Still on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the technical matters to which the Hon. Arnold McCallum refers, would they by any chance be a certain opinion of the Department of Justice, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

MR. SPEAKER: I think my suggestion gentlemen, was that we go into committee of the whole to consider Motion 12-64, Distinct Native Groups in Northwest Territories. If there is no objection to doing that we shall proceed to do that one. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have the unanimous consent of the House at this time to return to Item 6, notices of motion?

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent being requested.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 6: NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, first of all I am not sure exactly how I am going to handle this because I will want to go on further after this, but anyway...

MR. SPEAKER: Just take it step by step.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Thank you. Today I wish to give notice that I wish to move a motion with regard to the invitation of Mr. Brian Davies, the head of the International Fund for Animal Welfare Incorporated.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Ernerk, may I suggest that you read the motion at this time because it will assist you with the next step.

Notice Of Motion 18-64: Invitation To Fund For Animal Welfare Incorporated

HON. PETER ERNERK: Thank you. Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS Mr. Brian Davies was to appear before this Legislature and is unable to attend as he is out of the country;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the invitation already extended to Mr. Davies be adjusted so that he may appear during the May session.

MR. SPEAKER: Notice of motion by Hon. Peter Ernerk. Now, Hon. Peter Ernerk, I assume you want unanimous consent to move to Item 8, motions.

HON. PETER ERNERK: That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there -- Mr. Nickerson.

Notice Of Motion 19-64: Bill 5-64

MR. NICKERSON: While we are on the item, notices of motion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice that today if consented to by the other Members of this House, I wish to introduce the following motion:

WHEREAS this House is of the opinion that Bill 5-64 is entirely intra vires;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this House recommends that Bill 5-64 be proceeded with during this session of the Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: Notice of motion by Mr. Nickerson. Now, Hon. Peter Ernerk, with respect to your motion I assume you want unanimous consent to move to Item 8. Unanimous consent being requested to move to Item 8, motions. Is there anyone wishing to give a negative response? That being the case, Item 8, motions, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

ITEM NO. 8: MOTIONS

Motion 18-64: Invitation To Fund For Animal Welfare Incorporated

HON. PETER ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Mr. Brian Davies was to appear before this Legislature and is unable to attend as he is out of the country;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the invitation already extended to Mr. Davies be adjusted so that he may appear during the May session.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by Hon. Peter Ernerk. Is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. Discussion, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I think the motion is very straightforward and I have already spoken about this motion during my earlier motion. I wish to just leave it that way at this point.

Motion 18-64, Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called, all in favour? Down. Contrary? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nickerson, please.

Motion 19-64: Bill 5-64.

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS this House is of the opinion that Bill 5-64 is entirely intra vires;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this House recommends that Bill 5-64 be proceeded with during this session of the Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Peter Ernerk. Discussion, Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I will be short and blunt. I am heartily sick of the opinions of the Department of Justice, the department with the federal government. Time and time again they have told us that things which are entirely within our power, that are entirely within our jurisdiction according to the Northwest Territories Act, that are entirely proper for us to proceed with, they have told us that we should not do this because of some reason best known to themselves.

Bill 5-64 is a minor amendment to the Taxation Ordinance. It has gone to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in the time which they have requested and then at the last minute the Department of Justice has come forward with one of their crazy and sometimes childish opinions. I think that it is up to this House to take a firm stand with the federal Department of Justice that we should proceed with this bill with all due haste. I think it would be entirely inappropriate were the administration not to bring this bill forward at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, to the motion, I understand the Minister to say that the bill in question is delayed for reasons of waiting for more information and I do not think it is too much to ask if they want more time to get the information they want. I do not think it is asking too much. I would not support the motion.

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

Privilege Of The Executive

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, more on a point of clarification. I think we are getting ourselves into, or could be getting ourselves into a difficult position here. As I understand it on legislation, it is up to the Executive to introduce it. It has had, I believe, first and second reading, but is it not the privilege of the Executive if they do not wish it to proceed, to not call it? I mean we are getting into a technical position relative to the revenue of the Legislature and I would like a ruling on that, whether or not really in effect that motion is in order.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart, the motion put by Mr. Nickerson is a recommendation. There is no doubt that the bill is a government bill and that the Executive can withdraw it if they wish. However, there has been no submission made by the Executive to withdraw the bill. It has been given first and second reading and it is up for committee of the whole discussion. Whether or not they want it to go into committee of the whole is, I suppose, in doubt. What Mr. Nickerson's motion is recommending is that it proceed. We can properly make a recommendation, I think. If his motion were to force it into committee of the whole then I think you might have a point of order.

MR. STEWART: Well, Mr. Speaker, that was my understanding of the motion. Maybe I did not hear it right. Possibly the Honourable Member might read it again. I thought it was a direction rather than a recommendation.

MR. SPEAKER: I was careful to note that he used the word "recommendation" because I had very much in mind your point of order. Now, that was a point of order Mr. Stewart rose on, is there anything else by way of discussion? No further discussion? Mr. Nickerson, do you want to wind up the debate?

MR. NICKERSON: In closing the debate on this motion, which I hope will be fully supported, I would like to maybe clarify the matter a little as far as Mr. Fraser is concerned. I do not think that the administration are waiting for additional information, I think that what has happened is that the Department of Justice has given the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development an opinion which says that the Legislature of the Northwest Territories is not empowered to enact the type of legislation contained within Bill 5-64.

Reason For Introducing Bill 5-64

The reason for introducing Bill 5-64, or parts thereof, is that the Government of the Northwest Territories has, through a very minor technicality, been collecting taxes illegally. There was no intention on the part of the Government of the Northwest Territories to do this; it was just a matter of legal draftsmanship and a matter of a few words which had some doubt as to their correct interpretation, so that maybe I should say that the government may have been collecting taxes illegally. It has never been determined in a court of law whether or not they were doing so or not and the main part in this bill is to make the collection of those taxes legal. It contains an aspect of retroactivity and that is what upsets the Department of Justice, this is what I am led to believe, so it is not that the administration are wanting more information. It is a fact that they are presumably trying to find some way to deal with this rather onerous ruling by the Department of Justice, which in my opinion and I am sure many other people would agree with me, is completely without foundation.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nickerson, those comments, and I mean no disrespect for you when I make this comment, those comments should have been made, those latter comments when you spoke originally to the bill because you have said certain things about the position of the administration which puts them now in the position, since you have wound up the debate, of being unable to respond to you. As I understand the speaker's right of reply, it is not to introduce new material but rather to reply to the comments made by other speakers since, on your remarks. But you have introduced new material which can not be responded to. However, that is the way it is and I just make that comment because this is a good case in point where it should not be done.

Motion 19-64, Carried

On the motion. Question being called. The motion by Mr. Nickerson. Are we all clear as to what it is? A recommendation, essentially, that the Executive proceed with Bill 5-64. Question being called. All in favour? One, two, three, four. Down. Contrary? One, two, three, four. Four and four. Well the Rule that guides the Speaker in determining how he should vote is that he should not vote in a manner that would kill a matter on the order paper if at all possible. I think in keeping with that ruling, therefore, I should vote in the affirmative. In other words, vote in favour of the motion because it keeps the matter alive for fear that my voting against it would indicate that it should be killed. That being so, the Speaker votes in favour of the motion, so the motion is therefore carried.

---Carried

Now, gentlemen, I think before all this got started we were going to go into committee of the whole on Motion 12-64, Distinct Native Groups in Northwest Territories. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege, I would have to take advantage of the fact that there have been motions placed. We are, as I understand it, back to agenda Item 8 and in view of the fact that the length of this particular House or its session at this time may not enable me to put forth a motion for which I gave notice earlier today, that is recommendation of persons to be named to the Northwest Territories Water Board I wonder if I may be allowed now to so make that motion?

MR. SPEAKER: Well, you have already given notice of it so I suppose it could be argued we were still at Item 8 since we had not yet gone into committee of the whole.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I guess, Mr. Speaker, that was a point of privilege. I should have asked that first. Are we still at agenda Item 8?

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any objection to that, going back to Item 8, if we are not there already?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed. If there had been an objection I suppose I would have had to rule that we had not left Item 8. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Motion 17-64: Appointments To N.W.T. Water Board

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move the following motion:

WHEREAS there are at present a number of vacancies on the Northwest Territories Water Board;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the following persons be recommended by the Commissioner in Council to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for appointment to the Northwest Territories Water Board: Mr. G. Warner of Yellowknife; Mr. F. Hansen of Inuvik; Mr. D.P. Mersereau of Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by Hon. Arnold McCallum. Is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. Discussion, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, there were a number of nominations made by this body for recommendation to the Commissioner. These gentlemen have indicated their agreement to serve on that board and we, of course, have to, the appointments are made by Commissioner in Council so the nominations are as a result of input from the Members of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion, Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask whether or not the people, other people that were interested would be considered if one of the people should drop out?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, all names of people who were nominated have been asked if they would want to serve. They have all replied in the affirmative. However, I am sure that we would take the Member's suggestion into consideration should there be one of the three people that I just now recommended withdraw their acceptance.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, my consideration would be that not only the three people, should they drop out, should some other ones drop out that these ones we nominated should be considered.

Motion 17-64, Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Well, we are getting off points of order and into debating the motion and as I understood it, Hon. Arnold McCallum, you can speak once. Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Motion 17-64 is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Now, before I try once again, are there any further motions? Then we will return to Item 10.

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 10: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

Motion 12-64, Distinct Native Groups in Northwest Territories. This House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Motion 12-64, Distinct Native Groups in Northwest Territories, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Motion 12-64, Distinct Native Groups in Northwest Territories, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER MOTION 12-64, DISTINCT NATIVE GROUPS IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): This igloo will come to order. Motion 12-64, Distinct Native Groups in Northwest Territories, moved by Mr. Lafferty. The motion reads:

Whereas, subsection 14(3) of the Northwest Territories Act protects and guarantees rights of native people of the Northwest Territories, specifically Indians and Eskimos, thusly, "Nothing in subsection (2) shall be construed as authorizing the Commissioner in Council to make ordinances restricting or prohibiting Indians or Eskimos from hunting for food, on unoccupied crown lands, game other than game declared by the Governor in Council to be game in danger of becoming extinct.";

And whereas the Hon. Hugh Faulkner and his predecessor, the Hon. Warren Allmand, have unequivocally indicated the federal government's desire that the land claim of Northwest Territories Metis shall be presented equally and concurrently with the land claim of the Indian people of the Northwest Territories;

Now therefore, I move that the Prime Minister and his cabinet be advised that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories recognizes the Metis people, the Indian people and the Eskimo people as three distinct and unique groups within the native community in the Northwest Territories; and that the distinction should be reflected by the text of subsection 14(3) of the Northwest Territories Act wherein all three groups should be referred to rather than just Indians and Eskimos. Mr. Lafferty, please.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, the text of this motion is just a very simple thing where the Metis people in the Northwest Territories presently are allowed and said to be privileged to hunt and fish for domestic use, but the Northwest Territories Act only recognizes the Indian and Eskimo people and that only these two groups are enshrined. Because of this there is a lot of fear among people such as myself, a Metis and many others in the Mackenzie Valley, especially around the heavily populated areas where in the future there may be more people coming in, that we may lose this privilege.

