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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

66th. Session

8th Assembly

Official Report

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1978

Pages 23 to 42

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1978.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. David Searle): Item 2, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Are there any replies this afternoon, gentlemen?

Item 3, questions and returns. Are there any returns? Are there any written questions? Mr. Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Question W5-66: Slaughter Of Killer Whales

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, first of all I have a question addressed to the Minister of Natural and Cultural Affairs. Could the administration give full details concerning the killing of 17 killer whales in Pangnirtung several months ago? Was this slaughter in any way illegal and if so, have any charges been laid?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will reply by taking the question as notice and file the answer before the close of the session, but I had my hand up too, to ask about returns.

Partial Return To Question W2-66: Social Behavior Of Ravens

I understood that a return had been received in response to the Honourable Member's question of yesterday regarding ravens. Is it now in the hands of the Deputy Commissioner? Orally the response is that no such study was carried on by the department, is being carried on, or is contemplated to be carried on and therefore there are no funds relating to the second part of the question.

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

MR. NICKERSON: We seem to be a little bit mixed up. If at all possible, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question with regard to the answer or with regard to the return just made by the Honourable Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, proceed.

Question 06-66: Study On Ravens

MR. NICKERSON: If it is indeed true that the government of the Northwest Territories is not engaged or has not been engaged or does not contemplate being engaged in the study of ravens in the Yellowknife area how come this matter is referred to in the Game Advisory Council report of January, 1978?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will take the supplementary question as notice, Mr. Speaker, and file a return.

MR. SPEAKER: Anyone else before we give Mr. Nickerson a further opportunity? Mr. Lyall.

Question W7-66: CBC Services, Holman Island, Pelly Bay And Gjoa Haven

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the administration whether or not they have any word from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as to when the settlements of Holman Island, Gjoa Haven and Pelly Bay may expect radio and television services for their communities. These settlements have already petitioned CBC.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner Parker.

Partial Return To Question W7-66: CBC Services, Holman Island, Pelly Bay And Gjoa Haven

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, we have no knowledge of new or recent plans to extend service in those areas. However, we would like to take the question as notice and check to make certain that our information is up to date.

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

Question W8-66: Justice And Corrections Advisory Committee

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister responsible for social services. Pursuant to section 6 of the Corrections Ordinance, the Commissioner is obliged to establish a justice and corrections advisory committee. It is understood that such a committee is not in operation. What plans does the Minister responsible for social services have for the re-establishment of the justice and corrections advisory committee?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and file a reply before the session is finished.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Question W9-66: Organized Caribou Hunts

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this administration whether or not they will be giving us any indication of how much money has been spent for organized caribou hunts.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will take the question as notice and file a reply as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lyall.

Question W10-66: Bathurst Inlet Caribou Herd

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this administration whether or not Bathurst Inlet caribou herd is dwindling from, say, five years back.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will take the question as notice and file a reply during this session. I would also like to advise the Member and the Assembly I think generally if the Members would like a report on the present conditions of the six major herds in the Northwest Territories during the time we are meeting here, I am sure witnesses would be glad to appear before them and indicate the exact situation to the best of their knowledge with regard to the viability of each of the herds we are interested in.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

Question W11-66: Fort Norman School Budget

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I have a written question for the administration. Now that the school in Fort Norman has been cancelled for the year 1978, what happens to the millions of dollars budgeted for this school?

Return To Question W11-66: Fort Norman School Budget

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, the funds remain within our fiscal framework, that is, within our treasury and will be rerouted next year for that purpose.

MR. SPEAKER: Further written questions?

Item 4, oral questions.

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 7, notices of motion. Mr. Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 7: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 4-66: Area Development Ordinance

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, the 18th of October, I will introduce two motions. The first one will deal with the Area Development Ordinance.

Notice Of Motion 5-66: COPE Land Claims

The second will deal with the study in committee of the whole of the COPE land claim settlement.

MR. SPEAKER: Further notices of motion?

Item 8, motions for the production of papers.

Item 9, motions.

ITEM NO. 9: MOTIONS

Motion 1-66, Mr. Stewart.

Motion 1-66: Report Of The Electoral District Boundaries Commission

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, I move the following motion:

WHEREAS the passage by this House of an ordinance to establish an Electoral District Boundaries Commission made possible the establishment of such a commission by proclamation of the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS this commission, consisting of the Hon. Mr. Justice C.F. Tallis as chairman, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk and Mr. Ted Trindell has completed its task and submitted its report to the Speaker of this House as stipulated in the ordinance;

AND WHEREAS the report of the commission has been tabled in this House;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the report be discussed in committee of the whole at a time to be determined by the Speaker.

Inasmuch, Mr. Speaker, as this is self-explanatory, I do not wish to take up the time of the House in presenting any further comments on it.

