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The Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 19

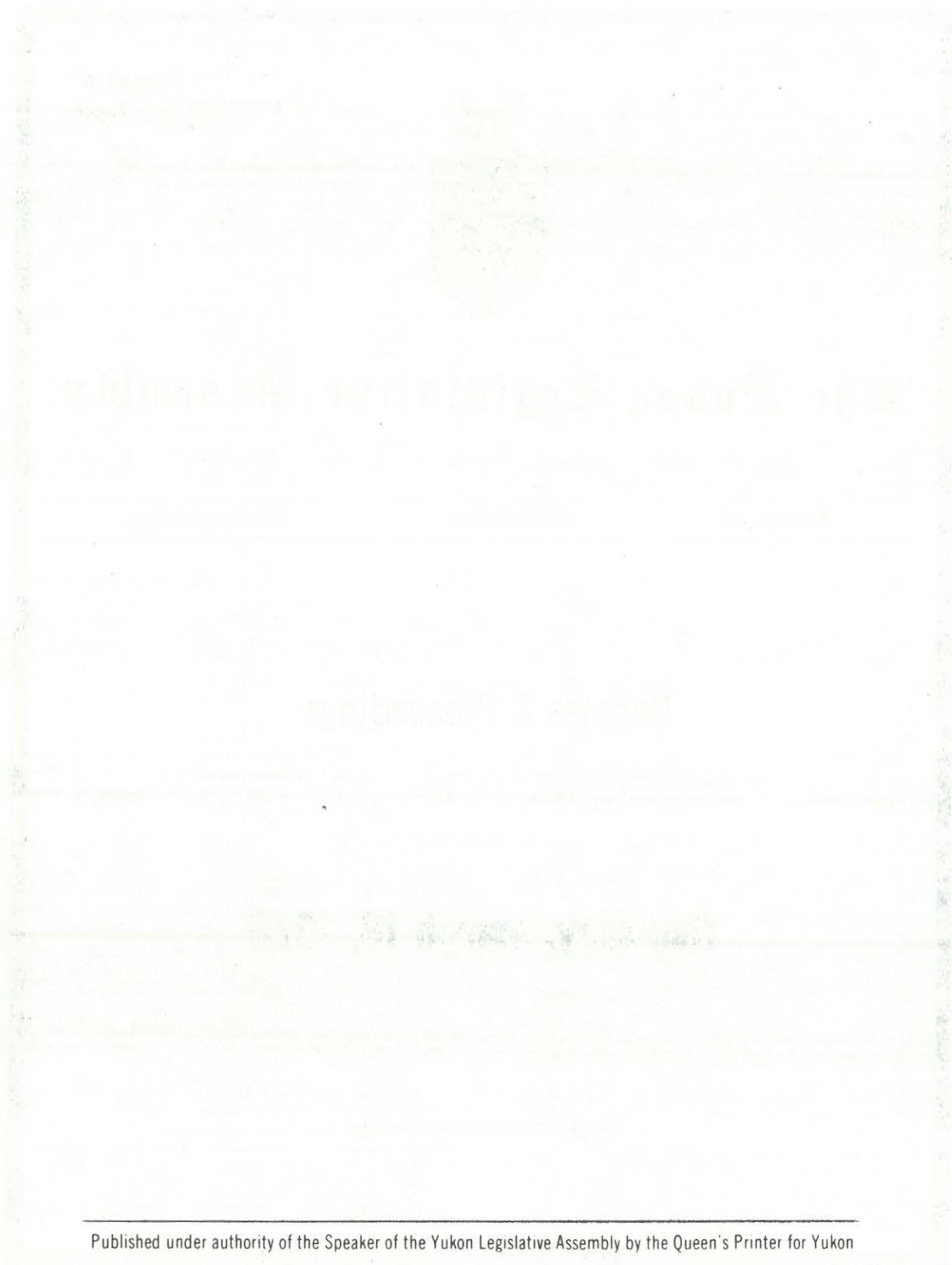
5th Session

23rd Legislature

Debates & Proceedings

Thursday, March 18, 1976

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor



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Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.
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Mr. Speaker reads Daily Prayer.

Mr. Speaker: Madam Clerk, is there a quorum present?

Madam Clerk: There is, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

DAILY ROUTINE

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Klwane?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the young visitors from the Destruction Bay-Burwash area who are present in the Public Gallery today.

(APPLAUSE)

Mr. Speaker: Are there any documents or correspondence for tabling this morning? Are there any reports of Committees? Introduction of Bills? Are there any Notices of Motion or Resolution? Are there any Notice of Motion for production of papers?