Recognition Of Hunting And Fishing Rights

Since the people in the North and we ourselves in this Legislature, have in response to many of the things no doubt we hear as individual people, have said that they are native people in the Northwest Territories and that we support their wishes and that we recognize the differences among these people. Then we listen to the comments of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, that in spite of these differences there is a native community in that they recognize the distinction of Metis, Indian and Eskimo and that there are separate land claims. Nevertheless between these people, particularly the Indian and the Metis, the outcome of their settlements or

claims must be settled under the umbrella of the native community. What I am trying to do here as a Metis person is not to enshrine but to give the same recognition to the Metis people as the other two native groups have and that is only in the area of hunting and fishing. That is what that section is dealing with in the Northwest Territories Act.

Of course, this thought resulted from comments that I have had prior to introducing this motion. I have spoken to quite a few Metis people and since the motion has been introduced there is an indication that it is being supported by a great number of Metis people and that Mr. Mercredi wanted to appear as a witness. Since it had been referred to committee of the whole and since we are rushing to finish this business as soon as possible, I suppose, since it is just a simple matter of asking, not telling, the federal government but asking them to make it clear that these people be recognized that I felt that responsibility rests with this House. I am asking in a way for your support that we give this great number of people who we call Metis who are neither living in an Indian community nor a white community, however they are members of the general community of the Northwest Territories and they have certain rights that is, certain privileges but it is not a right, so to say, so it is more or less to give those people the right to hunt and fish for domestic use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. To the motion, Mr. Nickerson.

Effect Of Passing This Motion

MR. NICKERSON: Well, frankly, Mr. Chairman, I am at a loss to understand really what would be the effect of us passing this particular motion. Now Mr. Lafferty in his introduction there, and I was listening very carefully and it seemed that what he really wanted to do was to have the Government of Canada change the Northwest Territories Act to allow the Metis people of the territories the same rights with respect to hunting for food as is presently enjoyed pursuant to the Northwest Territories Act by Indians and Eskimos. I would have suspected that if that was Mr. Lafferty's full intent, his motion would have been worded as a recommendation to the Government of Canada to make those necessary changes. However, this appears not to have been the case and I have some difficulty with the wording as to, really to understand what the motion means.

I know that it is the policy of this House to make laws of universal application. The only time that we have passed legislation which would have special effects with respect to certain groups of people is when we have been constrained to do so by federal legislation. Generally we have adopted the policy that all our laws will be of equal application to all people in the territories. I think that this is no better illustrated than with the social development policy paper which was adopted by this House some years ago when it said, that policy should be adopted without regard to race, creed, colour, or a number of other things, that everybody in the territories as far as we are concerned were to be treated equally.

Effect Of Recognizing Special Groups

Now before voting on this motion, I would like some clarification as to what it really means and what would be the effect if it were to be carried. What would be the effect of us recognizing the Metis people or for that matter indeed the Indian people and the Eskimo people and the other people, the Ukrainians and the Chinese and the Icelanders and the Japanese and everybody else who is in the Northwest Territories as separate and distinct groups? What would be the effect? What would we actually be committing ourselves to if we were to do that?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. To the motion. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I do know the difficulty in trying to establish intent. Mr. Nickerson asks that the intent be proven. It would be difficult for me to say the actual intention of this move is simply that, my intention is not to change the Northwest Territories Act, or I am not seeking any changes in the Northwest Territories Act, I am only simply asking that the word or the people "Metis", be added to the native community presently under the Northwest Territories Act. The native community is simply the Eskimo and Indian for the purposes of hunting with the Indian not subject to legislation that is passed or some laws that have passed in the Northwest Territories but Eskimos as subject to all laws that are enacted by this House and so are the Metis people.

All I am asking is that the Metis people be added to the native community in which they are. They are natives and the far reaching effect that this addition of Metis people may have I do not think would cause any fear. It does not cause me any concern because it would not make any more difference than what we already have. Eskimos are recognized, so are the Indians recognized and they do not seem to have any effect and all I am asking is that the Metis people have this same privilege to hunt and fish for domestic use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. To the motion. Hon. David Searle.

Definition Of A Metis

HON. DAVID SEARLE: I think that I can understand what Mr. Lafferty is trying to do but the problem I have with the motion, I guess, is the age old one of what is a Metis person? How would you define such a person? Is it someone who is half Indian blood or Dene blood, if you want to use the term Dene, or a quarter or an eighth, a sixteenth, what is after that, a thirty-second? What is a Metis person? How do you define that? Because, as I see it, what you would hope that the parliament of Canada would do would be amend that section of the act which gives hunting rights to Metis in general on the same basis as to the Indian and Eskimo. In other words, the right to hunt for food on unoccupied crown land subject only to not being able to hunt those animals declared to be in danger of extinction, that being the only limitation on the right to hunt. As I see it you would open up therefore presumably to another larger body of people, unlimited hunting rights and maybe that is not bad I do not know, but the problem I would see is in the definition of exactly whom that would be. Would it be any person who at any time in the past had any -- whose bloodline could be traced to an Indian person? Would it be that open-ended? That is my problem. Or do you just leave the problem for the Government of Canada to solve?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): To the motion. Before I recognize Mr. Lafferty again. To the motion, anybody else? Mr. Lafferty.

Previous Recognition In The N.W.T. Act

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I have asked myself this question as Hon. David Searle points out many times over, but then when we look back in the legislation in the Northwest Territories we will find that back in 1927 the half-breeds of the Mackenzie Valley were distinct for the purposes of hunting and fishing. I do not know what happened, where the amendments have taken place. I have not had the time to do the research in that matter. Nevertheless, at one point in our history in the Northwest Territories Act, they were in our game regulations, distinct, in that they were identified as half-breeds or persons descending from mixed marriages. So I think that the idea of identifying these people is just a simple thing that is already somewhere in the records of the federal government if not within the Northwest Territories government, I am not certain.

But anyway, if you look back in the old legislation of 1927, you will find it in there for purposes of hunting, fishing and trapping. The only thing that I am afraid of is that this has been amended or done away with somewhere along the line. I think that they do have general hunting licences but it is merely a privilege, there is nothing to protect the Metis people legislatively as to protect their inherited rights as native people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Hon. David Searle, to the motion.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Well, just one comment, if Mr. Lafferty means that Metis people are synonymous, the word "Metis" is synonymous with the word "half-breed" and that, to me, means that to be Metis and part of that distinct group you would have to have half or 50 per cent Indian or Eskimo blood, would you not? Half means 50 per cent and my question is, is that what you mean? Because you would presumably then be looking just at first generation. You would not go past that. You know, my problem is the definition still of Metis people. If that is what he means then maybe that is what the motion should say.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): To the motion. Mr. Lafferty.

Distinction In Earlier Legislation

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I would point out that there was a distinction made in the act of 1927, where there was a distinction that half-breed was generally referred to as a person descending from Indian and Caucasian intermarriages and that distinction had been made in the legislation of that time. I suppose this is what I meant by saying there is somewhere a recorded history. I do not know where they are but nevertheless, they had existed.

I have a copy of such legislation which is quite old but I had left it back in Fort Simpson but I do know that it exists. There was a distinction made and this was the distinction between Indian half-breed and Eskimo half-breed. The Eskimo half-breed, if my memory serves me right, was generally for the purposes of this distinction referred to as an Eskimo rather than a half-breed. So there are in our history clear distinctions there, Mr. Chairman. It is just that I am afraid that this privilege that we presently have to hunt and fish in the event that we need it, may be further eroded as is presently happening. No doubt in the near future we are going to have a lot of people coming in to settle in the North and things will change. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Motion 12-64, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. To the motion. Question being called to the motion. We are dealing with Motion 12-64, Distinct Native Groups in Northwest Territories. Are you ready for the question? The question, all those in favour of the motion? One, two, three, four, five. Opposed? One. The motion is carried.

---Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): May I report Motion 12-64 carried?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Motion 12-64, Distinct Native Groups In N.W.T.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, Motion 12-64, which was referred to in committee of the whole, I wish to report that this motion has been carried five to one.

MR. SPEAKER: Possibly we could go into committee of the whole for Mr. Lyall's motion, Motion 13-64, so that you can make your motion in committee so that it be referred to the next session. In that case, we had better have Mr. Stewart back in the chair. This House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Motion 13-64, Inland Commercial Fishermen's Association, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

--- Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Motion 13-64, Inland Commercial Fishermen's Association, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER MOTION 13-64, INLAND COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): We will come to order to study Motion 13-64. Mr. Lyall.

Motion To Defer Motion 13-64

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, I would at this time like to make a motion that we defer Motion 13-64, Inland Commercial Fishermen's Association, to May session.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Lyall. To the motion.

MR. LYALL: The reason, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to defer this to May session is the gentleman that I had here as a witness to speak to this motion has left town and indicated to me that he would like to have this come back in the May session.

Motion To Defer Motion 13-64, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. To the motion. Question being called, all those in favour? The motion is carried.

---Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Reporting back to Mr. Speaker, Motion 13-64 has been set aside to the May session. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Motion 13-64, Inland Commercial Fishermen's Association

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Motion 13-64, Inland Commercial Fishermen's Association and a motion was carried to set this aside for the May session.

MR. SPEAKER: A question relating to the matter of price support mechanism for sealskin; I think that is a matter Hon. Peter Ernerk got on the order paper with Mr. Pudluk. I just do not recall how that arose. In any case, I suppose it is

next on the order paper. We may as well go into committee of the whole and deal with that. Could we as well, to prevent us from popping in and out of committee, could we put the motion relative to proposed amendments to the Northwest Territories fisheries regulations in committee at the same time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: They are both pretty fishy subjects anyway. Anything else? That looks like about all that is related. So this House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of the price support mechanism for sealskin and that motion relating to the proposed amendments to the Northwest Territories fisheries regulations, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

--- Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Motion 7-64, Low Price of Sealskins; Motion Relative to Proposed Amendment to N.W.T. Fisheries Regulations, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER MOTION 7-64, LOW PRICE OF SEALSKINS; MOTION RELATIVE TO PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO N.W.T. FISHERIES REGULATIONS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Order. Motion 7-64, Low Price of Sealskins.

Whereas this House is most concerned over the severe economic problems being caused by the very low price of sealskins at the present time;

Now therefore, I move that a convenient time to be set by the Speaker this House resolve itself into committee of the whole to discuss possible price support mechanisms for sealskins. To the motion, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, I do not have very much to say but I would like to say a few things. In 1946 approximately, we used to get catches of silver jars in the springtime; silver jar, not a glass jar.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Pudluk, could you repeat your last?

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, I was saying that it was some time during 1946 that they used to go hunting for the silver jar. At that time the silver jar was the only seal that had the fur. When the older seals were losing their fur, that is the time they used to hunt the silver jar. In those days when we went out hunting I used to be just sort of going on a trip with the older people. My father used to look for silver jars with a telescope. Whenever he got a silver jar he used to get \$1.60, that is how much it used to cost that particular time. When he got another young seal pup he would get \$3.20. However, that is the way it stands now. It is a lot easier to catch seals these days than it used to be. They are continually hunting for seals. However, they would like to be able to use sealskins. At that time when a hunter was hunting for food, he has to use gas to hunt the seals or he has to go and get some food before he goes out hunting.

Present Hunting Conditions.