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

Motion 1-66, Carried

Mr. Stewart, the Member, has indicated he does not wish to debate the matter. Is there any further discussion? The question being called. All in favour? Contrary? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Motion 2-66. Mr. Nickerson.

Motion 2-66: Invitation To Native Women's Association

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker:

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this House extends to the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories an invitation to appear before the committee of the whole of this House, at a suitable time to be determined by the Speaker, for the purpose of informing Members of the activities of that organization.

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

MR. NICKERSON: I will speak very briefly on this, Mr. Speaker. As a number of Members know, the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories is a very progressive and worthwhile organization. It is actively supported by a number of the Members of this House. They are engaged in a number of interesting projects at the present time and I am sure that it would be of interest to Members to find out exactly what it is they are up to at the present time. They have, of course, indicated that if this invitation is extended to them, they would like and are quite well prepared to come before committee of the whole.

Motion 2-66, Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion? The question. The question being called. All in favour? Contrary? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motion 3-66. Mr. Nickerson.

Motion 3-66: Territorial Representation To Provincial/Territorial Boundaries Commissions

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS at present there is no territorial representation on the various provincial/territorial boundary commissions;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this House recommends to the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources that an officer in the public service of the Northwest Territories be appointed to the British Columbia/Yukon/Northwest Territories boundary commission, the Saskatchewan/Northwest Territories boundary commission, the Alberta/Northwest Territories boundary commission and the Manitoba/Northwest Territories boundary commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Whitford. Discussion. Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: The various lists of commissions that I have read out, Mr. Speaker, might seem like we are going to impose a lot of work on one of the officers of the public service. This is, of course, not really true. These commissions have been set up just so that they are in existence and they do not

really have a lot of work to do. The surveys have been made some time in the past and the technical work performed by these commissions is of a very cursory nature, mainly just the maintenance of certain monuments which does not really entail any great amount of work on the part of the members of the commission itself.

One of the important things that these various commissions might be called upon to do at some point in time, although the likelihood of it happening in the near future is not very great, is the resolution of disputes concerning the boundaries between the Northwest Territories and the various provinces which we border and this is probably the most important function that these people are carrying out at the present time. The commissions were established by the provinces and by the federal government, the province concerned and the federal government. The federal commissioner is the surveyor general of Canada and the provincial representative is usually the director of surveys or the person doing the same type of job as a director of surveys would do. He might be known by some other name in the different provinces, but it does not seem right at all that the Northwest Territories, the Government of the Northwest Territories should not be represented at all on these various boundary commissions. We have read with interest the constitutional proposals put forward by the Government of Canada and this House is on record as taking the position contrary to the Government of Canada in respect to the provisions under the new constitutional arrangement whereby the Northwest Territories could be carved up and distributed between the various provinces and there are all kinds of rearrangements made without the people of the Northwest Territories ever being consulted on these matters.

As far as the federal government is concerned that is a matter strictly between themselves and the provinces and the views of the people who live in the Northwest Territories are of no account. I think that were we to be able to persuade the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to put a nominee of this government on the various commissions this would do something to alleviate the problems which we are facing in Ottawa at the present time with this idea, that the people in the Northwest Territories have no say as to what the eventual boundaries of the territories might be.

Motion 3-66, Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Further discussion? The question being called. All in favour? Contrary? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 10, tabling of documents. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

ITEM NO. 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

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

Tabled Document 7-66, Annual Report of the Workers' Compensation Board for the Year Ended December 31st, 1977.

Tabled Document 8-66, Use of Both Official Languages on Territorial Government Letterhead.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that possibly both these could be matters to be moved into committee of the whole at some time.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, Hon. Arnold McCallum, with respect to the latter part of course you know the Rules. If some Member wishes to discuss a tabled document in committee of the whole then presumably a motion would be made to that effect. Hon. Tom Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document:

Tabled Document 9-66, Northwest Territories Wildlife Regulations, Draft 8.

MR. SPEAKER: Further tabled documents? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: I wish to table the following document, Mr. Speaker:

Tabled Document 10-66, Letter from Ed J. Brogden, 14 July, 1978, Concerning the Liquor Ordinance.

The letter, written in Mr. Brogden's impeccable English was, I believe, circulated to all Members of the Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters.

ITEM NO. 11: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

I presume Bill 8-66 is the one you want to deal with first. This House will move into committee of the whole for continued consideration of Bill 8-66, Workers' Compensation Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 8-66, Workers' Compensation Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 8-66, WORKERS' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The committee will come to order to study Bill 8-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Workers' Compensation Ordinance. Mr. Minister, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. John MacLean is here this afternoon and I wonder if the committee would be agreeable to have him appear before us to answer some questions?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I understand that also Mr. Lang is here. Possibly we should call both of these people. Is that agreed?