We will then proceed to the question period.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: Have you any questions this morning? Mr. Commissioner?

Mr. Commissioner: Mr. Speaker, with your permission I have several items that I would like to make available for members at this time. May I proceed?

Mr. Speaker: Proceed.

Mr. Commissioner: On March the 17th, Mr. Fleming asked a question. He wished to know if utility lines will likely be on the Tagish Bridge or will they be overhead. The answer, Mr. Speaker, is if at all possible the utilities lines will be included in the bridge design as opposed to being overhead type lines.

One other item, Mr. Speaker, and it results from

two things. One, a portion of my opening remarks to Council and a follow what question and my subsequent answer to Mr. Fleming. It has to do with the Northern Pool Housing here in Whitehorse. I would like to give this message for members' information and it is over the signature of Mr. William Koropatnick, who is the regional director of the Pacific Region of the Federal Department of Public Works. It is addressed to myself as Commissioner. The following is a clarification of statements made previously with reference to the future of federal housing in Whitehorse. The Treasury Board have stated that no further additional units will be added to the pool housing for federal employees in Whitehorse.

They have also directed the Northern Housing Requirements Committee to the Department of Public Works, one to engage in studies to determine the future requirements for Crown-owned housing in Whitehorse and the means of providing it and secondly, agreeing where government houses are surplus to requirements in Whitehorse that Public Works will develop a strategy for their sale to the public upon approval by the Northern Housing Requirements Committee.

This strategy may include sale of houses to employees who wish to purchase the Crown-owned houses they live in, subject to Treasury Board approval.

The above does not mean the Federal Government will withdraw from supplying housing to employees where required. One of the main objectives is to provide better integration of the community by breaking up compounds of government housing such as Takhini and aim at the dispersal of public servants throughout the community such as exists in Riverdale.

The provision of housing in Whitehorse to federal employees remains a part of the conditions of employment for those transferred from other cities and this condition will not be contravened, neither will the Federal Government flood the local market with surplus houses but rather will dispose of them three or four at a time as they are available or as the local market indicates.

The Department of Public Works are currently engaged in study with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Yukon Territory as to how, in the best interests of the public and employees, these surplus sales may be offered. This is, as I said Mr. Speaker, is signed by Mr. Koropatnick.

I have one further item, Mr. Speaker, which has been outstanding since early in the Session; that was a question directed by Counsellor Watson concerning the Federal Inter-Departmental Co-Ordinating Committee and how their activities may become, or how members of counsel may become, knowledgeable of their ac-

tivities. And the answer, Mr. Speaker, is as follows: funds for the operation of the Federal Inter-Departmental Committee, including salaries and operating expenses, are made available by means of a special grant from Indian Affairs and Northern Development for this purpose. In the fiscal year '75-76, these funds were included for the sake of financial convenience in the total grant to YTG rather than show as a separate item and form a part of the budget of the Territorial Director of Inter-Governmental Affairs. The fact remains that the Federal Inter-Department Coordinating Committee is not funded but directly by YTG. The FIDC is a standing committee of the advisory committee on Northern Development and deals with program plans and activities of all Federal Departments and Crown Corporations.

Because of the fact that several government departments are involved in this mutual exchange of information, such matters are considered to be restricted information. It is necessary to respect this restriction on the information presented in FICC and FICC sub-committee meetings in order to ensure the continued close co-operation between departments and the frank and open discussions which have proved so useful.

As Chairman of FICC, I will be prepared to discuss as fully as possible with Territorial counsellors, either individually or collectively, specific topics which may arise from time to time in this FICC or its sub-committees. This, I think, cleans off the items that I have here at the present time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions? The Honourable Member from Kluane?

Question re: Business Licence Fees

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Local Government this morning; on Monday, the Honourable Member from Hootalinqua submitted a suggestion schedule of business licence fees for consideration by the Government. My question is, has the Government had the opportunity to give this suggested schedule their consideration and what has-- what is the result, if they have, of the consideration?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, the Executive Committee Member in charge of the Territorial Secretary's Department, Mr. Peter Gillespie, is the person responsible for business licences. He, unfortunately, has not been in his office for the past few days because he is ill, but I would hope that he would be presenting the schedule to the Executive Committee at the earliest opportunity. Mr. Speaker, I might add, if that is not possible that I would prepare--be prepared to present the schedule.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Hootalinqua?