Nowadays in the cold climate people have to hunt in order to make a living especially if they can only catch so many seals per year. They are allowed to catch one polar bear a year and in the olden days they were allowed to catch more than one. At the present moment, seals are somewhat being more vigorously hunted in the North especially in the summertime. It has been this way for a long time and seals could be sold at any time. Some of the Inuit are somewhat suffering because sealskins are too cheap these days. The price of the sealskins are too cheap. If that is the way it is going to remain, if that is going to be the enforcement and say a person is taking some pictures of the sealskins through television, it will be quite impossible to be able to have hunters live on seals. That is all I have to say for now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if we might request from the administration any suggestions they may have with regard to the way this motion is worded. Because we can go around in circles for hours on this unless there is a mechanism or a suggestion on how we might be able to accomplish the intent of the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Yes, Hon. Peter Ernerk, Minister of Economic Development, you should have a suggestion about how we should go about it.

Should Subsidy To Seal Hunters Be Studied

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I really do not have too many suggestions at this point but rather I think if we are going to seek the advice of the administration I would simply say that some kind of a subsidization be looked at, be studied in order to help the seal hunters in the Northwest Territories because we are really, as Mr. Stewart said, at a loss at this point as to how we could approach this particular motion.

I think the important word in here is "subsidization". One thing I might add, Mr. Chairman, is that members of my department along with the game management people have been working on the difficulties with sealskins in the Northwest Territories, looking at some kind of a subsidization to seal hunters in the Arctic. I am really not sure at the moment how far that particular paper is at, at this point. Perhaps Deputy Commissioner Parker might be able to tell us more on that issue.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Peter Ernerk, I would like to know personally how much does the sealskin bring in in the whole of the Northwest Territories. I think a good start would be from there, to work it from how much it generally generates in the whole of the Northwest Territories. That is the way I would start. Could you then tell us how much, say last year, did the price of sealskins bring in?

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I think during my opening remarks I indicated that during 1976-77 it was something like \$819,000. I stand to be corrected on that but it was in the neighbourhood of \$819,000 last year, 1976-77, but this year I understand that in a number of places such as Sanikiluaq, the Hudson's Bay Company at least as far back as two months ago, were purchasing sealskins for two dollars apiece, two to four dollars at least. In other places, I understand in Pond Inlet they were selling anywhere from five dollars to ten dollars depending on the quality. I also talked to an individual from Resolute Bay who indicated to me that they were selling for about five to ten dollars again depending on the quality.

Revenue From Sealskins Last Year

I think we have to make sure that we know where most of the money was made last year and the year before. I also indicated during my replies to the Commissioner's Opening Address that I believe in Pangnirtung during the year 1976-77, they sold something like \$180,000 in one year in that community. Also in Broughton Island, \$170,000 some odd and I believe Clyde River was another community that was hit the hardest last year or will be hit the hardest during 1977-78. So I think these are fairly close figures in the three communities that I mentioned, Pangnirtung, Broughton Island and Clyde River.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Peter Ernerk, thank you very much. Are there any more comments of a general nature? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am rather disappointed that the administration say themselves that they are at a complete loss as to how to deal with this particular problem. It has been an acute problem in the territories for some time and it would have occurred to me that that is one of the things that the administration should have been studying and studying for some time. It is very disappointing to hear that they are at a complete loss. I think Hon. Peter Ernerk wants to make a point of privilege before I continue, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege, I did not say that the administration is at a loss. I said with the wording of this particular motion I think we are sort of at a loss, as stated by Mr. Stewart. I indicated that a number of things were happening, such as the Economic Development department as well as game management have been working on this particular problem, to try and find out exactly where we might wish to go and this is in fact what I said. We are not at a loss, I assure the Honourable Member from Yellowknife North.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER (Mr. Hodgson): Excuse me...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Commissioner, just one second, please. Hon. Peter Ernerk was speaking on a point of privilege. Mr. Nickerson still has the floor. Mr. Nickerson.

Should Government Engage In Price Support Programs

MR. NICKERSON: Well, it is reassuring to know, Mr. Chairman that the administration are not at a complete loss they are only at a partial loss. I have given this matter some thought, Mr. Chairman, and I hope you will forgive me but my presentation is somewhat lengthy. I approach these subjects with a great deal of trepidation because it goes against my philosophy on the subject that the government should be involved. I think it would be better if the government were not to be involved generally as a matter of course. But I think we can establish certain criteria for determining whether the government should engage in price support programs and I am not restricting myself to sealskins here, I think these are general conditions.

First of all, I think it has to be proved that the people in the industry involved are suffering real and demonstrated hardship and also that that hardship is likely to exist for a significant period of time. I do not think that price support programs should be put into effect just to help somebody over a matter of a few weeks. The second criterion is that the industry in all likelihood will recover. I do not think we should get into the business of subsidizing charcoal burners for instance, because that is a dead industry and never likely to recover at all. So assuming that the industry will in all likelihood recover, that it is of a cyclical nature, there are cases where the government should become involved in price support mechanisms. I think that the present sealskin industry in the Northwest Territories as far as I have been given to understand by evidence presented by Members here, I think that that industry would fulfil those two conditions. It certainly is a very cyclical industry and it depends on what the ladies think is proper fashion at any one point in time and the industry is affected very much by the vagaries of the fair sex as I have put it before.

I think that generally -- and now I am speaking generally, not specifically to deal with sealskins because they might be a particular case, but I think that generally price support mechanisms, price support programs should be of the following nature. First of all, they should not be too expensive for the taxpayers. They should always keep the taxpayers in mind and we should not get involved in very expensive programs. Preferably they should result eventually in a profit to the government and we can think of examples of good price support programs that have been put into effect in the past by the Government of Canada. The establishment of the uranium cartel, for instance, resulted in a profit to the Government of Canada. Some people might have objections to some of the ways in which the uranium stockpile was managed but I think that the taxpayers of Canada did benefit in the long run.

Programs Should Self-destruct

Programs should self-destruct when they no longer are needed. That means that the legislation should, that put these programs into effect, expire on a certain date or expire when certain prearranged conditions have been met. An example of this would be the emergency gold mining assistance which just went out of existence when the price of gold reached a certain point. One of the last things that we would want to see happen is the establishment of a permanent marketing board or something like that. We seem to get into no end of difficulty when governments, whether they be federal or provincial take over the marketing function. I think the marketing function generally is best left to free enterprise.

If possible these price support programs should be done in conjunction and preferably financed by private industry. Again, the uranium stockpiling program is a good example of this where the stockpile was financed in part by the government and in part by private industry. The price support program should not be so generous as to encourage additional production. The problem of low prices is frequently most often overproduction and the last thing we would want to do is to make the incentive such that even more production was encouraged. It should just help those already engaged in the industry and if possible, what it should do is to allow for a decrease in production so that you would ideally set the price just below that necessary for production at the present level.

Bounty For Seal

Now, those are general observations but when we examine the sealskin industry we find that some of those might not apply. I see two ways in which a price support program for sealskins could operate. The first one would be to pay a straight bounty on every seal caught. The legislation could say for instance, that a ten dollar per head bounty will be paid for a one year period or until such time as the market price reaches such a value. The advantages of this system would be that it would be quick to put into practice, it would be pretty easy to administer and the local game officers could administer it and you would not have to hire a whole bunch more people. It would be quick and simple. The disadvantages of course are that it may not be entirely fair. It might be easier to catch seals in one place than another, a better price might be obtained in one place than another. So it would not be entirely fair in many people's eyes. Of course, the big disadvantage is that the taxpayers would suffer. There would be no real return to the taxpayers at all.

Stockpiling System

The second system would be a stockpiling system. This could be operated by the government itself or by the government in conjunction with private enterprise. For example, a stockpile could be set up partly financed by, for instance the Hudson's Bay Company, or co-operative association and the government. The stockpile system could have two subalternatives. The easiest one to put into practice maybe, would be for it to act as a buyer of last resort. It could undertake to buy all or a specified number of sealskins from each locality at a fixed price. The fixed price might vary from settlement to settlement and the quota might vary also from settlement to settlement.

The second subalternative would be to have a board or have a manager hired who would involve in, who would get mixed up in market activities. He would buy and sell as he felt fit. He would have wide-ranging discretionary powers. I am thinking of something like the open market committee with the federal Reserve Board something of that nature.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. Nickerson, I remind you that you have got one minute left.

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, you can tell me when I have got no minutes left but I have so timed this so that it takes exactly ten minutes.

The advantages of this is that it does not give people money directly so it is easier to terminate the program. If you start giving people a ten dollar a head bounty and then you want to take it off they get awfully mad and want you to continue it. This way you would not have that problem. It also should result in a profit to a government, which is good. The disadvantages are that it is slow to set up, it might be more difficult to manage and that especially would be true of the second subalternative. You have a number of staff employed who would lobby for the continuation of their jobs even if the program was no longer really necessary.

Stockpiling Is The Easiest Alternative

In my own opinion, I think, although for most commodities the stockpile system is best. For sealskins maybe the easiest alternative would be the first alternative. The bonus system might be better. The reasons for this being threefold. First, because of the small amounts of money and small amounts of sealskins involved. Secondly, because of the short time period over which the system would hopefully be in existence. And thirdly and mainly because of the geographical difficulties that anybody trying to oversee the management of open market activities or a stockpile system would face. I have taken ten minutes, exactly.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. Mr. Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Chairman, I hope I can keep within the same timeframe as Mr. Nickerson did because it is a very complex subject to discuss. He mentioned about us being at a bit of a loss and I would like to point out to you that our loss is your gain. But when we are moving it may be a loss to the Assembly in dollars and cents because that really is what it is all about. Seriously the figures that we are talking about, as I understand it, the last figures we have are from 1976-77 and Deputy Commissioner Parker tells me the number of sealskins is 46,000. Now, I imagine that must be an awful lot. It is a very very difficult problem and this whole business of trapping and hunting for fur bearing animals fluctuates and the problem seems to come and go, depending of course on the market and the demand.

Floor Price For Fur Bearing Animals

When I first came on Council in 1964 there was a request at that time for a subsidy on fur, long-haired fur and every move we made to come up with a subsidy was rejected by the Government of Canada because of the provincial problem, the problem that the long-haired fur affected each province. So we came to the conclusion that perhaps a floor price might be the answer. It is a subsidy but it is another way of saying it. I do not know, every time we just about got to the climax of the situation the problem seemed to disappear. In other words, the price goes up and the market recovers and so we have never had to carry through with the threat. Mr. Nickerson put his finger right on it when he said, once you get in how do you get out? If we once get started on it then we have got real troubles of knowing when to quit and you know civil servants are not the best once they start something they just somehow can not seem to get out of it. But say we did get out of it with the short-hair fur, if it did recover and down went the long-hair, then we would have to sort of switch over to there. So that is our first problem.

Problems Of Fur Auctions.