---Agreed

We will call Mr. MacLean and Mr. Lang. Bill 8-66, comments of a general nature. Mr. Steen, when we left this bill yesterday you were asking some questions. We now have witnesses. Would you like to present your questions at this time?

MR. STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the main thrust of my questions is the \$2000 increase in the Workers' Compensation Ordinance. What I am interested in really is how is this compensation working? How does the administration feel that we should raise the compensation per employer? This is really what I am asking, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Mr. MacLean.

MR. MacLEAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have two reports available. I thought at the outset I might report on the activities of the board since we were last before this Assembly and after doing that I have a summary of information and data with respect to the amendments which I could distribute to Members of the Assembly. Mr. Lang could dwell on those facts and answer some of the questions that Mr. Steen has put forward now along with other matters that may be relevant. If you want at this stage I could proceed to make my report on some of the board's activities since we last met.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Proceed, Mr. MacLean.

History Of Workers' Compensation

MR. MacLEAN: As a little historical background I should start out by indicating that the workers' compensation has been in effect since 1953 in the territories but inasmuch as the services of the Alberta board as its referee were being used at that time, all administration was done from Edmonton. It was not until June of 1972 that the administration of workers' compensation in the territories was moved to Yellowknife. Throughout all this period of time the basic principle of individual responsibility as far as the employer was concerned remained constant. In 1972, as a result of a board of inquiry and its recommendations thereto, the Workers' Compensation Board as such became a reality in the Northwest Territories. Certain increases were recommended by this inquiry and certain facts were brought to light apropos an individual-employer responsibility vis-a-vis the collective responsibility, principally in existence in the other provinces. Accordingly a recommendation was made to the Members of this Assembly followed by legislation to assure that employers deal only with the board in relation to assessment under the workers' compensation fund...

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Mr. MacLean, I wonder for interpretation if you would mind slowing down a little? I think they are having a little trouble.

MR. MacLEAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the system known as collective liability, the recommendations and legislation were based on a feasibility study submitted by Crawford E. Lang who has continued on and is here today as the board's consulting actuary. This change in the funding method enabled the board to take over full responsibility for setting assessment rates, collecting assessments, adjudication of benefits, appeals on claims and so forth. All of this took effect under the new ordinance from January 1st, 1977.

Administrative Responsibilities Of Board

With respect to the board's general administrative responsibilities since that date I should like to report the following. In regard to office space, the board's need for additional space was met with the move of the safety division of the Department of Public Services into the new courthouse building. On projection there is no need for additional space over the next four years, barring an unforeseen transfer of additional statutory responsibilities to the board.

Staff: the total number of staff remains the same in number as indicated to you during the debate in February of 1977, that is, a staff complement of 24 plus the chairman of the board. At the present time the board would like to establish one additional position in the assessment division, a junior assessment officer. If this position were filled there should be no need for additional staff over the next three years, allowing for normal growth in claims and the number of employers.

Administrative costs: the target for administrative costs was not to exceed ten per cent of assessment income. This was in accordance with the recommendations contained in the actuarial feasibility study. The board's administrative costs for 1977 are 9.9 per cent of revenue and it is expected that the administrative costs for 1978 will also meet the ten per cent target. Budget: we have undertaken to provide a copy of the board's administrative budget for 1979 for tabling at the January, 1979 session of this Assembly. Specifically, the board's administrative organization is separated into three main divisions; the claims division which includes rehabilitation services, the assessment division and the finance division which includes responsibility for the investment committee.

It may be of interest to note that the number of claims over the past five years in the Northwest Territories for injuries has remained fairly constant; in 1973, 2654 claims; 1974, 2469 claims; 1975, 2582 claims; 1976, 2521 claims; 1977, 2298 claims and to date in 1978, 1771 claims. Although this does not indicate the

seriousness of the various claims it does support the thesis that the number of claims are averaging and over the past two years decreasing in number.

Financial Agreement With Government

Earlier this year the board entered into a financial agreement with the government of the Northwest Territories. This took effect as of March 31st and has been tabled in this Assembly. One of the provisions of the agreement dealt with an investment committee. This committee has been meeting regularly, has established the parameters of our investment policy which has been approved by the board and is in the process of employing a portfolio manager for its long-term investments in bonds.

Since March 31st, 1978 the board through its chief financial officer has been investing its moneys in short-term bank certificates, that is, less than a year in term. The financial statements for 1977 have been tabled as part of our annual report and indicate the funds as at December 31st, 1977 to be in the amount of \$6,814,000 with earned interest of \$181,000 for that year. The certificate of the Auditor General and the actuary are attached thereto. To bring you up to date, the fund as of October 31st, 1978, stands at just over \$12,500,000 with almost all of it invested in short-term bank certificates. I am advised by the chief financial officer that the amount of interest earned for 1978 is expected to be approximately \$725,000.

