



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2nd Session

Day %&

12th Assembly

HANSARD

H<I FG85M FEBRUARY &+, 1992

Pages %*' !% (
Pagination reflects print edition

The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1992

Pages 123 -142

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Alooloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngha'naaq, Mr. Arvaluk, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. Bernhardt, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Ms. Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Hon. John Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Todd, Hon. Tony Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 25, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 16-12(2): Investigation Of Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an internal review at the Workers' Compensation Board has identified serious irregularities involving possible misappropriation of funds from the board by one of its employees. As a result, the RCMP have been asked to investigate the matter. In addition, an employee of the board has been suspended, with pay, pending the results of an internal investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I am not able to comment any further on this matter while it is under investigation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Inconsiderate Comments By Member For Iqaluit

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak on an issue of how a Member, particularly a Minister, spoke yesterday in this House. Mr. Speaker, the Member for Iqaluit conducted himself in a manner that I do not believe is

acceptable to myself and to Members of this House. Mr. Speaker, I quote from Hansard, the comment said: "If it is skewed to the West, it should be called the western special committee on social..."

The concern that I want to address, Mr. Speaker, is the point that when we have a Minister who is responsible to look after the interests of all NWT residents with an open mind of fairness, and when we have a Minister that we place our trust in to develop policies, regulations and legislation for the future of our Territories, I am concerned that this particular Minister has the mentality of an East/West concept when developing responses to issues.

With these comments, Mr. Speaker, due to the attitude and the conduct he displayed toward Members, if the Minister wants to maintain any credibility in this House I would suggest that he consider apologizing for his inconsiderate comments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement Of Apology

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I apologize for my ill-considered comments yesterday.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Advice From Status Of Women Council

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and dismayed yesterday with a response I received from the Minister responsible for the Status of Women Council during question period.

I am sure honourable Members will recall that I asked the honourable Member for Natilikmiot what action he had taken to seek the advice of the Status of Women Council on the shameful decision of our territorial court to grant Paul Quassa an absolute discharge. The Minister did not answer my question. He did not refer to the council or its executive director. His only comment was, "Since the decision has been made, on a number of occasions I have talked about this with my wife."

Mr. Speaker, this response is clearly unacceptable. The people of the Northwest Territories commit over a

quarter of a million dollars yearly to support the council. The members of the council, and their staff, invest even more in terms of time, energy and devotion they bring to the cause. For the Minister to seriously suggest that he would not actively seek the opinions of this group of skilled and thoughtful Northerners because he had chosen to talk to his wife instead shows little respect for the members of the council or the work that they do. It also shows disrespect for women in general because it suggests that, unless you are married and have a husband who listens, your views will not be considered by this government. It is possible that the Minister may have been trying to make a joke with his answer. Mr. Speaker, this is not acceptable, either.

Throughout the Northwest Territories women, and men too, have taken note of the Quassa affair and what it says about both the justice system and our current constitutional political process. This is not a joking matter, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister should know that. We should take a serious position on the issue and should begin to rely on the advisory resources that exist within the Status of Women Council and our community organizations across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Members will join me in welcoming Mr. Gary Bohnet to our Assembly. As we know, Mr. Bohnet is the president of the Metis Nation. Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Allegations About HAP Delivery

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, allegations about the 1990/1991 delivery of HAP houses for

Page 124

three Nahendeh communities by the Liidli Koe Construction Association have caused discouragement and resentment within my constituency. I believe that the actions and statements of a disgruntled former Housing Corporation employee, and the highly selective and poorly researched coverage which aired on CBC's Focus North -- I call it the "Unfocused North" -- program, have directed a lot of negative attention on the Fort Simpson Dene band and the Liidli Koe Construction Association, and upon good people who have given their time and energy to assist their community.

I had originally decided not to dignify these inaccuracies and falsehoods with a response, but I would like to set the record straight. Mr. Speaker, the Dene band to which I belong has been involved in providing houses for the people of Fort Simpson for over 15 years. Our partnership with the public government -- first the federal government and later the government of the Northwest Territories -- has been in part based on what I believe are our rights and responsibilities set out in a treaty, Treaty No. 11, which was signed by our forefathers in 1921. Mr. Speaker, we made a decision to proceed with block funding arrangements several years ago because we believed the greater autonomy they represented were in keeping with the partnership and with our tradition of community self-sufficiency. When I became chief of the Fort Simpson Dene Band in July 1990, however, I inherited a number of problems within the housing infrastructure of our community. The Liidli Koe Construction Association, which is managed by the housing committee of the Fort Simpson Band Council, was struggling with a surplus of capital assets and a very severe cash shortage. Late block funding payments, received in July from the territorial Housing Corporation, had disrupted project schedules which were supposed to begin as soon as the snow melted in the spring. There were problems with some local contractors' attitudes toward meeting our project deadlines when they knew they were dealing with public funding.