The second problem is -- and we have done a lot of work on it, Hon. Peter Ernerk has worked on it for two or three months with the Department of Economic Development, Deputy Commissioner Parker has worked on it through the Department of Natural and Cultural Affairs and I have done some work on it and phoned some friends and people in different areas and in conversations with the Hudson's Bay Company who I think probably know as much about fur and have as good connections as anybody. I found that the fur market is generally decided on what happens in the German market primarily, also at the London fur auction, a little in Italy and a little in France. But it appears that Germany is the pacesetter. Last December the auction was so bad that I think they sold less than 70 per cent of their offerings at something around seven dollars. So we got together with the Hudson's Bay Company and the department and ourselves and we talked of putting up \$50,000 as a public relations advertising campaign. We got as far as contacting a lady in New York who is an expert in this field and we began working on putting together a public relations drive to inform the public. Now when I speak of \$50,000 I am speaking on a three year basis because I honestly believe that once you get into this thing you are not going to solve it in a couple of months or even a year or two. But as we began working on it and the Minister expressed an interest in it, certainly the Hudson's Bay Company was prepared to put up money, suddenly the January auction looked like the bottom had been reached and the fur was on the way back because at the second offering they got \$14 a pelt and they sold just about everything. Now the news comes that it is terrible, it is back down again and it is in bad shape.

Reasons For Depressed Market.

The reason that the industry tells us is twofold. The terrible campaign being waged by the anti-sealers across Canada and the United States and in Europe makes seals an unwanted product and it is going to take a lot of work by a lot of people with some pretty dramatic presentations to be able to counter that. The second is that for some reason long-haired fur is in in the world and short-haired fur is out. I guess this all must depend on the ladies or those funny fellows that wear it but in any event the two things have combined together.

So let us take Mr. Nickerson's suggestion of stockpiling and let us just say that suppose we have a paper all prepared on it and that we were going to recommend a stockpile in which we would buy, say, up to 25,000 skins in a year at ten dollars a skin. If we stockpiled it, it costs -- and say we got the best people that know how to grade fur and handle it, the Hudson's Bay Company to handle it for us and they would do it for about five dollars, so let us say that then it costs this government \$15 a skin, that is about I guess, \$600,000 or some thing like that for the year, \$350,000 for the year. But there is another problem and Mr. Evaluarjuk and Mr. Pudluk and Mr. Kilabuk would be able to advise us better on this but I remember at Broughton Island the people told me that if they get \$12 for a skin they break even, that is the break-even point. They cited gas, they cited ammunition, the wear and tear on their skidoo because they do not have dog teams any more, and their time. I do not think that the people use as many sealskin carcasses or the meat or the fat as they used to, let us say ten years ago. So essentially what they would be hunting it for would be for the resource, for the fur. So I am wondering if say we doubled it and put it up to \$20, or \$15 and added still the five dollars, then we would be around \$500,000. But I think if we do that and I am just supposing, basing my whole thinking and approach on what I think was a very good presentation by Mr. Nickerson, if we followed that I think we would have to be prepared to do it for about three years. I think it would be that long before we could get the thing turned around. So I believe you are looking at something, this is my own opinion, trying to build a case on things that have been raised so far I think it would take you, you would have to look at something in the order of about \$1.5 million in the final analysis. But you, of course, have the

skins and based on your public relations campaign to counteract the other then you would put the skins on the market but I do not think you would ever recover all of what you had invested. I think that the second recommendation of Mr. Nickerson to stockpile is probably the best answer.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Stewart.

Costs Of Fur Storage

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I must plead complete ignorance with regard to fur and the handling of it, but I presume like all commodities that there is a cost of holding fur and is this a high cost? Is it a refrigeration type of thing? Then of course we have the interest on the money that is tied up for a long period of time and the end result of adding the interest to your capital investment plus the storage costs, just what kind of a loss position are we looking at? These really are the economics of it when you are looking at a three year program because these things can multiply out very quickly. Is there a length of time that they can be kept and after that there may be a dead loss on them? Just what is the position relative to this? Does anybody know?

THE COMMISSIONER: Five dollars a pelt.

MR. STEWART: But how long can they be kept?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Stewart, I think the answer to that would be, it depends on if they are cleaned properly they last for a long time, they would last forever. If you tan them right away then you do not have to worry about them and if you get them in bale form from the Hudson's Bay Company you could keep them for quite a while. But they have to be clean otherwise they may spoil. Hon. David Searle.

Costs Of Public Relations Campaign

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I frankly do not know what the answer to stimulate the price is, except as great a public relations campaign to promote the use of sealskin as it has been used in the past, in fashion and of course that is a very costly thing. It would be a tremendous undertaking to try and explain the difference between harp seals and the issue that is being fought in the St. Lawrence and to try and get people to understand this distinction. Because it is clear to all of us, I think, as to what caused the downturn in the use of sealskin. It is the campaign that guys like Mr. Brian Davies and Brigitte Bardot and others who have the ear of the media have done on the fur garment industry. I do not think it is a simple matter of putting out half a million dollars and stockpiling things in the hope that you will be able to sell these things. You know, I know that there are limited alternatives but I am a little afraid of those alternatives because they are so short run that you are liable to end up with warehouses full of these things hoping for a fire and having insured them well.

So, because there are more people much more learned than I in the area of economics and because of the Minister's economic conference that is scheduled to be held within a couple of months, about the best suggestion I can make at this point in time is to suggest that we, by motion recommend of the Minister that one item for discussion that appear at that time, at that conference, be this matter of the low price of sealskin and see what some of the best brains in the country can suggest. Maybe before then, at the time of the conference we would have what limited brain power there is in the North available to Hon. Peter Ernerk in his department. Maybe they can do a lot of thinking and particularly about some of the alternatives set forward by Mr. Nickerson, see if that can be developed a little more, so that some expert can advance a paper prepared here.

Motion That The Low Price Of Sealskin Be Discussed At Economic Conference.

But I rather suggest or suspect that we are not likely here today to advance this subject much further. However, I am not going to cut off any discussion, I am just giving my own personal views and I think that if I may and I do this without intending to cut off discussion and Members can discuss this matter some more if they want but I would like to move if I might, Mr. Chairman, that the low price of sealskin be recommended as a discussion item for the Minister's economic conference in April.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Very good, Hon. David Searle. That suggestion is very well taken, I hope. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion, Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Question being called. All in favour of the motion? Motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

Further discussion right now on this low price of sealskins? Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, I also would like to say a few words concerning the low prices of the skins and we all know it has been because of the media that the sealskin is going down in price rapidly. I would like to say that the co-op prices have dropped down also and it is also hurting the people very much in Igloolik. The sealskins may be probably about \$15 and \$20 and they send them down South, they will buy some of them only for one dollar and some probably even 25 cents. Maybe this is not true but this is what I personally heard, that co-op prices are going down as well.

We all know about this problem and I do not know how we can solve it. We should try and talk about this and about the people that have done this to us. I think they were not seals, the kind of seals that we do get around here. They were different from around here. I feel that they are a completely different kind of sealskins, the ones that we do get from the North are different from the ones that started the organization. The Legislative Assembly and the territorial government should start working together and we should put out some sort of information item to the South and make them understand and after people do, they may feel that they can make things out of sealskins and rabbit skins and things like that. Maybe if we try to stop this, it would help. The territorial government should look into this matter very strongly right now.

Storage Of Sealskins

Somebody asked how long sealskin can be kept before it is spoiled. I know that the sealskin can last, if they are cleaned properly and if they are not in a damp place, they can last for a long long time, maybe forever. Only if they are in a hot place, that is the only time that they tend to spoil. I can not really say how many years that they can stay without getting spoiled but I would like to say that you can keep sealskin properly for a long time. I would like to say again, if the territorial government and the Legislative Assembly are working together on this maybe we can work out something, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Evaluarjuk, for your information the seals that they do get off Newfoundland are the same as the ones that they get in Pangnirtung, harp seals. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Chairman, you are sure we get the same seals? They are the same ones we get in Pangnirtung, but they hardly get them in Pangnirtung for the last two years because their prices have been really low. Their prices are lower than sealskins and in 1975, they used to cost more than the sealskins but presently they are a lot cheaper than the sealskins now, so they hardly get harp seals now especially in 1977, that the hunters used to.

Retail Store For Sealskins Proposed For Frobisher Bay.

So the people used to say here, yes, it is a fact that the price of sealskins are really low so we have got to try and solve the problem concerning the low price of sealskins. Like I even think about it now that Frobisher Bay does not have a tannery so they should get a retail store for sealskin in Frobisher Bay and all Canada would have to go to Frobisher Bay in order to buy the sealskins. So, this goes for everything in Canada. They should also put one in the Keewatin and also in the Central Arctic where it is closer to the people. And also, if the government starts helping like it will take too long. The way I think is that they will probably need assistance before three months and wintertime starts, that is the time that the price go lowest and also in spring, the price of seal goes a little bit higher but that is when the sealskins are not in good condition. So they price their sealskins in the wrong direction because the wintertime is the best time for the seal fur. The seal fur in springtime is not as good as it was in the wintertime and the price goes low at that time and maybe that is why there are a lot more seals getting killed.

So, only for the first six months they should subsidize the sealskins so they would have to state what month they would have to subsidized. From November or starting from October, November is the hardest time to get seals during wintertime and also the job in summer, we do not have any jobs in summer so that is how I think it should be.

Also that they should build a building in either Baffin or Central or Western Arctic where they can purchase sealskins and that way I think would be best. The co-ops have lost a lot of money for the sealskin. Probably in Pangnirtung we have lost \$10,000 with the sealskins in Pangnirtung, so that is a big problem when they put the sealskins price really low so I just would like you to consider what I said.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. The Chair recognizes the hour and would break just for 18 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The Chair recognizes a quorum. Are there any more comments of a general nature pertaining to the Motion 7-64? Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say that we support the motion that has been passed of course, for this matter to be brought forward at the economic development conference. We may though, depending upon the depth of the problem, have to take some shorter term action to assist the seal hunters. We do not know yet but why I am saying this is that if we do, it will not be in contravention to the direction that we have been given but simply to recognize the depth of the problem that has been brought to us, by Members like Mr. Evaluarjuk.

If the situation is so bad that we are faced with a great escalation in welfare costs as an alternative to taking some direct action in the sealskin market then we may, as I said before on a short term basis take some action to help certain communities and if we do it would be a shorter term solution and not one that would prejudice the results of more major reviews. Hopefully it would be action that would not put us in the position of having to continue support for years to come. I just wanted to make sure that it is understood that we are well aware of the immediate nature of the problem.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you very much, Deputy Commissioner Parker. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

A Tanning Factory In The Eastern Arctic

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say also that the comments brought forward this afternoon are very encouraging. I would just like to make a reference to Mr. Kilabuk's comments this afternoon with regard to, I believe he used the word "tannery," tanning factory or something in Frobisher Bay. I was not listening to the translation but...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Yes, Hon. Peter Ernerk, he did use the word "tannery" in some places, yes.

HON. PETER ERNERK: A tanning factory, I believe in Frobisher Bay or somewhere in the Keewatin. I know that the idea has been thought of in the past but I really have not thought of it all that much in the Eastern Arctic. I would just like to assure Mr. Kilabuk that I am certainly going to take a note of that and see if there could be some kind of a feasibility done with regard to a tanning factory in the Eastern Arctic. I think also the economic development conference in April, the Minister's conference, is also an encouraging one because we are going to have to find some alternatives now especially with the low prices of sealskins. Also some difficulties down the Mackenzie Valley.

In my own economic development conference which will be held in Rankin in May, some time in May, I would definitely suggest that this also be placed on their agenda because I think as a result of continuing decline in sealskin prices we are going to have to find some other alternatives in the East as well as in your area, Mr. Chairman. So anyway, personally I am very encouraged by the comments this afternoon. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you very much, Hon. Peter Ernerk. Mr. Stewart.