Mr. Fleming: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I presume this is supplementary to the question I would presume now

that it is different; I would ask will there be any consideration given to the current charge, which many have already paid, this current year? If it is changed, will there be any consideration given right now to the ones that have paid already?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I hope that will all be part of discussion and the decision will be made.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Kluane?

Mrs. Watson: Mr. Speaker, then could I have the commitment from the Minister of Local Government that this attention would be given to it before the end of this fiscal year, because the licences will go into effect by April 1st and that is why we are so concerned.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from North Centre?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the licence fees are on a calendar year basis so I have to check into that, but I'm almost positive that they are, that they aren't on the fiscal year - the time from April 1st to April 1st - so if there were a roll back that's what it would be, a roll back.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions? The Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre?

Question re: Sewage Treatment Committee

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I haven't got to the December 10th meeting of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, where I understand our Commissioner was used in vain somewhat, but I have got to the meeting of March the 9th, and I noticed a quote in it from a Mr. Kroeger who is the Deputy Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. It says that at the same time we are pursuing discussions with the Yukon Territorial Government on the need to provide sewage treatment facilities for the City of Whitehorse as a whole. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Sewage Treatment Committee of the City of Whitehorse, I wondered if Mr. Commissioner can tell me how these discussions are going, so I can maintain some credibility to that Committee?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Commissioner?

Mr. Commissioner: Mr. Speaker, putting it in the vernacular, I think the whole thing stinks.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions? The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Speaker, with all of the Yukon as I have heard today by the CBC that the Federal Cabinet will be coming in this afternoon with a decision regarding application for drilling rigs in the

Beaufort and, since I am always a little sensitive about that coastline of the Yukon above which the Beaufort Sea marches, I wonder if the Commissioner could assure us how this decision might affect the Yukon?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Commissioner?

Mr. Commissioner: Mr. Speaker, I am relying on my memory here, but I believe that a question or a series of questions was raised during the session. I think that I would have to ask the Honourable Member to refer to those specific areas to-- I think in which we attempted to delineate the concerns. One, did YTG have an opportunity to participate in any particular committee that was named by, I believe, the Honourable Member from Klwane raised this particular point, and I think another point that was raised was, does any of the drilling program that we know of, does any of this drilling program take place in waters directly off the Yukon coast? I believe that the committee representation question was answered - I trust satisfactorily, Mr. Speaker - and I believe also that we assured the House that, as far as we were aware of, the drilling program that was contemplated, at least in the immediacy, was not scheduled in waters directly off our coast. Although, I am sure, that this question is further complicated by the knowledge that one of the ships that conceivably might be used in this drilling is wintering in Paulines Cove at Herschel Island, or at least, that is what is reported in the last day or so's Vancouver newspaper.

Now, I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that, until such times as either the Federal Cabinet has agreed to permit this drilling to proceed or has decided otherwise, it will be very difficult for us to really give any firm indications to the House as to what, if any, effect this program would have on the Yukon Territory. I want to assure Honourable Members that the whole Herschel Island north coast area has had a lot of attention from the Government of the Yukon and the other Federal agencies that are involved there, directly from YTG and also through the Federal Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Committee; I can assure you that the administration of this government is not about to lose track of the fact that this is a very, very vital part of our area and a very delicate one, and anything that is going to go on there has a very high priority in our interest scale and will be monitored very closely. I will be pleased to keep the House advised, Mr. Speaker, of anything that would appear to be of definitive information in these lines.

Question re: Procedures re Obtaining Home Owner's Grant

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Hootalinqua?

Mr. Fleming: I have a question for the Minister of Local Government. Under the new Home Owner's Grant, what procedure do you foresee the government taking in finding out who can get the Home Owner's Grant if he is in a small business, say, and you are only going to assess his living quarters and so forth and so on, which possibly you might not know now, that he does

have living quarters in fact. How are you going to find this out, or what process are you going to take to find it out?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, the person signs a statutory declaration that part of his premises is living quarters and then it is up to our Territorial Assessor to determine what part of that building is assessable as living quarters.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Hootalinqua?

Question re: Statutory Declaration

Mr. Fleming: I'll ask another question. How and when do you get him the Statutory Declaration?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, forms will be available for this fiscal year as quickly as possible. Any home owner, taxpayer or resident, just fills out the form that is what he is and then it's up to the Territorial Assessor to assess that part that he uses for his living quarters of his total business premises.

Mr. Speaker: Further questions? We will now proceed to Public Bills.

PUBLIC BILLS

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre?

