

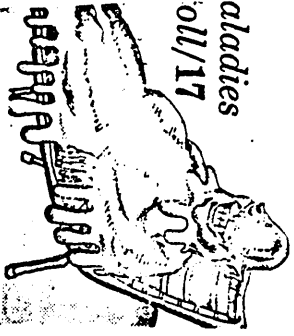
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
9<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 7<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 28-82(1)

TABLED ON MARCH 3, 1982

# Churchill seems dubious about Arctic suitor

ladies  
oil/17



By Greg Bannister

The Northwest Territories is courting Churchill but the northern Manitoba community wants to know if its Arctic suitor can support it in a style better than the one to which it is accustomed.

Amnerration, a topic of debate in the early 1970s, jumped into the forefront again yesterday when the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly approved a motion to begin discussions with Manitoba and the federal govern-

ment on annexation of Churchill and all the land north of it.

Churchill Mayor Howard Brown said last night he would be willing to listen to the proposal, but added he couldn't see any current benefits for Churchill in leaving Manitoba jurisdiction.

"It all depends what they have to offer us," Brown said. "There's a lot of things now like our hydro power. I don't think they could offer us as cheap hydro power as we have in Manitoba now."

"Another thing is our hospital. We have four-to-five doctors here, plus specialists, most of whom are supplied by the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. Are they (the Northwest Territories) prepared to do this?"

"Then there is the port. Would we get the same support from the Prairie provinces as we get now if it were in the Northwest Territories?"

Brown stressed that many services in Churchill are currently subsidised by the province. These include the town's sports complex, which receives

about \$1 million a year from the government, and "a huge amount" of housing aid from the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corp.

"I don't know if they're prepared to do these things," he said of the territorial assembly.

However, Brown said recent economic reversals would probably convince many Churchill residents to consider any proposal.

Churchill's suffered so many setbacks in the last five or six years. See N.W.T. page 1

# N.W.T. courting Churchill

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that we're ready to listen to anybody to bring it back up," he said.

In the motion approved in Yellowknife yesterday, Keewatin South MLA Takak Curley said he was concerned about the economic health of both Keewatin and Churchill.

Curley said now that Keewatin is growing it would make more sense to make Churchill a part of it.

George Braden, the head of the Northwest Territorial Executive Committee, said he would inform Manitoba Premier Howard Pawley of the vote.

The topic was first discussed seriously by then-Churchill MLA Gordon Beard who promised at one time in early 1971 to introduce a bill in the Manitoba legislature asking Ottawa to turn the port over to the Northwest Territories government.

Beard felt Churchill had much more in common with the territories than with the rest of Manitoba. He also felt the port would rise to become the capital and centre of the territory.

At the time he was able to convince a good proportion of the port's population that tax and subsidy benefits available from the federal government outweighed any disadvantages which might result from leaving Manitoba. Beard said an opinion poll he had taken indicated over 90 per cent of Churchill residents favored his idea.

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