Allocation Of Moneys

Reserves: perhaps this would be an appropriate place to explain the allocation of the moneys in the accident fund. There are two various reserve funds. The reserves are, firstly, in the pension fund and this is set up to pay pensions. It is replenished by the capitalized value at the time of each pension when we are aware of a fatal claim. It is not separated by class or by employer or by year of injury. Secondly, is the future claims fund, which is set up to meet future payments for accidents which have occurred in previous years. It is replenished from provisions out of each years assessment income. It is separated by the year of injury but not separated by class or by employer. The third fund is the contingency fund established to meet disasters, catastrophes, enhancement of disability due to prior injury, industrial diseases and the rehabilitation costs. This fund is replenished from specifics charged in assessment. It is not separated by class, employer or by year of injury.

This then leaves the balance of the fund in cost balances and those are the current balances in each class after crediting assessment income and assets and charging claims, awards, provisions for future claims and contingencies and share of administrative costs. The class balances of course are separated by class only. The operation of each class for the year 1977 is shown in detail in the financial statements. There are certain appropriations made from each class or subclass with respect to maintaining reserves in the various funds and I would leave the discussion of this, if you feel you have any questions on it, for later on in the debate, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. MacLean.

MR. MacLEAN: I was going to go on and say something about rates if I may, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Go ahead.

MR. MacLEAN: Rates on assessable payrolls for the year 1977 were based on 80 per cent of the premium charged by private insurers for individual employers during 1976. It was decided by the board due to a lack of experience to continue with the same rates for the assessment year 1978. The board, after consideration of all the factors involved and based on a study and report done for the board by its consulting actuary, established the classification and fixed rates for

employers in the calendar year 1979. There are no major changes in the classification system, but the rates have been revised and perhaps we can leave the factors that were considered by the board in revising the rates until later on in these proceedings.

Estimated Revenues

The estimated revenue for 1979 based on these new rates and taking into consideration a possible increase in the YMAR, years maximum assessable remuneration, is \$6,713,740. On a comparison to revenue received in 1977 of \$6,949,000 this would be a drop of 3.2 per cent in assessment revenue. It is interesting to note that as the result of these revised rates the average level for rates for 1979 for employers in the Northwest Territories will be 65 per cent of the average rate charged by private insurance companies in 1976. Taking into consideration the assessment revenue generated by the 1979 rates, along with the possibility of the YMAR being raised, the actuarial projection of the amount that the fund will be at as at December 31, 1979, is \$16,862,000. This projection, of course, takes into account the average amount of claim compensation paid over the past five years with no significant upheaval in the Northwest Territories economy foreseen at this time for 1979.

This now brings me to the amendment before this Assembly, a possible rise in the amount of the YMAR and its corresponding effect on the amount of compensation to be paid to workers and their dependants. Linked to a possible rise in the YMAR is the board's decision to raise existing pensions by eight per cent for 1978, a further eight per cent for 1979 to be done in 1979 and a review of all pensions in an attempt to bring those in need up to the level of pensions paid under existing legislation.

With respect to the legislative proposal, the board is bound under section 50 of the Workers' Compensation Ordinance to review annually the amount of all compensation being made in respect of permanent disability, all compensation payments being made to dependants and the amount of years maximum assessable remuneration and to make recommendation in respect thereof to the commission. No basis for these recommendations is set out in the ordinance but we understood that it was the intent of this Assembly when it passed the legislation to reflect changes in average earnings by regularly increasing the benefits paid to injured workers and to the dependants of deceased workers through revisions of the YMAR from time to time. Our review was conducted based on a number of factors and I have with me now, Mr. Chairman, a summary of these relevant facts and information and with your permission I would like to make them available to the Members of the Assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. MacLean, if you would. Relative to the questions asked by Mr. Steen, Mr. Lang would you undertake to do that now?

MR. MacLEAN: I wonder if we should not distribute this information first, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Fine, go ahead. Mr. Lang.

MR. LANG: If you would like me to answer Mr. Steen's questions while these are being distributed, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Go ahead.

Answers To Questions

MR. LANG: I have noted these questions. One, how is it working and I think from the reports that have been tabled Members of the committee will find that the compensation fund has been working very satisfactorily in its first year of operation and it is in a very healthy state. The number of accidents has been answered already by Mr. MacLean of 2285 accidents in 1977 which is slightly lower than was the experience for the previous few years.

The increase in the maximum assessable remuneration has come about through an understanding of the intent of this Assembly when it passed the original legislation. Many Members will remember that we recommended that there should not be an automatic index change in the ceiling for the purposes of compensation but that the Legislative Assembly should stay in the driver's seat and review the changes that seemed necessary in the light of changes in the cost of living after having taken account of the economic situation in the territories.

