

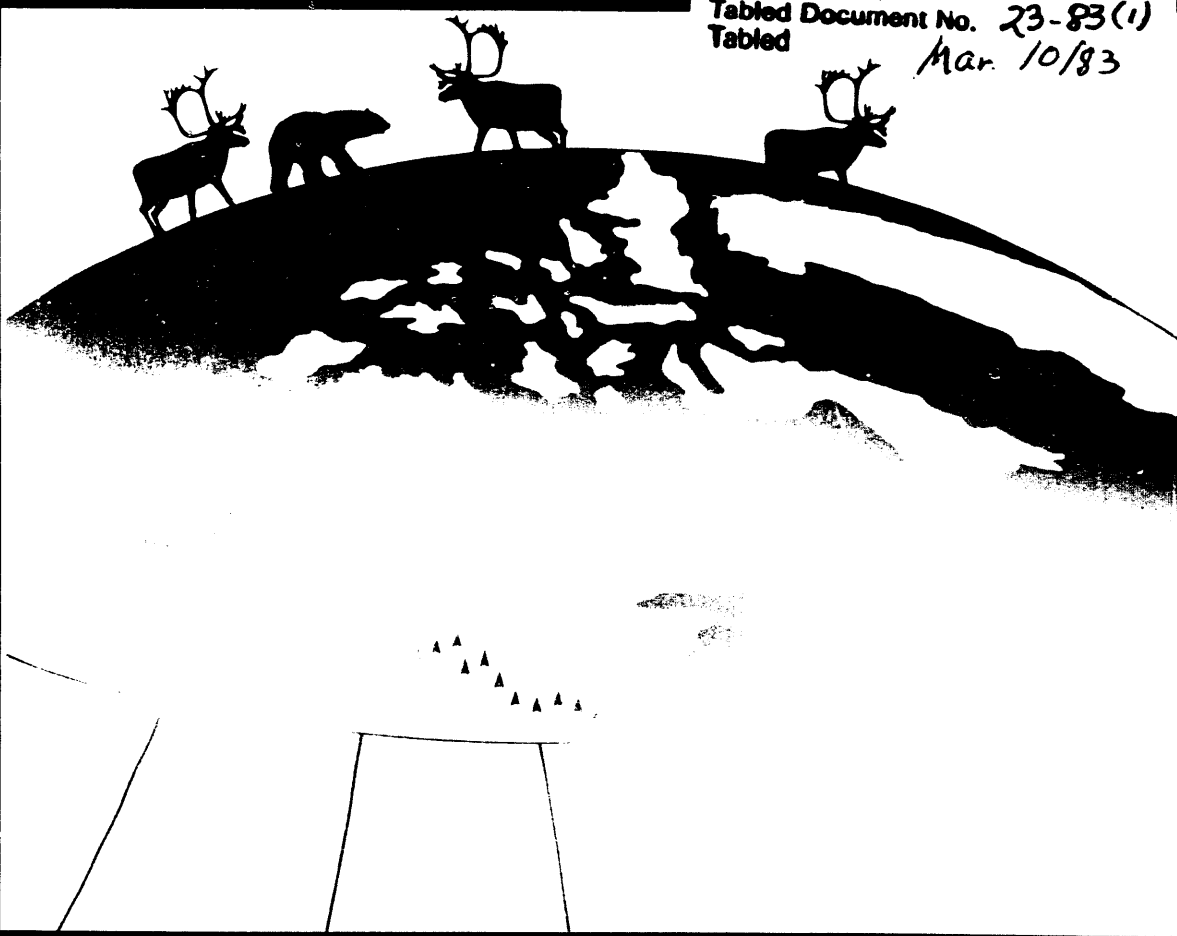
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
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Dennis Patterson