Motion To Postpone Adjournment

MR. STEWART: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move according to Rule 7, the sitting of the Assembly, that we sit beyond the hour of daily adjournment today to conclude our business.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The motion, could I have that motion, please, Mr. Stewart?

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, it is a motion to...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I have it now, Mr. Stewart. The motion is that the time for adjournment be postponed to 8:00 o'clock just in case we do not get done. This motion is not debatable. I just want a show of hands. To the motion?

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I did not designate a time, I just said that the hour of 6:00 o'clock not be recognized and then it would be at the will of the Chair to close at any time they wished.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The motion is that if we have to go beyond 6:00 o'clock then the Chair will not recognize 6:00 o'clock as closing time. The motion is not debatable. I just want a show of hands for who supports the motion. All in favour of the motion? I would like to have a show of hands, please. This motion is not debatable. On a point of order, Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I am just wondering if you could read out the motion. I have heard about five different versions there. Just the exact wording, what it is.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson, there were only three different versions. Mr. Stewart, repeat that motion, please, for the fourth time.

MR. STEWART: Where do I find the Rule? I have lost it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The intent of this motion, gentlemen, is that if we do not finish by 6:00 o'clock p.m., then we go beyond so that we do finish this evening.

MR. STEWART: My motion, Mr. Chairman, is that we continue sitting beyond the hour of daily adjournment.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): It is not debatable. I want a show of hands, please, for the motion. All in favour of the motion? Six. Contrary? One. I guess you do not want to go home tomorrow, Mr. Pudluk. The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. PUDLUK: I have no money to pay the hotel, my cheque will not be ready for two days.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): That was not what I heard, you do not need any money. Sealskins, any more comments of a general nature? Mr. Nickerson.

Lack Of Funds For Sealskin Harvesting

MR. NICKERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I did not realize that the volume of production of sealskins in the territories was about 46,000 per year. That being the case, it might change my initial recommendation of a straight bonus system being the best way of dealing with this problem. There is obviously a lot more money involved than I originally thought so I would only put that forward as a suggestion without assigning it a greater degree of priority than any other of the suggestions that have been made. I must say, Mr. Chairman, I was very pleased with the presentation by the Commissioner. It seems that he in particular is well aware of the problems facing the sealskin harvesters of the territories. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, sometimes the federal government might have their priorities mixed up a little bit. From the various things that members of the administration have said while we have been discussing this issue it appears that there is a lack of funds for doing this type of thing.

Whenever there appears to be something which to us is worthwhile and indeed necessary it seems very difficult for those funds to be made available by the federal government. But on the other hand we were advised earlier on in this session by the Minister that they were spending something like \$13 million doing some kind of environmental study offshore of Baffin Island. Now surely it would be possible to take a few dollars out of that fantastic amount of money and use it for something useful, something that is going to help the people of the Northwest Territories, rather than spreading all this money around to various consultants which always seem to make a lot of money out of the government. My point, Mr. Chairman, although I do not expect anything to come from it is that the Government of Canada seems to be spending vast amounts of money on things that may not be really that necessary and that important. But when it comes to something that affects the people of the Northwest Territories that is absolutely necessary, then those funds just do not seem to be forthcoming.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. Hon. Peter Ernerk. Would you put it on Mr. Pudluk's speaker, please?

Seal Meat For Dog Food

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, one of the things that has been in my mind for some time and during one of the discussions I had with one of the people during the coffee break came to my mind again, is that I believe one or two people mentioned here this afternoon that you know a lot of seal meat is left nowadays lying around the beaches in the communities. You know, this is quite true. But one of the interesting thoughts came back a while ago to think about seal meat as dog food, you know. There could be some kind of again feasibility study done and make it into some kind of a Gainesburger type dog food. I think it would be quite interesting because seal meat is something that makes you very strong. I am not too strong any more but it is certainly something that needs a research. I am not sure whether my department would want to look into this or whether the game department should be given the responsibility of looking at it but I think you know, if you add a few little goodies into it, it could prove to be really good dog food.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Hon. Peter Ernerk. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, it would be a good idea if somebody did some research on this seal blubber because a lot of it is thrown away. It would be a good idea to discover some kind of use to make use of the seal blubber instead of just throwing it away. I am wondering who would be doing research so we can make some money out of it instead of just throwing it away.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Evaluarjuk, I think that either game department or Economic Development would be the people to do that kind of a study. One very good thing that my dad used to use seal blubber for, we used to make soap out of it, lye soap.

Are there any more comments of a general nature? If there are no comments, can I read the motion or do we just vote on it? Does everybody understand the motion? I will read the motion then, on the low price of sealskins.

Motion 7-64: Low Price Of Sealskins

Whereas this House is most concerned over the severe economic problems being caused by the very low price of sealskins at the present time;

Now therefore, I move that at a convenient time to be set by the Speaker this House resolve itself into committee of the whole to discuss possible price support mechanisms for sealskins.

We already discussed that and there also is a motion that Hon. David Searle made and it was passed. "I move that low price of sealskins be recommended as a discussion item for the Minister's economic conference in April."

What is the wish of this committee, that we go on to the next item?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Proposed Amendments To N.W.T. Fisheries Regulations.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Would someone here, maybe Hon. David Searle, could you give me a hand? There was a motion relative to proposed amendments to Northwest Territories fisheries regulations. Was that a motion in committee that we -- it was a motion in committee. Then, Hon. David Searle, would you start off?

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Well I do not know if I am the proper person to start off the debate Mr. Chairman, because I do not have the motion at hand, but I believe it was a motion Mr. Nickerson made to support the commercial fisheries organization. So it will be somewhere in the record you kept of committee motions. It was made in committee and what I did in committee was to move that we adjourn the discussion then until we had before us in committee of the whole, fisheries officers and territorial government officers with special expertise in fish populations studies so that we could receive the reasoning behind these new regulations which Mr. Nickerson has spoken to at some length. I guess my position essentially is still the same. I am wondering if you can determine from the administration whether there are experts available to discuss that motion and then I think maybe you could get the motion that Mr. Nickerson made and then we would have a basis to proceed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. David Searle, this motion was moved by you February 7th. "I move that this committee fully supports the Northwest Territories Fishermen's Federation in its rejection of the proposed amendments to the Northwest Territories fisheries regulations and that this matter be discussed in committee of the whole when the attendance of appropriate federal and territorial witnesses can be secured." You made an amendment to the motion.

Witnesses Needed For The Discussion

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I think the record will show that the motion was Mr. Nickerson's motion and that I made an amendment to it which added the last bit on with respect to discussing it when the officials are available here. So coming back to my point, I am wondering if you could ascertain from the administration whether or not there are any officials here.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum, can you give us a hint if there is anybody around that could come into the witness stand?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid I not only can not give you any hint but as far as I know there is not anybody around that I know of.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): May I ask this House to put this aside until the May session so that we have the appropriate people here at the time when we discuss this? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think if you will peruse the exact wording of the motion you will find that Hon. David Searle's amendment to it had the affect that voting on the motion as amended supported the original motion, supported our support of the Northwest Territories Fishermen's Federation in their opposition to the proposed new fisheries regulations. So indeed my motion, in fact, passed and passed with flying colours and the effect of the amendment was to have this matter discussed again for further clarification when fisheries officers were available. In that the proposed changes in regulations are not directly related to fish populations but rather the manner in which the quotas could be taken -- method of assigning quotas to each vessel rather than an over-all quota, I think it would be proper to consider the motion as having passed. But I think that Hon. David Searle wanted to get into a general discussion of how fish quotas are calculated, not only in respect to commercial fishing operations but also in respect of sports fishing operations. I think that that particular matter could very well be set over until the next session.

Motion That Motion Relative To Proposed Amendments To N.W.T. Fisheries Regulations Be Deferred, Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is it agreed by this House that we set it over until the next Legislative Assembly session?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Agreed. Is it the wish of the committee that I report Motion 7-64, Low Price of Sealskins and committee motion, Motion Relative to Proposed Amendments to the Northwest Territories Fisheries Regulations?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Motion 7-64, Low Price Of Sealskins; Motion Relative To Proposed Amendments To N.W.T. Fisheries Regulations

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been discussing price support mechanisms for sealskins and a motion relative to proposed amendments to the Northwest Territories fisheries regulations and I would like to report. There was a motion made, price support mechanisms for sealskins, moved by Hon. David Searle. "I move that the low price of sealskins be recommended as a discussion item for the Minister's economic conference in April." Also, a motion relative to proposed amendments to the Northwest Territories fisheries regulations will be discussed in the next Legislative Assembly session.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lyall. The next item would be Recommendation to the Legislature 1-64, Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance. Now, as I understand the Rules, recommendations are put on the order paper if two Members indicate to the Clerk of the House that that is what they want done. I am wondering if the two Members who put this matter forward are here, as I rather suspect that Mr. Butters was one of them that put it forward. I am not certain, therefore, what the House wants to do with that matter. If the Members are not here who asked that it be discussed in committee of the whole, then my inclination would be not to discuss it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: What about Information Item 5-63, Norman Wells Oil Refinery? I am told by the Clerk of the House that both Information Item 5-63 and 7-63 were requested for committee of the whole by Mr. Butters, unless someone else has a special interest in them. Mr. Fraser, Norman Wells oil refinery, do you have any special interest in that item? That information item?

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what Mr. Butters put that on there for. I got all the information I want about Norman Wells.

MR. SPEAKER: Well that being the case gentlemen, and since Mr. Butters is not here, I suggest we strike those information items.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. NICKERSON: Information Item 7-63. Well, I am sorry, I was thinking of Information Item 7-64. Those are both matters outstanding from the last session. Am I correct in thinking that?

MR. SPEAKER: That is right. As I understand it, they were matters outstanding from the last session that Mr. Butters has particular interest in and wanted them brought over to this session and we have done that and he is not here again so I think we just stand them down, do we not?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Did you have something, Mr. Lyall? Were you trying to get my attention?

MR. LYALL: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to move to tabling of documents, Item 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 9: TAbLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker I would like to table a document, Tabled Document 25-64, a letter I received from Project North, Mr. Hugh McCullum, stating that I said some slanderous words towards him. I would just like to say what the Toronto Globe and Mail had printed in its...

MR. SPEAKER: I think you are going into a point of privilege now.

MR. LYALL: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: You may proceed on that basis.

MR. LYALL: I would just like to state to this House that I still fully support what I have said in my opening remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: Well gentlemen, as I see the order paper then we have -- did you have a point to make with respect to the Recommendation to the Legislature 1-64, Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, Deputy Commissioner Parker?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Well Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that it is unusual for me to speak to a question like this but I am afraid that I missed your discussion on why it was not going into committee. It is a straightforward recommendation to the Legislature and ordinarily when these are advanced by the administration they are given committee consideration. Otherwise the administration is totally in the dark as to how to proceed.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that if I may say so Deputy Commissioner Parker, where I got off the track was assuming that someone other than the administration had put it on the order paper and now that it is clear that it is advanced by the administration for consideration, I think we should go into committee of the whole and consider it. In other words this is the sort of thing where they are asking us for our views.

