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NWT GOVERNMENT LIBRARY



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MEMBERS STATEMENT

NOV 08 1988

Government of N.W.T.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

MR. SPEAKER, HOUSING IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS THAT WE DEAL WITH IN THIS ASSEMBLY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS IN TRYING TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR OUR RESIDENTS OR EVEN MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO OWN THEIR OWN HOMES.

HOWEVER IN THE PAST, PRIVATE HOMEOWNERSHIP WAS NOT A VERY PLEASANT EXPERIENCE FOR SOME PEOPLE AND THEIR CASE NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED.

IN 1952 THE SETTLEMENT OF RESOLUTE BAY WAS ESTABLISHED. RESIDENTS HAD TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN SHELTERS USING WHATEVER MATERIALS THEY WERE ABLE TO FIND. SINCE MATERIALS WERE SO SCARCE MANY PEOPLE SUFFERED FOR SEVERAL YEARS UNTIL THEY WERE ABLE TO ACQUIRE THE PROPER MATERIALS TO BUILD THEIR OWN HOUSES. SOME RESIDENTS SPENT A LOT OF MONEY HAVING PROPER MATERIALS SHIPPED IN AT GREAT EXPENSE. BY THE 1960'S ALMOST EVERYONE HAD THEIR OWN HOMES.

SOON MR. SPEAKER, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARRIVED OFFERING TO BUILD NEW AND SUPPOSEDLY BETTER HOMES FOR THE PEOPLE THAT THEY COULD RENT, NOT OWN! THIS WAS PROGRESS!!

THE OFFICIALS WERE VERY INSISTENT THAT PEOPLE MOVE INTO THESE NEW HOMES AND RESIDENTS WERE TOLD TO MOVE. THEIR PRIVATE HOMES WERE BURNT TO THE GROUND.

MR. SPEAKER, IT IS IRONIC THAT THIS SAME GOVERNMENT IS NOW TRYING TO GET US TO BUY OUR OWN HOMES WHEN THEY BURNT THE ONES WE BUILT YEARS AGO AND THERE WAS NEVER ANY COMPENSATION TO THESE RESIDENTS IN RESOLUTE BAY.

MR. SPEAKER I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE GOVERNMENT EXAMINE THE MATTER TO SEE IF ANYTHING COULD BE DONE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WERE AFFECTED.

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