In our study we looked at the changes in three indices provided by Statistics Canada. The first was the industrial composite index for the Northwest Territories. The second was the index of territorial government employment because public service employees are not included in the industrial composite index and because a number of workers in the territories are based outside of the Northwest Territories and are not residents here and, therefore, do not appear in the Northwest Territories industrial composite index. We also looked at the composite index for the whole of Canada. Taking these three indices together we came up with a combined index which indicated that an increase of 16 per cent from the level established by the Assembly in 1977 seemed appropriate in the light of changes in conditions since that time.

These figures are in this material which has been presented to you. Start with Appendix A. That shows the comparison of, we call it for short YMAR, years maximum assessable remuneration, which is the assuming of earnings which count in determining both benefits and assessment charges to employers. The current ceiling for the Northwest Territories is \$14,500. In the Yukon it is \$17,000; British Columbia, \$17,600; Alberta has just recently on the first of July increased their maximum from \$15,600 to \$16,500; Manitoba is \$17,000; Saskatchewan is \$18,000; Ontario is \$16,200; Quebec is \$18,000 and the maritime provinces are \$12,000.

Comparison With Provinces

The effect is shown on Appendix B. The effect on widows' pensions is \$398.75 and the children's pension \$90.62. With the increase in the maximum ceiling of the YMAR this would automatically increase the benefits to \$462 for widows and \$105 per month for children. Present Yukon benefit is \$297 a month for a widow and \$97 for a child and it is estimated that this will be increased to \$321 and \$105 when the CPP, Canada Pension Plan, increases for 1978 are brought into account.

British Columbia has a very complicated pattern of benefits for widows and children in that they take account of the CPP benefits but, for example, a

widow with one child when combined with the CPP benefit will get \$935 at the moment and this is estimated to increase for 1979 to \$1025 per month, again increasing the Canada Pension fund benefits. Alberta has the richest benefits for widows of all the provinces. They provide a benefit equal to 75 per cent of the earnings of the deceased worker with a maximum of \$975 and a minimum of \$436 and this will increase with effect from July, 1978, to \$1034 maximum and \$463 minimum. Their benefits for children are \$90 increasing to \$95 from the first of July, 1978. Ontario is the other major province that it might be interesting to read out from this. The widow's pension there is \$365, the children's pension, \$99.

Then the final column of Appendix B indicates the maximum figures for the total disability pension, that is, for somebody who is on maximum earnings and who is 100 per cent disabled. Present benefits for such a person in the Northwest Territories would be \$906.25 and if the ceiling of the YMAR is increased to \$16,800 as proposed the benefit would increase to \$1050 a month for somebody injured on and after the first of January, 1979. The present benefits in the Yukon are \$1062.50 estimated to increase to \$1125 when the cost of living increases which are automatic in that territory are brought into account. British Columbia will go up to \$1206 per month maximum; Alberta will increase to \$1035 maximum; Manitoba, \$1062 maximum and Ontario to \$1012.

Industrial Composite Wage Index

In Appendix C1 the industrial composite wage index for the Northwest Territories and Canada are both set out starting with January, 1975 and going right through to the latest one at this time which was March of 1978. The interesting figures at the bottom line of the table which show the yearly average for the Northwest Territories for 1975 was \$280.37 for a week. For Canada as a whole it was \$203.34. In 1976 for the Northwest Territories it was \$290.97. For Canada as a whole it was \$228.03. For 1977 the Northwest Territories increased to \$306.03 but Canada as a whole had increased to \$249.95. The latest figures for March were \$305.58, that is, the first estimate at that time for the Northwest Territories; and \$260.90 for Canada as a whole. Table C2 shows a comparison of these industrial composite wage indices from the various provinces and territories and as you will see the Northwest Territories is the second highest, it only being exceeded by the Yukon.

The index for government employment in the Northwest Territories is shown in Appendix D. Briefly the figures show average earnings from 1975 of \$15,511: for 1976, \$16,676 and for 1977, \$18,165. Appendix E is a recapitulation of the consumer price index for Canada as a whole since 1975. Perhaps that would be a suitable point to break, Mr. Chairman, and see if there are any questions.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Lang. Mr. Steen, are you satisfied that we have answered your questions or have you supplementary questions?

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the witnesses for a very detailed report. However, the main question or the main reason for my first question was that I do not see any increased jobs or work in the Northwest Territories. I was questioning the very fact of the increase because of the same level of work in the Northwest Territories, the same level of money. The only increase I believe was government that spent a couple of million more but they have taken it back now. This was the main reason for my question but I am satisfied, Mr. Chairman, with the report.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Any further questions? Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: I was just wondering if we could start clause by clause?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Clause by clause? Are there any further questions of the witnesses? Mr. Nickerson.