Interpersonal strife and suspicion within the bureaucracy of the Housing Corporation was interfering with our ability to get answers and commitments we needed to do a good job. I think my time is coming to an end, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: It has come to an end, Mr. Antoine. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Continue, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi Cho. Because of the success the association had achieved over the past years, we faced the unique situation of having two other communities, Wrigley and Jean Marie River, ask Fort Simpson to take responsibility for the delivery of their HAP units there, as well. As a chief, the most useful contribution I could make was to have the best people in my community work on the band council's housing committee. We were fortunate that band councillors Andy Norwegian, Rita Cli and Ron Hardisty accepted the challenge of being on the housing committee. And I was fortunate to recruit Rene Lamothe to work for the housing committee as a project manager. In

my role as chief, I asked this group to keep a tight financial rein on the matters and to use a common sense approach to meeting people's basic needs for housing.

Mr. Speaker, the housing committee made a lot of difficult decisions. I supported their decisions then, and I do now. I would like to commend these people for their contribution and to indicate to this House that it is truly regrettable to see the sort of misinformation and finger-pointing that has surrounded this issue.

But what matters, Mr. Speaker, is the bottom line; and the bottom line here is that Liidli Koe Construction succeeded in meeting its goal for 1990-91. It built and delivered 11 houses for families in three Nahendeh communities -- seven in Fort Simpson, three in Wrigley and one in Jean Marie River -- and people were able to move into their homes. And it delivered these homes at a lower average per unit cost than the previous year.

There has been some talk locally of a formal investigation into this matter. Personally, I would welcome any sort of investigation. We have nothing to hide, but it would not accomplish anything. I agree with the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Hon. Don Morin, when he says that our job now is to build houses.

Mr. Speaker, as a final comment, I would like to register my concern over the fact that internal Housing Corporation documents were turned over to the media, and that this government has appeared helpless to do anything about this abuse of confidence. I will have more to say about that issue in my statements later this session. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Female Mayor Of Lake Harbour

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to tell my fellow colleagues that in the Baffin I am surprised to see that there is a female mayor in our community, and I am very happy to see that. There was an election to elect a mayor, and I am proud to say that the female who was running for mayor was elected. You can see that women are becoming leaders, and I would just like to say that I am very happy to see a female in our community who is a mayor. I am welcoming the new mayor of Lake Harbour, and I will be working with her. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Concern Re Responses Made By Government Leader

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like Mr. Gargan and Mrs. Marie-Jewell, I am also concerned about the way in which questions were answered yesterday. I am particularly concerned about the response made by our respected Government Leader on the involvement of ordinary Members in the implementation group for the Beatty report.

I will not quote, but I looked carefully through the unedited transcript of Hansard and listened carefully to her responses yesterday, but the implication is that the work that has gone to date is of such a highly technical nature that poor peons like us could not be involved because it was so technical and so complicated that we would not be able to get our minds around it. That is the implication from the statements that she made yesterday.

I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker...

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the Member is imputing motives to my answers to questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this a point of order, Ms. Cournoyea?

Point Of Order

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member is imputing motives to my statements. I have total

Page 125

respect for every Member in this Legislative Assembly. The technical nature that I referred to is that we are talking about the make-up and the process of setting up the implementation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: On your point of order, Ms. Cournoyea, I will review Hansard and give a ruling on the point of order as soon as possible. I would just ask Members to be cautious when they are making Members' statements, as to the interpretation of their

Members' statements, just to keep respect here in the Assembly. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: I will go on to describe then, my feelings about the response to questions that were asked yesterday. We had understood, as ordinary Members, that having received the Beatty report, we would be involved at that stage in doing something to implement whatever kinds of changes in programs needed to be implemented in order to achieve overall efficiency and to bring government closer to the people we serve. It was quite clear from the statement that was made yesterday that it was thought that the kind of work that needed to be done was of a highly technical nature.

The point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is that we want to be involved at the level when decisions have to be made. We are not talking about technical stuff; we are talking about policy, programs, changes, and we do not want to be involved at the end when all the decisions have been made and they are at the stage where they are so irreversible that we then would be at the stage of trying to do the work that civil servants are employed to do, which is to implement things and go around and make sure that things are working properly. What we want is to be involved at the decision-making level about what we are going to do, not how it is going to be done. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Members' statements. Ms. Mike.