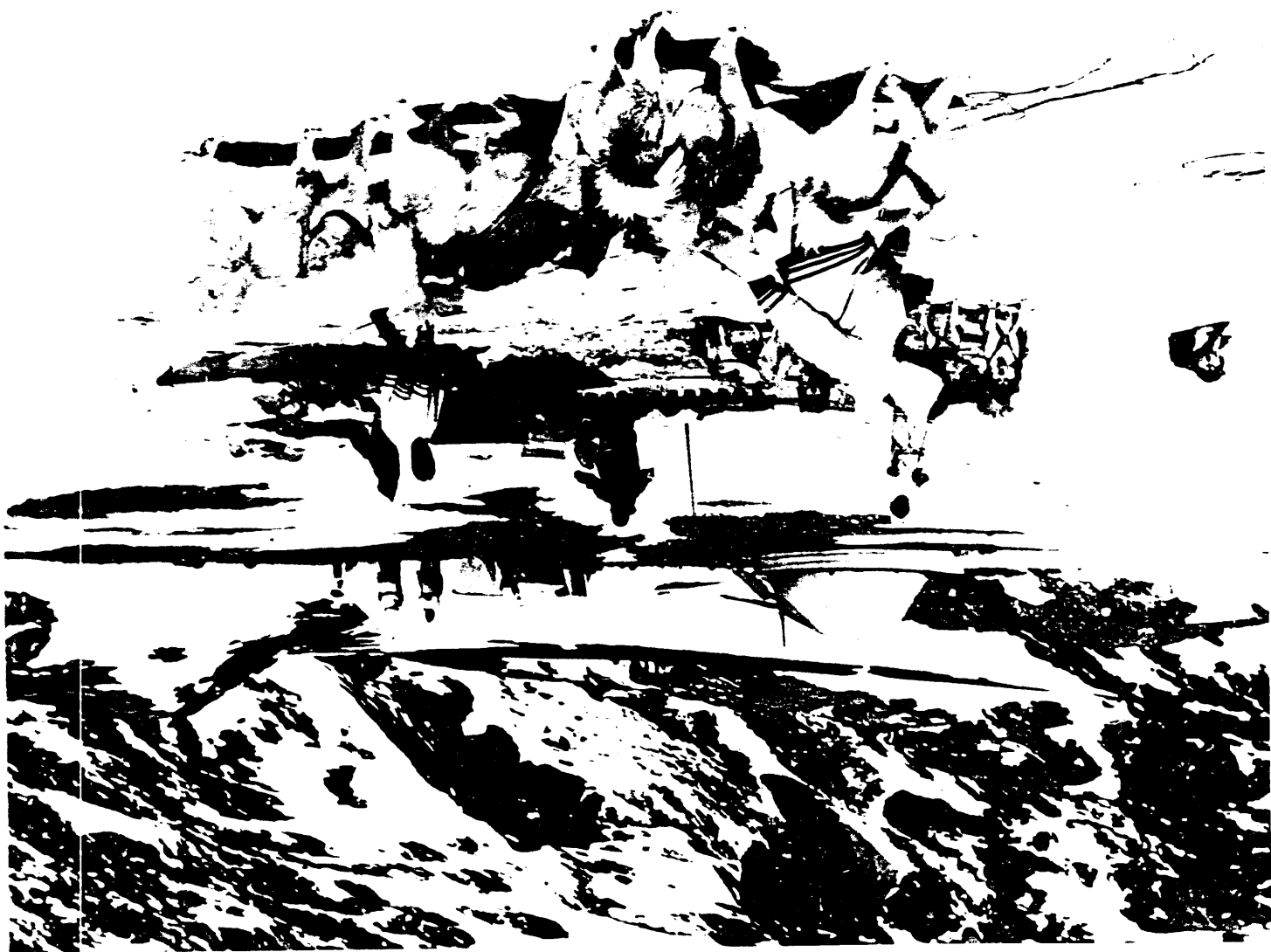
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concerned themselves with people's problems and found ways to tackle them. They also carried out an important educational role, teaching the people in communities more about the world and especially the political world around them. Inuit Tapirisat always paid particular attention to broadcasting as a tool, for instance. The new organisations also provided job opportunities for dedicated young Inuit, opportunities closed to them in government by the formal qualifications demanded, as well as the chance to learn and practice the political arts themselves. The territorial government insisted that such bodies had no legitimacy but still failed to open up the administration effectively to the interests and participation of native peoples, preferring to hire more and more outside experts with more and more specialised qualifications to sort out the north.