Financial Position Good

MR. NICKERSON: I too, Mr. Chairman, would like to thank Mr. MacLean and Mr. Lang for an excellent presentation and I hardly have any questions at all it was done so well. We have been given to understand that we will be able to raise the YMAR significantly in order to give significant increases in compensation to injured workmen and their dependants and at the same time because of the good position which the board finds itself in, with a very healthy accident fund, it will not be necessary to increase the amount of money that employers have to pay in the same proportion.

I have been studying the rates which presumably will come into effect in 1979 and I think we are doing very well in the Northwest Territories if you compare these with some other provinces. It seems to me that the board is working out in an admirable fashion and doing a very good job. In order to determine what the effect on an employer will be when these new rates come into effect, Mr. Chairman, is there anything available with which we can compare the rates on the pink slip to the rates in existence at the present time?

MR. LANG: Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult to make a direct comparison because of the fact that the insurance being charged in 1976 varies so widely even within the same class between different employers and any detailed comparison would abrogate the confidential reality of the information in regard to specific employers. The level as a whole is indicated by the figure that Mr. MacLean quoted, that the rates together with the increase in the YMAR would generate three per cent less revenue in total from all the employers in the Northwest Territories as compared with the 1977. So you will see that there may be little anomalies for individual employers. Some may be up or some may be down by more than that amount but on the whole we are maintaining the actual total cost of compensation slightly below the 1977 level.

Information On Rates

MR. MacLEAN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might just add to that. We have with us, if it is of interest to Assembly Members, a copy of the rate study done by Mr. Lang which would give you averages with respect to the classes, average rates paid last year and the year before with respect to the various classes. It would also provide you with some other fundamental information on the way in which we arrive and made our conclusion as to what the rates should be and whether or not any classification should be changed. If it was the wish of the Members of the Assembly, we could make that report available now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. MacLean. Yes, if you have that information we would be pleased to have it. Are there any further questions while this is being distributed? If there are no further questions I would like to thank Mr. MacLean and Mr. Lang for a very thorough explanation. Are you prepared to go clause by clause?

---Agreed

Bill 8-66. Clause 1. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 2. Agreed?

---Agreed

Are you prepared to submit Bill 8-66 for third reading?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 8-66, Workers' Compensation Ordinance

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Bill 8-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Workers' Compensation Ordinance, in committee of the whole and wishes to report that this bill is now ready for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Which bill does the Executive wish to deal with next?

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, Bill 5-66, Income Tax Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: This House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 5-66, Income Tax Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 5-66, Income Tax Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 5-66, INCOME TAX ORDINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The committee will come to order to study Bill 5-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Income Tax Ordinance. Mr. Minister, Hon. Tom Butters, have you any comments relative to this particular ordinance?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, just to point out that these amendments are the result of changes in the federal Income Tax Act that have to be reflected in our own ordinance. That is my understanding. Members will find opposite each of the pages in which the amendments are printed, the detailed explanations of the reason for the amendment. Possibly if there are any further questions our Legal Advisor could inform us of the technical details.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Hon. Tom Butters. Mr. Lyall, has your committee on legislation any reports relative to this bill?

MR. LYALL: No, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Comments of a general nature, Bill 5-66? Are you prepared to go clause by clause?

---Agreed

Clause 1. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 2. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 3. Agreed?

---Agreed

Clause 4. Agreed?

---Agreed

Bill 5-66. Is it ready for third reading?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 5-66, Income Tax Ordinance

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Bill 5-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Income Tax Ordinance, and wishes to report that this bill is now ready for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the wish of the Executive with respect to the next bill?

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I would request we discuss Bill 6-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Dental Profession Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: This House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 6-66, Dental Profession Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 6-66, Dental Profession Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 6-66, DENTAL PROFESSION ORDINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The committee will come to order to study Bill 6-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Dental Profession Ordinance. Mr. Minister, Hon. Arnold McCallum, do you have any remarks?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, again I had indicated on second reading of this bill, the purpose behind it is to enable those persons who have graduated in dental hygiene in various educational institutes outside of Canada and/or the United States and who are eligible to hold certificates of qualification as dental hygienists in other provinces, to practice in the Northwest Territories. There were very few changes to the Dental Profession Ordinance that are indicated here. We have discussed this in committee. Members would recognize that within the minutes that have been circulated on the standing committee meeting that there are, in fact, indications from dentists who are practising in the Northwest Territories that they have no objections to the proposed amendment to this particular ordinance regarding dental hygienists. Those letters are contained within the minutes of the standing committee. I do not think that there is anything extra to be said about this, Mr. Chairman. It basically allows people who have the qualifications to practise in a profession within the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lyall, does your committee have any points to make?

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, I think Hon. Arnold McCallum has already stated what I was going to say, so I think, personally, after looking at this for a couple of hours during our committee meetings I think I am prepared to go clause by clause.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Comments of a general nature? Are you prepared for clause by clause?