Member's Statement On Pangnirtung Tapestry Art

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Pangnirtung Tapestry Studio as it celebrates 20 years of Inuit tapestry weaving. On March 28, 1972, Inuit hand-woven tapestries were introduced to the art-buying public at the Canadian Guild of Crafts in Montreal. Since that day, Pangnirtung tapestries have been exhibited and sold at art galleries throughout Canada and the United States.

The studio marked this historic occasion with a special exhibition of works from February 9 to February 22 at the art gallery at the Ottawa School of Art. The exhibition and sale featured new works by Pangnirtung tapestry weavers Olassie Akulukjuk, Igah Etoangat, Leesee Kakee and Kawtysie Kakee. The tapestries are interpretations of images by several Pangnirtung artists, including Malaya Akulukjuk,

Annie Kilabuk, Lypa Pitsiulak and Ekidluak Komoartok.

The exhibition and sale was produced by the Uqqurmiut Inuit Artists' Association of Pangnirtung, with the assistance of Sinaaq Enterprises Inc., the development subsidiary of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O135-12(2): Departmental Advisor Re Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O135-12(2), asked by the honourable Member, Henry Zoe. Further to my response to Question O135-12(2), I would like to provide the honourable Member with more information.

Yesterday I informed Mr. Zoe that the chief of Lac la Martre had received a letter advising the community that the construction of an office/warehouse complex was under review. This information was incorrect. The chief has been advised verbally by Mr. Bob McLeod, the assistant deputy minister, and also Mr. Len Hedberg, the district superintendent for the department. The chief has not been advised in writing, and therefore I cannot provide Mr. Zoe with a copy of any correspondence.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question O66-12(2): Use Of Chemicals On Access Road To Fort Providence

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O66-12(2) asked by Mr. Gargan on February 18, 1992 with respect to the use of common road salt, or sodium chloride, on the Fort Providence access road. The Member wished to know why the Department of Transportation would apply salt on the road on a relatively warm February day.

In 1987 and 1988 the Department of Transportation spent \$1.5 million giving the Fort Providence access

road a chip seal asphaltic surface. This road improvement has the advantage of giving a smooth, dust-free and safer driving surface. The ice blades which motor graders use to remove ice from gravel surface roads would destroy the chip seal surface. The only practical way to remove ice from an asphaltic surface is to apply road salt.

As the Member reported, Tuesday, February 4, 1992, was a mild day and rain was falling in the Fort Providence area. Although the rain was liquid at the time it fell, the rain water on the road was sure to freeze later in the day and evening when the temperature dropped. The department's road maintenance crew in Fort Providence took the appropriate action in applying salt to prevent the rain from freezing and making the road a dangerously slippery surface.

The Fort Providence maintenance crew did exactly as they are expected to do. The Department of Transportation does not wait for complaints from the public or for injury or fatality accidents before taking steps to keep the roads in a safe driving condition.

I wish to correct the Member's suggestion that the Department of Transportation spent \$218,000 applying salt on the Fort Providence access road. That figure is the amount the department spent in 1990-91 on salt applications for the entire highway system. In the year 1990-91, the Department of Transportation spent \$28,300 for labour, equipment and salt keeping the Fort Providence access road safe for the public's use.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Page 126

Return To Question O4-12(2): Problems With Water Reservoir, Chesterfield Inlet

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to a question asked by Mr. Arvaluk on February 12th about the problems with the water reservoir in Chesterfield Inlet. I received the letter from Mayor Titi Kadluk on February 4, 1992 and have sent a response to the mayor today. I have also provided the Member with a copy of my response. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O152-12(2): Chloride On Fort Providence Access Road

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. In his response with regard to the calcium or sodium chloride that has been spread on the road, the Minister did say that the department does not wait for complaints before they do that. They are looking after the public safety, and that is more important than the complaints that are being made. Mr. Speaker, the department has been putting the chloride on the road while it was raining so that it does not freeze. Mr. Speaker, this morning on the radio there is a forecast that rain is going to be falling again in Fort Providence. Can I get the Minister's assurance that they are now putting that salt on the road?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation, Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question O152-12(2): Chloride On Fort Providence Access Road

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if my department is putting salt on the road currently. As I stated earlier, last week, before we begin to put salt on the road we would communicate what we are doing to the community. In the event that we will put salt on the roads at Fort Providence, I will consult with the community prior to commencing putting the salt on the road. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O152-12(2): Chloride On Fort Providence Access Road

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that last year \$218,000 was spent putting salt, or chloride, on the roads, and 10 per cent of that was designated for Fort Providence. I would like to ask the Minister in which other areas this chloride has been applied.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alloo.oo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get the figures for the Member, and I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has taken the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O153-12(2): Consultation With Women's Groups Re Recent Court Decision

MR. ARVALUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women Council. As the Minister knows, the women started their association so they can have equal status in the workplace as well as in legal matters. I know that people make fun of women and that is part of their culture, but in the Inuit language there are words also that can intimidate women; it is possible to intimidate women by making light of them. If it is not just making fun of women, and if it is intimidating women, then it is possible to be charged for that intimidation, and it can be legally possible to follow through with it through legal means.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mr. Ningark.