The new organisations quickly found themselves working in virtually every area of government policy. The federal funding which was the main source of their operating budgets had, after all, been allocated in part by an Ottawa government anxious to overcome the distrust and isolation of native peoples across Canada and bring them closer to public policy processes where long-standing problems might be resolved. Sometimes the associations could obtain particular funding for projects which were of priority to Ottawa and then develop some new approaches. Other times the job was to criticise abuses or mistakes, to press for the development of relevant policies where needed, or to participate more effectively in existing processes. The co-operative movement begun in the late 1950s had often been a training ground for the first wave of Inuit politicians; now the native movement took over that role. The organisations pursued their work through lawsuits, publicity campaigns, appearances before Parliamentary committees and other public bodies, but at all times they were and continue to be democratic political forces operating within the norms and conventions of

HIVOLIOYGHIMAYAIT ATOAM ALAHIGHIMA-GHOTIKLO. AHATIGOTAOAK HAVANGOVAKTOK NAGOGIHMAGHOGIT IHOINAGOTIKT. ILANITAOK AGHOGHIMAPLOTIK PIVALIANIKMON KA YAMALIKOTILOATIGON, OVALONIN ILAONHAOGHONI PIYAKAKNILOANON ATOKTAOYONON. TALVATAOK KOAPAIT AOLAGOTIYOT NONGLOI KTILOGO 1950 TIT ILIHAOYIVALIGHOTIKLO HIVOLIKNON INUKNON KAVAMALIKIYIGHANIK. YAYA IN JINAIT HAGAGILIKAT TAMNA. KATOYIKATIGIT ONAGIYAT ONAGIYAT APIGHOIYITIGON, TOHAGHITAIPLOTIK, ALATLO INUIT, KAVAMALIKINIKTIKLO AOLAYOITAT KATIMAPKAINIKTGOON INUKNIK.

KOKLOKNAGALOAKTIGONO OKIOKTAKTOKMIOT ILITOGIPKAKTITILIGANGAMIKIK PIOMAYALOATIK, KAVAMALAIT HONGIOTIYAIT. HIVOLIKPAKMIIK TAKOYAKTOKTAIT IHOANAK TAOHIMAYAGHAIITA INUINAIT ILITKOHIANI HIVOMOKTOKTOT ILIHIMAPLOGIT, KANOGITKALOAKTILOGIT KAVAMALIKIYOHIT. TOKLIATAOK, TAKOYAT KANOGITOKLIKAK INUIT ILITKOHIAIT, TAPKOA PIYILIKTOKTAKONGIOTOT. KINGOLIKPAKMIKTAOK, NAMAGIYAT INUINAIT ILOMOKTOMIKLO TONIKTOHAGHOTIKLO NUNAMON ATAYOT. TALVALONIN, TAMNA ILITKOHIOKAFOKTOK INUINAIT NUNALIKIYOHIAITA IVA-NIGA HAKLOVIOKNAIYALIGAT PIKAFOGH-IMAYOHIA. ATOAM KINGOVAKTIHIMAYA KAVAMALIKINIGOM ALANGOHIA KAPLONAT AOLATILIKONAGIT OKIOKTAKTOMIA INUINAIT HAPOMIALIAGTIKINAGIT PIOMAYALOAMIKNIK ILITOGIPKAKTITIKLOGOLONIN ILITKOHIL.