---Agreed

Clause 1, eligibility. Agreed?

---Agreed

Is Bill 6-66 ready for third reading?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 6-66, Dental Profession Ordinance.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Bill 6-66 An Ordinance to Amend the Dental Profession Ordinance, and wishes to report that this bill is now ready for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. This House will resolve into committee of the whole to study Bill 7-66, Medical Profession Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 7-66, Medical Profession Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 7-66, MEDICAL PROFESSION ORDINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The committee will come to order to study Bill 7-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Medical Profession Ordinance. Mr. Minister, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, again it is a very small amendment to the present Medical Profession Ordinance and again Members will have a copy of a document, a letter from the Northwest Territories Medical Association which indicates that they are in agreement to the proposal regarding the licensing of physicians in the Northwest Territories. The basic thrust of the amendment, Mr. Chairman, is to allow a doctor, a medical practitioner, to practise his profession in the Northwest Territories by producing evidence that he is, in fact, eligible for registration to practise medicine in a province. It would not necessitate him paying additional fees to the province. It would simply be to prove that he is, in fact, registered or that he is eligible to be registered and as such would then be eligible to practise medicine in the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lyall, does your committee have any report to make on Bill 7-66?

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, once again might I say very much the same, that what I would say Hon. Arnold McCallum has said. So my committee recommends that it come to the committee of the whole. So I think personally I would be willing to go clause by clause.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Comments of a general nature? Are you ready for clause by clause?

---Agreed

Clause 1. Agreed?

---Agreed

Is the bill ready for third reading, Bill 7-66? Is it agreed?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 7-66, Medical Profession Ordinance.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Bill 7-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Medical Profession Ordinance, and wishes to report the bill ready for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. This House will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 4-66, Disabled Persons Allowance Ordinance, Old Age Assistance and Blind Persons Allowance Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 4-66, Disabled Persons Allowance Ordinance, Old Age Assistance and Blind Persons Allowance Ordinance, with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 4-66, DISABLED PERSONS ALLOWANCE ORDINANCE, OLD AGE ASSISTANCE AND BLIND PERSONS ALLOWANCE ORDINANCE.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The committee will come to order to study Bill 4-66, An Ordinance to Effect Certain Repeals. Mr. Minister, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this piece of legislation is to provide for the repeal of the Disabled Persons Allowance Ordinance and the Old Age Assistance and Blind Persons Allowance Ordinance. All three programs were developed largely by federal initiative to provide a method of payment of allowances to special categories of people. Under all three programs the federal government shared the costs with the provinces and/or territories. The old age assistance became redundant in March of 1971 when the eligibility age for old age security became 65 years. By definition, old age assistance dealt with persons who were 65 to 69 who were not eligible for the old age pension when the eligibility age was 70.

The Disabled Persons Allowance Ordinance and the Old Age Assistance and Blind Persons Allowance Ordinance became redundant when the maximum payment under each program, \$75 per month, became less than the benefit recipients might receive under social assistance. This government and the department accepted and received no new application for allowances under these two categories after April of 1973 because of that reason. Financial eligibility for all three programs was based on an annual income inclusive of the particular allowance and it was this government's and the department's experience that there had to be a supplement of social assistance to these allowances. The whole process, it was felt, would be much simpler for everyone if one system of determining eligibility for assistance was in force and hence our particular request then, proposal to repeal the two ordinances.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lyall, has your committee any comments?

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, just as before, the committee looked at the bill and recommended the bill to this committee, so I would recommend that we go clause by clause.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Is clause by clause agreed?

---Agreed

MR. NICKERSON: One question, Mr. Chairman. Is there anyone in the Northwest Territories at the present time receiving blind persons allowance?

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

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to give a reply now. I have no knowledge of it at this point. I could try to determine that from officials within the department but I do not have that particular piece of information. It may be, Mr. Chairman, that during the coffee break if we took the coffee break now, I could find out that answer.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Fine. With the permission of this committee we will break for coffee for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Gentlemen, I think we have a quorum. We were dealing with Bill 4-66, Disabled Persons Allowance Ordinance, Old Age Assistance and Blind Persons Allowance Ordinance. Mr. Minister, do you have an answer to Mr. Nickerson's question?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Yes, I have. I am advised, Mr. Chairman, by officials of the department that there is not now anybody in the Northwest Territories receiving assistance through the Blind Persons Allowance Ordinance.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Clause by clause.

Clause 1. Agreed?