The other thing, just while we are discussing what is left, there would be that matter, that recommendation to the Legislature and I see also the report of standing committee on finance. That report was made and Mr. Lafferty, you will recall that I indicated that you could, as we went through the budget, advance the motions with respect to the particular appropriation if you wished or deal with it in committee of the whole. There are all those motions you have and I do not know what you plan to do with that report because there are many many things there that I suspect would take many many hours to discuss. Maybe when we deal with Recommendation to the Legislature 1-64, Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance you could consider what you want to do with your report. Therefore this House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Recommendation to the Legislature 1-64, Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 10: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Recommendation to the Legislature 1-64, Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE 1-64, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TAX ORDINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The committee will come to order. Recommendation to the Legislature 1-64, Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance. Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, at a previous session the administration advanced a recommendation to the Legislature dealing with the Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance and then withdrew it or it was refused by the Legislature, one or the other, because it was not sufficiently complete or did not contain adequate explanation. The paper has been completely rewritten and it is now placed before you. The main thrust of the paper is that the taxes on petroleum products in the territories, being one of our major sources of revenue, must keep pace with provincial practice. They must not vary too much from practice in the other provinces and they must be advanced from time to time to keep pace with inflationary costs.

Our spending as a government is increasing at a substantial rate each year and our ability to pay for our spending through our own resources has not been advancing at the same rate by any means. Therefore we propose an updating of taxation; if the recommendations are accepted we would bring in an ordinance within the May session which will correct some of the errors and so forth in the previous ordinance and establish new rates. The ordinance if passed, would then see the new rates going into effect, I believe it is proposed on the first of July or at least some reasonable time after the passage of the ordinance in May.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Comments of a general nature? Hon. David Searle.

Truckers Avoiding Purchase Tax

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to find it but I think it is on page one of the paper, there is an indication that yes, it is B in the first introductory paragraph, "To avoid paying the 'purchase' tax, provincial truckers are making purchases outside the Northwest Territories with the resultant loss of tax revenue to the government and business in the Northwest Territories retailers."

Well, assume they are purchases outside the territories because the price of the product is lower outside the territories. So if you increase the tax on our product within the territories surely you just widen the margin even more, encouraging them even more to purchase outside the territories. I guess I am wondering just how the increase in tax, hence the price of the product, encourages people to buy inside the territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, the intention is not to force truckers to buy their fuel oil within the territories. That is not the intention because we realize that the consumers in the territories would be paying for that in the long run, but rather to have a method of collecting tax on the fuel consumed. This would place territorial truckers in the same favourable position as is now enjoyed by Alberta truckers and this is a system that is used in other jurisdictions. A computation is made of the fuel that is used while a truck is operating in the territories, for instance from the Alberta territorial boundary to Yellowknife and return to the boundary, and a tax is charged on the number of gallons estimated to have been consumed.

This is not an unusual kind of a situation and it would serve to place the territorial truckers in an equivalent position. When a territorial trucker takes a load down into Alberta he suffers from the Alberta taxation. The matter is explained fairly carefully on page three under item 3. You see this system of taxation is designed entirely to be fair to territorial truckers and to ensure that they are not placed in a negative position. This system is in use throughout all jurisdictions except for Newfoundland and the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson.

Not The Best Method Of Taxation

MR. NICKERSON: I must say Mr. Chairman, I do not have any particular objection as far as I understand it anyway, with the kind of reciprocal process regarding diesel fuel taxation for truckers on the highway. It seems a lot better than the suggestion which was presented to us earlier on. I must admit I am not aware of all the possible implications at the present time. But what does bother me about this recommendation is that this might not be the best method of taxation in the territories to raise an additional \$725,000 per year, approximately.

I think that when we study fuel prices and fuel taxation in the territories we should be comparing ourselves with Alberta. That is the logical comparison to make and if you will turn to Appendix 3 you will see that at the present time we are very substantially higher than Alberta in practically all the petroleum products taxes we levy. If you study the proposals you will find that for instance, with respect to gasoline our proposed new tax would be 18 cents as compared to ten, an 80 per cent increase. Residential heating fuel tax would be three cents a gallon compared with no such tax in Alberta and indeed most of the other provinces. We are very hard on people who use oil for heating in the territories and in fact there is no alternative for most people.

If you will look at the same thing with respect to both commercial and residential oil heating. If you look with respect to propane, for motive use you will see that our proposal is for 19 cents a gallon compared with ten in Alberta, a 90 per cent differential. You will also see that the proposal is to raise this amount from two and a quarter cents to 19 cents almost immediately which would not in my opinion be a proper way of dealing with people who have put propane motors in their vehicles. Although I would support the idea of bringing the propane tax into line with that of Alberta or maybe the other provinces I do not think it would be fair to those people who have made substantial investments for their motor vehicles in doing it all in one step. It should obviously be done a step at a time. If you will compare our proposed tax on motive use diesel fuel you will see that a proposal of 19 cents a gallon is compared with 12 cents in Alberta, is recommended. That would be about a 60 per cent differential. The only thing we are comparable with with Alberta is on the aviation fuel.

Average Fuel Prices In Canada

Now we must study not only the absolute tax we put on petroleum products but we must also study the resulting total price of the fuel as sold to the eventual customers. You will see that the October price given in Appendix 4, will show that Yellowknife, diesel heating fuel had a price of 65 cents compared with the Canadian average of 54. We are already 11 cents higher. With regular gasoline our price was \$1.08 a gallon compared with a national average of 95 and compared with 82 cents a gallon in Alberta, 13 cents above the national average. Premium gas, we were \$1.11 compared with the national average of \$1.01, ten cents higher and it also must be remembered that Yellowknife prices are much cheaper than prices in a lot of other places in the Northwest Territories.

So I am wondering whether we are placing an unnecessary burden on people with these proposals. We would have a much higher taxation rate than our good friends to the South, Alberta, with whom the comparison should be made and our final prices will be way out of line compared with Alberta and substantially out of line compared with every other jurisdiction in Canada. So I wonder Mr. Chairman, whether it would be proper for us to make those increases at the present time. I wonder whether there might be a better way of raising the additional revenue.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

N.W.T. Proposed Taxation Is Average

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, if I could just say a word or two here. First of all the second page of Appendix 1 indicates the government's intention to increase the rates in two steps: the first increase proposed for July 25th of this year and the second increase for January 25th, 1979. The rates that were shown in Appendix 3 as the Northwest Territories proposed are of course, the final rates as indicated for January 1979.

The second point is that we would like very much to be able to emulate the taxation in Alberta. However, it is obviously the wealthiest and least taxed province in Canada and except for gasoline prices our proposed taxation is very much in line with the middle range of provincial levels. We simply can not avoid the fact that we are increasing our expenditures at a considerable annual rate and that we are simply not keeping up with our taxation. Our revenues simply do not keep up. The administration would welcome advice as to how to raise revenue by other means but thus far that advice has not produced us anything so I am still looking forward to seeing these other taxation areas identified. As one final statement Mr. Chairman, I take no pleasure from having to be the person who accepts the role of recommending additional taxation to this House.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. David Searle.

Premium Gas The Highest In Canada

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I share Mr. Nickerson's concerns. I do not accept the Deputy Commissioner's statement we will be in the middle range. As I see Appendix 4 we are now at the highest range. As I read it, Yellowknife is \$1.08 for regular gas and the highest price in Canada is \$1.08 for regular gas. Now when you talk about diesel heating, we are just a little lower, well, by about six cents from the highest rate in Canada. So I do not think we are anywhere near the middle range. I think we are obviously not; even looking at the premium gas, the highest price in Canada charged is \$1.14 and we are at \$1.11. Now the only places that compare to what we are paying are Whitehorse on the one hand and it looks like St. John's, Newfoundland. So that is what the table says.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: If I could, I am not claiming that we are in the middle range of price. I am claiming that we are in the middle range of level of taxation.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Well, indeed that may be, but as Mr. Nickerson pointed out the important thing to look at in the final analysis is what the price is when you add everyone's little bit on and that is what the constituent gentleman thinks when he goes to the pumps. It does not say on there on the pumps: "Of your \$1.14 a gallon, only three cents is being taken by the Government of the Northwest Territories," or 11 cents or whatever it is. What it says is that ultimate price and that is what you are judged by when the people go to the polls. Now I am not standing for re-election, I suppose I do not care but I am paying the price at the pumps just like you are and I think that this whole scheme personally should be rejected.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Revenue From The Sale Of Petroleum Products

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I was simply going to point out the same thing that the Deputy Commissioner did. In terms of what the recommendations do, the House is regarding the Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance, it is not a recommendation regarding the total price of particular products. I think it would be very nice to be able to be in a situation where we could have the total price of a product comparable to many different places across Canada. Our recommendation is that if we are to maintain a particular amount of revenue from this tax that in fact, because of the increased cost to us here, it would necessitate an increase. I recognize and appreciate very well the comment the Member from Yellowknife South made that the pumps or anything else do not indicate what the tax is, it is the total price that grabs you.

I think if we are to continue to gain revenue or to have some kind of revenue from the sale of petroleum products within the North and to maintain it at prices that we have had and have been able to use as part of our revenue, then I would think that the time is coming when it is very difficult to keep that going. This was the recommendation that the administration made primarily, with the tax. Our tax is well below other parts of Canada, other provinces. The fact is that the present tax we have is the second lowest in Canada in regards to gasoline, but I was merely going to make that distinction that the Deputy Commissioner made and I appreciate and know so well the comments of the Member from Yellowknife South.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Stewart.

Gas Consumption In The N.W.T.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I can support the first part of this document relative to the proposed tax based on consumption of diesel oil. I believe that will have an equalizing effect. It will probably not raise the price of our freight that much coming into the territories and it makes our territorial truckers a little more competitive. But the balance of the tax increases I think are something that are just really impossible at this present time. I think we have got to remember that actually in the consumption of fuel, a person that is travelling in the territories with our great distances between our places that really the amount of gasoline used and the mileage on a given car probably are greater than our Alberta counterparts. You can not go any place really within the territories under -- 60 miles is the closest place from Hay River basically that you can go to visit anybody.

Then you take your hunters and the rest of the people who are dependent on this other premium gas type of thing wherein you have another increase. I think that we have reached the zenith as far as costs relating to fuel prices in the territories as far as tax is concerned because we can also expect a

healthy increase by the producers within the very near future, plus this tax is going to be quite a different kettle of fish as far as the end price is concerned.

Other Means Of Raising Money

So I would much prefer as I have said previously, if we have to raise money that we still have other avenues. As far as I am concerned it should be on a non-essential type such as alcohol and soft drinks. Alberta and all the rest of the provinces have these taxes in place now. We can buy pop in the territories cheaper than you can in Alberta because they have 40 cents a case tax on it and we do not. The barge loads of pop that you see going down that river must amount to an awful lot of money. I do not know exactly what the number of cases are consumed in the territories but I suggest to you that if we do cut down on the consumption of things such as pop and liquor in the territories we are not going to damage anything. But to continue to increase taxes on those essential things such as gasoline and diesel fuel I can not support this paper.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Well, this government supports the thinking of 150 per cent tax on liquor, thinking that that is a reasonable tax level. I think that I would certainly support 150 per cent tax on soft drinks and candy which, as far as I am concerned is as much garbage and does as much damage or more damage to you than liquor does. And where is the other piece of legislation that I thought we were going to look at, which was the tax on tobacco products that was passed? I guess I am wondering why we get into fuel oil and gasoline when we are dealing with a necessity of life, not a luxury.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker.