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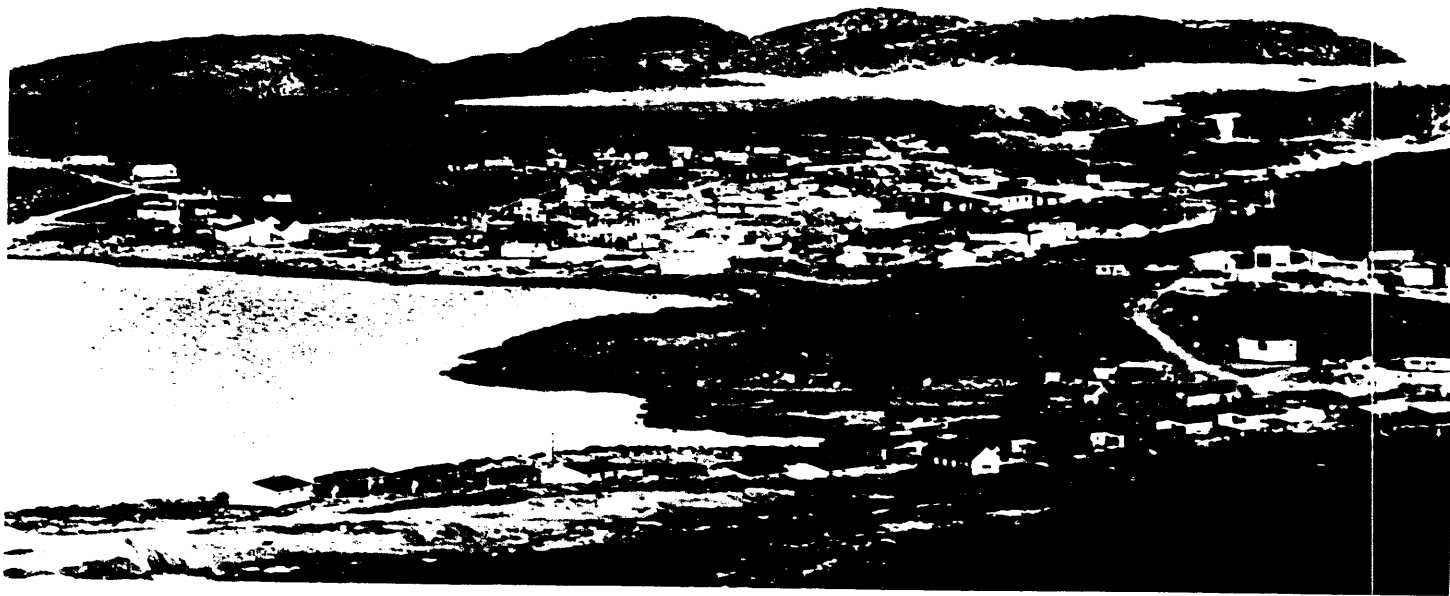
their dreams and their fortunes were over. It may be argued that the north never was such a playground, but so went the legend in certain quarters. The Carrothers commission had proposed a ten-year review of the development of government and the ten years were up. Many whites, anxious about the post-Berger world, greeted happily the appointment of a senior Ottawa politician, Bud Drury, to study the situation. Yellowknife had threatened to create its own inquiry and, given the generally reactionary attitudes of the Legislative Assembly majority of the day, it would like have been little more than a rearguard action against Berger.

The Drury inquiry was hampered from the beginning because the native movement did not have confidence in it nor was any serious attempt made in practice to win that confidence. The inquiry's low-profile and discreet approach might have suited the board room set, but northerners weren't like that, and besides, their tempers were up. The inquiry's major focus was on the question of division of the NWT, the continuing and universal Inuit demand. On that issue, strangely, the report went around and around, saying "No, but..." and then turning the subject over again. Clearly Nunavut was the idea to beat. Nevertheless, the Drury report made many quiet, useful analyses of how the NWT government was working, or not working, and despite the unsatisfactory nature to native northerners of its final recommendations, contains much interesting material.

Several other events tended to bury the Drury report just before it came out in early 1980. In January, 1979, the Inuit population of Greenland voted strongly to adopt "home rule", a plan which their elected political leaders had negotiated with Danish parliamentarians and government. In May, 1979, the new Greenland government took office. It has amply demonstrated the capacity of Inuit in a similar situation to deal with the most complex











**Prepared for the Nunavut Constitutional Forum
by Peter Jull**

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