---Agreed

Is Bill 4-66 ready for third reading?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Bill 4-66, Disabled Persons Allowance Ordinance, Old Age Assistance And Blind Persons Allowance Ordinance

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been studying Bill 4-66 and wish to report that this bill is now ready for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Members of the Legislature, I understand that the only other bill on the order paper to be dealt with is Bill 3-66, the Wildlife Ordinance, and the witnesses and other interested parties are, I am told, to be in attendance for tomorrow. Is that correct, Hon. Tom Butters?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, yes. I would just like to point out that I have extended invitations to the senior officers of all the Northwest Territories native organizations to ensure that they would have an opportunity to sit with us if they so desire and I indicated that it would be Wednesday afternoon so I am committed to that date to bring it forward, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: That then being so, unless there is a wish to advance some other business and of course unanimous consent to deal with it, we would have no more business for this afternoon. It was suggested that we may wish to give third reading to bills. However, I do not know what the feeling of the House would be to that, the bills that we have dealt with. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I would like the unanimous consent of this Assembly to give third reading of Bills 8-66, 6-66, 7-66, 5-66 and 4-66.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent requested to give third reading to Bills 8-66, 6-66, 7-66, 5-66 and 4-66, I take it. Is that it, Hon. Peter Ernerk?

HON. PETER ERNERK: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any feeling to the contrary? No expression to the contrary. Therefore, we will proceed to give third reading to the bills in question.

ITEM NO. 13: THIRD READING OF BILLS

They are all those listed under Item 11 with the exception of Bill 3-66. Bill 8-66, third reading of Bill 8-66, Workers' Compensation Ordinance, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Third Reading Of Bill 8-66: Workers' Compensation Ordinance

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 8-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Workers' Compensation Ordinance, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. Is there any discussion? Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading of Bill 8-66 is carried.

---Carried

Bill 5-66, Income Tax Ordinance. Hon. Tom Butters.

Third Reading Of Bill 5-66: Income Tax Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 5-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Income Tax Ordinance, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. Discussion? Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Bill 5-66, third reading of Bill 5-66 is carried.

---Carried

Bill 6-66, Dental Profession Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 6-66: Dental Profession Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 6-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Dental Profession Ordinance, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Whitford. Discussion? Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading of Bill 6-66 is carried.

---Carried

Bill 7-66, Medical Profession Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 7-66: Medical Profession Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 7-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Medical Profession Ordinance, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Tom Butters. Discussion? Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading of Bill 7-66 is carried.

---Carried

Bill 4-66, Disabled Persons Allowance Ordinance, Old Age Assistance and Blind Persons Allowance Ordinance. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Third Reading Of Bill 4-66: Disabled Persons Allowance Ordinance, Old Age Assistance And Blind Persons Allowance Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 4-66, An Ordinance to Effect Certain Repeals, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Kilabuk. Discussion? Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading of Bill 4-66 is carried.

---Carried

Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I apologize for failing to seek the unanimous consent of the House to give third reading to Bills 2-66 and 9-66. May I have unanimous consent of this House at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent being requested to give third reading to Bills 2-66 and 9-66 as well. Bill 2-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Marriage Ordinance and Bill 9-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Labour Standards Ordinance, which we dealt with yesterday. Unanimous consent being requested. Is there anyone in disagreement? Mr. Nickerson.

MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have no disagreement with regard to Bill 2-66, the Marriage Ordinance, but the information that has just been laid on our desks coming from the Hon. Jack Horner, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, seems to make reference to matters we dealt with in the Labour Standards Ordinance and I would prefer to be able to read through what the Hon. Jack Horner has to say in that regard before being ready to vote on third reading with regard to that particular bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent to give third reading to Bill 9-66, I take it, is not forthcoming but is with respect to Bill 2-66. In that case third reading with respect to Bill 2-66, Marriage Ordinance. Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Third Reading Of Bill 2-66: Marriage Ordinance

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 2-66, An Ordinance to Amend the Marriage Ordinance, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Mr. Lyall. Discussion? Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? Third reading of Bill 2-66 is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I think we will have a lot of happy people. I think we just married a whole bunch of them.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any announcements? Announcements for tomorrow? Any meetings of committees in the morning? Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, whether or not we are going to be meeting tomorrow at noon for lunch, the standing committee on legislation will not know that until later on today or until early tomorrow morning, so would the people on the standing committee be available to come out for a noon luncheon if we do have a meeting?

MR. SPEAKER: Possibly on adjournment the Members of the standing committee on legislation could indicate their availability to Mr. Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Speaker, make the availability known to Mr. Remnant, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Fine. Make their availability known to Mr. Remnant, please.

ITEM NO. 12: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, October 18, 1978, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to Commissioner's Address
3. Questions and Returns
4. Oral Questions
5. Petitions

6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motion
8. Motions for the Production of Papers
9. Motions
10. Tabling of Documents
11. Notices of Motion for the Introduction of Bills
12. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Bill 3-66, Report of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission and Northwest Territories Native Women's Association
13. Third Reading of Bills
14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., October 18, 1978, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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