A More Responsible Government

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: I do not think that really requires an answer. It has already been said to the House that that legislation would come forward in the May session. The reason is clear because it is tied to spending the money and we have to get clear whether or not we are going to be able to provide that benefit for the elderly. That was the purpose in bringing forward that other tax.

I just do not understand how we can, time after time, speak of looking for responsible government and acting more responsibly and continue to demand that the South pay for more and more of our programs, but not accept a higher level of taxation. That is just a remark. We are certainly well satisfied to look at the taxation of pop and candy bars. I suppose that is possible. At the very least I would urge you to look at the second recommendation most seriously as Mr. Stewart has suggested, the one that would permit us to join with the rest of the provinces in the method of exchanging tax dollars on interprovincial trucking.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: It seems rather funny Mr. Chairman, that the administration is so concerned with matters dealing with taxation and yet at the same time they have apparently refused to bring forward the amendments to the Taxation Ordinance which was requested by this House. I fail to understand it. And the same with the argument used by the Deputy Commissioner that how can you expect responsible government when you are not prepared to tax the population. That argument does not ring true at all. We have heard suggested today by the Honourable Member for Hay River, alternative forms of taxation. They think that were the administration to come forward with what might be considered by this committee as reasonable increases in petroleum products taxation, amounting to one, two, three cents a gallon type of thing rather than these very large increases, that might find some favour.

One Of The Least Acceptable Forms Of Taxation

But I think that in being responsible, both the Members of the Executive to the Legislature, and the Members of the Legislature to their constituents, you have to think about what is the best form of taxes to levy. I think that you will find petroleum products taxes are one of the least acceptable forms of taxation in this particular area because most people would compare themselves with Alberta and as we see from the information provided to us that we already pay probably the highest rates for various petroleum products.

One thing that I would have liked to have seen contained within this recommendation is how the \$725,000, which would be obtained through this increase is to be spent. If we had for instance on the one hand, a proposal to temporarily help the sealskin industry we might be prepared to vote taxes for that particular purpose. But I think that most Members would be extremely reluctant just to vote increases in revenue to this government without knowing what those increases are for. We take the view that there may be things which we especially need to raise revenue for, sealskins being a good example, supplementary benefits for old age pensioners being another example. If we raise all the taxes just so that the consolidated revenue fund can be increased then we have all our taxes at a high level. We never will be able to put specific taxes on specific purposes which we feel necessary and in the public interest.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I think we should stick to this recommendation made by the Department of Finance. I keep feeling that we are jumping around from coke tax to this tax and that tax and that tax. Deputy Commissioner Parker.

A Positive Approach

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I think that the Member has made a very positive approach to this subject in two or three of his statements. The first one is that the administration advances a view on petroleum taxation and a schedule showing a proposed increase and it is open to Members, having looked at that, if they do not find favour with it, of course they can move an alternate. They can agree with one or two cents rather than four or five cents, is the point I am trying to make.

The second point is that we are most interested in indicating where we would spend an increased revenue. You know we are running at all times very close to the line. We have been asked during this session for increases in a number of services and one of those could be help for those people who are put in a very difficult position due to the sealskin price. So we would be most ready to identify specific areas.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Deputy Commissioner Parker. Hon. David Searle.

Motion To Accept Item 2, Recommendation

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that the recommendation which is found on page three, Item 2, Recommendation, that the Northwest Territories follow industry accepted practice by adopting a consumption base to diesel fuel tax system, that that recommendation be accepted.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Recommendation, Item 2 on page three, Department of Finance recommends that the Northwest Territories follow industry accepted provincial practice by adopting a consumption base diesel fuel tax system. Moved by Hon. David Searle that we accept this recommendation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): All in favour? Nine. Contrary? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Hon. David Searle, please.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, may I suggest then that you report out that motion?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): How about the first recommendation, are we going to deal with that? It is not accepted by this House. Shall I report progress or just report? Shall I report the completion of this recommendation? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Recommendation To The Legislature 1-64, Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, your committee has met to consider Recommendation to the Legislature 1-64, Petroleum Products Tax Ordinance and have accepted that the Northwest Territories follow industry accepted provincial practice by adopting a consumption based diesel fuel tax system. The first recommendation was not accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen as I see it before third reading of bills we have I think one item and that is what to do with the report of the standing committee on finance, as it has been moved into committee of the whole. Now Mr. Lafferty, have you got any thoughts as to what you would like to do?

MR. LAFFERTY: Yes Mr. Speaker. There are several items that I feel that should be looked at since they are in the form of motions of the standing committee on finance. I feel that some of these we have not touched on in our debates on budget and many, of course here, recommendations and considerations that have been put forth are redundant. Nevertheless they are motions here which I feel Mr. Speaker, are very important and should not be lost to the House. I would like to itemize these motions that I would like to have formally passed or recognized in the House. That is motion one, that the administration be requested to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with a breakout by electoral districts and communities of the expenditures on programs of the Departments of Education, Health and Social Services, Economic Development and Tourism and Natural and Cultural Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, just a minute. If you are going to go into each motion and if there is going to be any number of them, then I think what we had better do is go back into committee of the whole and you raise with the chairman each of those motions that you want dealt with and then just call the question on them because they are all laid out in your report. But I think if you are going to do that, then I think we should go back into committee of the whole and do it. Then he can report out the ones that are successful and the ones that are not. Judging from the hour of the day, I would think -- this is purely gratuitous advice -- that you might be well advised to pick out the most important ones because I know you have quite a few of them there. That being so we will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of the report of the standing committee on finance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, with Mr. Lyall in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): This House will come to order. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I feel that some of the motions that I have read into the record...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Lafferty, could you wait a minute, please? Could you tell me what motions you are going to deal with?

MR. LAFFERTY: The first motion is motion one, page three; on page four, third motion, fourth motion, fifth motion, sixth motion. There are only six motions that I will be dealing with, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): First motion, third motion, fourth motion, fifth motion and sixth motion, is that correct, sir?

MR. LAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Whitford, on point of order, I guess.

Motions Have Already Been Dealt With

MR. WHITFORD: A point of privilege, I guess, Mr. Chairman. I believe that these motions have been discussed, in fact in committee of the whole as we were discussing the budget at great length. For an example the grant towards organizations had been discussed earlier today. Now during some of this, I know Mr. Lafferty was busy with other commitments and while he was away they had been discussed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, my comments in the former session that some of these recommendations that I have read into the record and they have been discussed; but however I am dealing here with the motions that I feel are of utmost importance to the standing committee on finance which resulted in a motion coming forth as it has been in the past that motions of this nature have got buried and we do not want to have that happen again, to listen to the recommendations of the finance committee, Mr. Chairman. Therefore I felt that since these are motions passed by the standing committee on finance that we should deal with it and these, I feel, are of importance.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Question being called, Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I think that the sixth motion has already been dealt with. I think this has already been done once.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, if Mr. Stewart agrees to it and feels it has been dealt with, motion three, we can cancel that one out too. It is the third motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If the mover is of the view that motion one, motion four and motion five be accepted as presented.

Motion To Accept Motions One, Four And Five

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): I move that motions one, four and five be accepted as presented. Mr. Fraser, to the motion?

MR. FRASER: No, I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Fraser seconded the motion. To the motion. Comments of a general nature? Question to be called. All in favour? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I take a certain amount of objection specifically to the fourth motion. I do not really like to see this type of thing going on. It bothers me when a government takes out a \$300 full page advertisement in a newspaper to tell the population what a good job they are doing with the taxpayers' money and I do not really see the point of it. I know you can go around Ottawa and you see a little sign on the bus there saying that part of this bus service is subsidized by the federal government and then the province of Ontario slaps another sign on telling you, the public, that part of the tax paid to the province of Ontario has also gone in to subsidize their bus service but I do not think those things are really necessary. I do not think that we as legislators should have to curry favour with the constituents that way at all.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): To the motion. Any comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): The question being called, all in favour of the motion? Eight. Contrary? One. One contrary, one abstained. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Lafferty, are there any other motions you want to deal with before we report?

MR. LAFFERTY: No, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Is it the wish of this committee that we report?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: A point of privilege, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the administration intends to reply on the matter which I reminded them of earlier this afternoon.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Deputy Commissioner Parker, I think you are getting hit again.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, we were simply waiting for an opportunity and if it is agreeable to you, I will provide the answers right now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Caribou Meat At Dinner In Montreal

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: The first question dealt with the reported use of caribou meat at a certain dinner in Montreal. I have been unable to find any indication that this caribou meat came from the Northwest Territories. I know nothing more than I have read in the newspaper and a review of our records indicates no export of caribou meat. I can not say that it absolutely did not happen but we certainly know nothing of it.

Fort Franklin Hamlet Council

The second question dealt with the situation at Fort Franklin. The Executive has studied this matter very very carefully at a meeting held in the latter part of last week and we have come to the conclusion that it is not legal for the hamlet structure to be continued unless the hamlet ordinance or rather the Municipal Ordinance is obeyed and therefore we will be discussing with the people there the alternatives that are available. The principal alternative which we think will likely be accepted but we can not say this for sure, will be a move to a form of settlement status, a community council which can be elected in a means chosen by the people because it would be an advisory council. It will still have a number of powers but very much less than those vested in a hamlet council. By doing this we would be meeting the wishes of the people in their manner of choosing such a council but we would not be breaking our own ordinance which calls for certain things to happen under the hamlet ordinance. Now this procedure is one that will be discussed with the people because we think we certainly owe them a full opportunity to be made completely aware of the implications of any move in that direction.

Expenditures Under A Bilingual Program

The third question dealt with the expenditures under a bilingual program. This refers to a French language program which is 100 per cent funded by the federal Secretary of State. Capital funds which were transferred to the territorial government were used for language lab equipment and the O and M funds for teachers' per diem and travel. The program was used to upgrade the qualifications of Northwest Territories French teachers, that is teachers that are teaching French throughout our school system. I recall now when these language laboratories were held and I think they were of very considerable value to those people that are teaching French as a regular subject.

Grants To The Credit Union Central

The fourth question dealt with the rationale for making a grant to, or contribution to the Credit Union Central. In 1973 an agreement was made between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Credit Union Central whereby a grant of \$40,000 per year was granted to the central. This grant was intended to promote and assist the central and individual credit unions across the Northwest Territories as well as to assist in the development of new credit unions when requested to do so by the Government of the Northwest Territories. The agreement was entered into for an

initial two year period and has been subject to yearly review thereafter. To date four grants totalling \$164,000 have been made to the Northwest Territories Credit Union Central for the above purposes. The Credit Union Central provides a clearing house function for all of the credit unions. The grant helps to keep the central costs in line with the lower per unit cost of larger credit union centrals in other parts of the country. The Credit Union Federation of Alberta manages the central under contract with the Northwest Territories Credit Union Central board of directors.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Deputy Commissioner Parker. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: One comment on that. Perhaps we could use the same rationale Mr. Chairman, for keeping the price of petroleum products low in the Northwest Territories. There seems to be entirely the same argument behind the two.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lyall): Thank you, Mr. Nickerson. Shall I report then? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, your committee has considered the report of the standing committee on finance and accepted the following recommendations: First motion, the fourth motion and the fifth motion. Is it the wish, Mr. Speaker, that I read out the recommendations?