BILL NUMBER 17 - THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that Bill number 17 be now read a third time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that Bill number 17 be now read a third time. Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare the motion is carried.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Speaker: Are you prepared to adopt the title to the Bill?

Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that Bill number 17 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable

Member from Whitehorse North Centre, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that Bill number 17 do now pass and that the title be as on the Order Paper. Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare that the motion has been carried and that Bill number 17 has passed this House.

(MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Speaker: At this point, I would indicate to the House that, concurrent with the report given the House when last we rose last evening by the Chairman of Committees, all matters before Committee of the Whole have now been considered and reported.

This would be the appropriate time for anyone who wished to give a reply to the Speech from the Throne. Is there anyone who wishes to make such reply?

We'll then proceed with prorogation proceedings. Mr. Commissioner, the House has at its present sittings thereof passed a number of Bills to which, in the name and on behalf of the said House, I respectfully request your assent.

Madam Clerk: Bill number 1 - Fourth Appropriation Ordinance, 1975-76.

Bill 2 - First Appropriation Ordinance, 1976-77.

Bill 3 - Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1976.

Bill 4 - Loan Agreement Ordinance number 1 (1976).

Bill 5 - Municipal General Purpose Loan Ordinance.

Bill 6 - Home Owner Grant Ordinance.

Bill 7 - Insurance Premium Tax Ordinance.

Bill 10 - Liquor Tax Ordinance.

Bill 11 - An Ordinance to Amend the Taxation Ordinance.

Bill 12 - An Ordinance to Amend the Tobacco Tax Ordinance.

Bill 13 - An Ordinance to Amend the Compensation for Victims of Crime Ordinance.

Bill 14 - Loan Agreement Ordinance number 2 (1975).

Bill 16 - An Ordinance to Amend the Community Assistance Ordinance.

Bill 17 - An Ordinance to Amend the Credit Unions Ordinance.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Commissioner?

Mr. Commissioner: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to give assent at this time to the Bills as enumerated by the Clerk. In closing your Session at this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Members for their diligence and the competent manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the House. Nothing but good emanates from this kind of dedication to this particular public duty. Sometimes, being a public servant is not exactly the easiest thing in the world,

whether one be in the so-called Civil Service or whether one be in the political arm of government. I think the conduct of the business of the Territory during the last several weeks, while at times has been very difficult, sometimes to completely comprehend as far as the man on the street is concerned, has been conducted in a manner that brings nothing but credibility to Council and to the people who occupy the positions of responsibility in it, Mr. Speaker, including yourself and the other officers of the House and each and every member of it.

I would like to thank you for the kind consideration that once again has been extended to myself and my officers. I trust the help that we have given to you has been adequate and meets with your approbation. As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, it will be the intention to call the House back into Session at an appropriate time in the not-too-distant future to deal with some items of business that were not expedient to be dealt with at this present time and undoubtedly others which will arise in the meantime. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: On behalf of the House, I would like to extend to Mr. Commissioner and his officers and staff our appreciation for the courtesies and the hard work that they have put in in keeping Members supplied with matters with which to consider on behalf of the people of the Territory. Particularly, I would like to, on behalf of the House, extend our thanks to the Office of the Clerk and her staff and the officers of the House for the onerous duties that they have performed during this difficult Budget Session, and that of course is extended as well to the recording group who have also worked very diligently and very hard in the service of the House.

I would wish all Members of the Government and staff and, indeed, all Members of the House, well wishes until we sit again.

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, if I could have the indulgence of the House for just one moment. I know it seems very difficult for any of us to realize that this may be the last Session at which we will sit with Mr. Commissioner. It's a startling fact of life that we are going to have to face very soon. It's been such a wall, a solid wall, of support for ten years that it's going to be very difficult to find there is nothing. Jimmy Smith isn't there to fall back on in the next few months. I would also like to take a moment to pay tribute today to the man who presented his sixth budget estimate to us at this Session, Mr. Mervin Miller, who may or may not be around to present the next one, in view of the constitutional changes taking place in Executive Committee. This is another faithful servant who has contributed a great deal through the past six years and who, I trust, will still continue to be here to support us.

I know that this is unprecedented, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure that the Commissioner is wishing I were not standing up saying these things; but I did not like to see this Session prorogue without some kind of indication,

personally, from the Members around this table of their gratitude for his decade of more than devoted service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(APPLAUSE)

Mr. Speaker: Madam Clerk?

Madam Clerk: It is the Commissioner's will and pleasure that this House be now prorogued and this House is accordingly prorogued.