MR. SPEAKER: Shall he read them out? Oh I think if you just refer to them, that is all the record has to worry about. Sorry, I do not know if you can hear me. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Point of privilege, Mr. Chairman. On the first working day of this session I asked a question pertaining to the full costs of the Legislative Ball. Last Friday I asked another question, the answer to which was that this information would be forthcoming before the end of this session of the Legislature. I wonder whether or not that information is available, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Commissioner Hodgson.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Assembly. I was trying to get the latest updated figures so as to give as full an answer as I could and I thought that if I chose tomorrow, assembled the figures tonight and chose tomorrow that I would be able to table the answer. But it seems now that you will be through today so I ran around and I have gathered together a reply. I am sorry, I have not got copies to give everybody but I will read it slowly. If you refer to the orders of the day to the specific item, then I will give the reply and this is the only copy I have. I will give it to the Honourable Member from Yellowknife North and I think this will answer your question to the best of my ability.

MR. SPEAKER: What the Commissioner said gentlemen, is that if we would return to Item 2, questions and returns, he would give the response requested by the Honourable Member, Mr. Nickerson. Is it agreed that we can turn to Item 2?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 2: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

MR. SPEAKER: Commissioner Hodgson.

Return To Questions W1-64 And W55-64: Cost Estimate Of Legislative Ball, 1978

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Speaker on January the 23rd, 1978, Mr. Nickerson asked Question W1-64 relating to the costs of the 1978 Legislative Ball. The administration wishes to advise as follows:

(a) A close estimate of the cost to the government for the Legislative Ball is about \$13,000. In addition the cost of accommodation, meals and transportation while in the capital, for guests from various communities and settlements was \$9000 in round figures. As yet it has not been possible to set a figure on transportation costs within the North to and from the settlements because the majority of guests coming for the opening of the Legislative Assembly from the communities made use of surplus seats that would otherwise not have been used on the various charters needed in connection with the Arctic Winter Games. The total charters for the Arctic Winter Games trials could run as high as \$40,000. Included in this were several shipments of freight as the planes were fully utilized to get the maximum usage for the minimum cost.

(b) We have no way of measuring this cost as all staff members working on the ball were volunteers and did so by interspersed spacing of their time with their regular work duties at no extra cost to the government. Time worked outside the normal work hours was on their own time for no extra pay as a contribution to the Legislative Assembly and their guests. As no records were kept of actual times spent, no meaningful answer is available.

(c) There is no cost estimate available for the Department of National Defence and RCMP aircraft as they carried guests on a space available basis. As I understand it all flights were in the course of regular operational flights. It should be mentioned that the territorial administration carries representatives of the forces and the general public as guests and on a space available basis also.

(d) The administration has no firm figures on any other direct or indirect costs but to the best of my knowledge I believe that other costs such as printing, invitations, postage, decorations, materials, pictures, etc., may amount to just over \$1500.

In the opinion of the administration it would not be possible to hold events on a territorial-wide basis such as the special opening of the Legislature and other related events without a lot of volunteer work and taking advantage of opportunities and assistance from public and private agencies. The authority for the Legislative Ball comes from the recommendation of the standing committee on finance and the subsequent Motion 28-59 of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly and with the support of the administration.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, third reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 11: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 4-64, the Nursing Profession Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 4-64: Nursing Profession Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 4-64, An Ordinance to Amend the Nursing Profession Ordinance, be read for the third time.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 6-64, the Corrections Ordinance, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 6-64: Corrections Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 6-64, An Ordinance to Amend the Corrections Ordinance, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Fraser. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 7-64, Summary Conviction Procedures Ordinance, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 7-64: Summary Conviction Procedures Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 7-64, An Ordinance Respecting Procedures for Summary Conviction Offences under Ordinances, Regulations and Municipal Bylaws, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder. Mr. Whitford. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 8-64, the Vehicles Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 8-64: Vehicles Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 8-64, An Ordinance to Amend the Vehicles Ordinance, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder. Mr. Kilabuk. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 9-64, Collection Agreement (Income Tax) Questions Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 9-64: Collection Agreement (Income Tax) Questions Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 9-64, An Ordinance Respecting the Resolution of Questions Arising out of the Collection Agreement Entered into Pursuant to the Income Tax Ordinance, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seunder? Mr. Pudluk. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Carried.

---Carried

Bill 10-64, Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 10-64: Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 10-64, An Ordinance Respecting the Designation of Beneficiaries under Retirement Savings Plans, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder. Mr. Evaluarjuk. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 11-64, the Appropriation Ordinance, 1978-79. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Third Reading Of Bill 11-64: Appropriation Ordinance, 1978-79

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 11-64, An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1979, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Stewart. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question. Question being called. All in favour?

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: I think there is an error in here. It is supposed to read 1978 not 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: 1978-79, I believe were the fiscal years. Well, the record will be so corrected.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 12-64, the Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance No. 3, 1977-78. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 12-64: Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance No. 3, 1977-78

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 12-64, An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1978, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Evaluarjuk. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? The third reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 14-64, Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1978. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Third Reading Of Bill 14-64: Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1978

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 14-64, An Ordinance Respecting a Financial Agreement Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder. Mr. Pudluk. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 15-64, the Loan Authorization Ordinance. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Third Reading Of Bill 15-64: Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1978-79

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 15-64, An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds from the Government of Canada and Make Loans to Persons in the Northwest Territories During the Fiscal Year 1978-79, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder. Mr. Kilabuk. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 16-64, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Third Reading Of Bill 16-64: Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance No. 1, 1978

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 16-64, An Ordinance to Authorize the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to Borrow Funds, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder. Mr. Pudluk. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question. Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 17-64, the Judicature Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 17-64: Judicature Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 17-64, An Ordinance to Amend the Judicature Ordinance, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Seconder. Mr. Whitford. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading is carried.

---Carried

Bill 18-64. Flood Damage Reduction Agreements Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 18-64: Flood Damage Reduction Agreements Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 18-64, An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Enter into Agreements Respecting the Reduction of Flood Damage, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Lafferty. Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, can you confirm that those are all the bills? That is all, as I see it.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Before going on to Item 12, assent to bills: The usual prorogation reception, hosted by yours truly, will be held in the Katimavik A room immediately following the assent to bills and prorogation. Members are of course invited, officers, staff, and our dear friends, the press gallery. I thought I should say that because I think it is the first nice thing anybody has ever said about them.

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, would you see if the Commissioner is available to assent the bills and prorogue this House?

ITEM NO. 12: ASSENT TO BILLS

THE COMMISSIONER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to give assent to Bill 4-64, Bill 6-64, Bill 7-64, Bill 8-64, Bill 9-64, Bill 10-64, Bill 11-64, Bill 12-64, Bill 14-64, Bill 15-64, Bill 16-64, Bill 17-64 and Bill 18-64.

Time And Place Of Next Session

I believe the next order of business is the time and place for the next session. Based on your advice and recommendation the next session of the Legislative Assembly will be held in the city of Yellowknife, commencing on Monday, May the 8th.

Commissioner's Closing Remarks

And now, Mr. Speaker, the last order of business is the progrogation. As Commissioner, I accept your recommendation and confirm the election of Mr. Thomas Butters as the Member of the Executive Committee. After consultation with the other members of the Executive I propose to recommend to the Minister that he be assigned the responsibility for the Department of Natural and Cultural Affairs.

Hon. Peter Ernerk will retain his responsibilities for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Hon. Arnold McCallum has agreed to continue with the two departments, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Local Government. It may be possible over the next few months to look at assigning another one of the departments to one of the other Members of the Executive Committee, elected Executive Committee Member.

I just wanted to leave you with a few words. One is that I commend you for the budget and for the expeditious manner in which you went over the budget and for the expeditious way in how you handled it. The budgets of the territorial government have become much larger than what they were when I first started back in 1964. At that time I believe we had a budget of \$12 million and it used to take us four days to get through the budget. But the sessions were two weeks and the winter session was usually held in the summer, and the summer session was usually held in the winter and it was only a week long.

Special Representative On Constitutional Development

The days ahead, of course, are going to be very interesting. I have noted the resignation of Hon. C.M. Drury from the House of Commons. Like you, I wondered what this would mean to his responsibilities as the special representative. In discussing the matter with him, I am persuaded that it really means that he will have more time freed up to spend with his responsibilities here. I have no knowledge, of course, when a federal election will be called but whether it be in the spring, summer, or fall, if he was still a Member of Parliament or running in the next election, much of his time would have to be spent either with party responsibilities or in his constituency. This is now behind him. I believe that he is correct in his feelings that this has freed him up for more work here.

Unity Committee

I would direct the Assembly's attention to the meeting in early April of the unity committee. I suggest to you that you would do well to present your views before that commission. They are all highly motivated people that are members of that committee. I think you should move out from the traditional concern, specifically, just with reference to the Northwest Territories, but should voice your views as to the broader scene to national unity and relate the part that the territorial would like to play and at the same time, extending and stating the views of yourself as legislators, and, of course, those who represent as to what the future constitutionally and politically should hold for Canada.

I intend to make a presentation on behalf of the territorial government. I do not intend to deal with the legislative matters here. I think this is entirely in your realm, your province. I rather intend to talk more after discussion with my colleagues in the changing role that we think that Canada has to look forward to if it is to be able to stand the stresses and strains and meet the challenge of the 21st century.

The Liard Highway

The next few months should see if the groundwork is properly laid to the start of the Liard highway. This is indeed good news for the territories and I want to commend all of you for your efforts in this regard. No one pressed harder for it than this Legislative Assembly and I believe that the Minister listened to you as he did your views with regard to economic development. In the year ahead and the years after that I suggest to you that the question of jobs and

employment will become key issues, key items that you will not be able to avoid. The population is now standing around 45,000 to 48,000, depending on who you talk to. The question of providing opportunities for those who wish them will become paramount.

You talked about the problems of resource harvesting. There are those who see them in a very rosy point of view. Whether they are right or wrong I am not in any position to say. But if the matter of seal harvesting is any indication of what can happen with resource harvesting in the renewable field, an entire community can be literally financially ruined because of some international incident that has no relationship to the particular area. So I look at things of that kind where people in communities can no longer make a living off the land. They have no other alternative but to look for opportunities in the other economy and that is the wage economy. That depends on you and I and all of the others, regardless of what they may personally think, of whatever particular persuasion they may be wishing to put across. The fact still remains that if we can not speak for the people then there is no one has a better opportunity and chance.

Proposed Visits

I should say that in March I hope to go out on the road again and will visit all of the communities of the Eastern Arctic and I hope to, before this week is over, visit Snare Lakes in this area here but I will spend a lot of time in the Eastern Arctic where they have problems and then will look forward to the early meeting in April of which the Minister has -- a date has yet to be selected for the economic development conference. I suggest that all of you should make an effort to attend that conference. As legislators I think you can make a very valuable contribution at that time.

On March 3rd I have been asked to go to the Yukon to speak to the RCMP regimental dinner and that will be the first time I have been to the Yukon since 1972. But I certainly will bring not only the greetings of the Executive Committee but with your approval I will also bring the greetings of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

I congratulate you on the amount of work that you have put through this past three weeks. I remain persuaded and convinced that in this Legislative Assembly lies much of the future of the Northwest Territories and the people of the territories are being well served.

Prorogation

With those few words I now declare prorogued this 64th session of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

---PROROGATION

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