Return To Question O153-12(2): Consultation With Women's Groups Re Recent Court Decision

HON. JOHN NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the time that Pauktuutit was formed -- I will be contacting the chairperson on the phone to discuss this matter with her. I will be contacting the Status of Women Council tomorrow and also the NWT Native Women's Association about the court cases we were discussing the other day.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question O153-12(2): Consultation With Women's Groups Re Recent Court Decision

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister then report to this House the government's absolute decision on the matter after the consultation with the groups?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O153-12(2): Consultation With Women's Groups Re Recent Court Decision

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the reasons why I would like to communicate and have meetings with the Status of Women Council; with Pauktuutit, which is the Inuit Women's Association; and with the NWT Native Women's Association, and then I will make the report to this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question O153-12(2): Consultation With Women's Groups Re Recent Court Decision

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question has not been answered. I would appreciate an answer. Will the Minister report to this House an absolute decision -- I do not want just a report; I want a report on the decision of the government, to this House, after the consultation with these groups.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O153-12(2): Consultation With Women's Groups Re Recent Court Decision

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O154-12(2): Department Of Education's Five-Year Plan

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. Last week I asked the Minister if the Department of Education had a five-year plan. He answered, "Yes." I asked him if he could provide me with a copy of the plan. He answered, "Yes." My question is: When?

Page 127

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Education, Mr. Allooooloo.

Return To Question O154-12(2): Department Of Education's Five-Year Plan

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to have the plan given to the Member this week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O155-12(2): Advice From Status Of Women Council Of The NWT

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I have not always agreed with every decision about funding arrangements and appointments to the Status of Women Council, but in recent months I have come to value the council's role as an advisory body. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible

for the Status of Women Council of the NWT in response to Mr. Arvaluk, and that is whether or not the Minister has decided to seek advice from the Status of Women Council.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mr. Ningark.

Return To Question O155-12(2): Advice From Status Of Women Council Of The NWT

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After I reviewed my response to the honourable Member's question yesterday, I realized I must have misunderstood the question. Yes, I am going to be seeking advice from the Status of Women Council.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O156-12(2): Status Of Family Law Review Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, what is the status of the family law review committee?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O156-12(2): Status Of Family Law Review Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the special advisor on gender equality, Katherine Peterson, has been working hard, with some assistance from staff, to do a public consultation process. I understand that she has now held community workshops in at least two communities in every region of the Northwest Territories. The final report and recommendations of the special advisor are due by the end of March 1992. I understand that she will meet that deadline. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O156-12(2): Status Of Family Law Review Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, obviously the Minister was not listening. I did not ask for the status of the special advisor on gender equality; I asked for the status of the family law review committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O156-12(2): Status Of Family Law Review Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the honourable Member. Mr. Speaker, the current status of the family law review is that a person who had been chairing the working group since its inception has left the Department of Justice to work in the Department of Social Services. That person has been carrying on with the family law review duties while, at the same time, undertaking new responsibilities for the Department of Social Services, so there has been a little difficulty in getting the report completed. The status today, Mr. Speaker, is that the report is now being edited. It has been put together, and it will then be distributed to members of the working group on family law, which includes the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the Departments of Social Services and Justice, representatives from aboriginal organizations, and the legal profession. Once those comments are received, then it will be submitted back to the government for action. It is hoped that all of this will take place, Mr. Speaker, before the end of this fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O156-12(2): Status Of Family Law Review Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister did indicate in December that the individual who was the chairperson was an employee of the Department of Justice and is now working with the Department of Social Services. In December, the Minister indicated that the bulk of the work was near completion. He now states that he will be able to present this report to the House toward the end of the fiscal year. I would like to ask the Minister, when will the report be sent to the House? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I will take the question as notice and get back as soon as I can, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O157-12(2): Effect Of Crown Office Staff Turnover On Appeal Of Paul Quassa Case

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, I will

be careful with this question not to discuss the specific details of any matters which have been before the courts and may be subject to appeal.

My question to the Minister of Justice is: I understand that the chief counsel for the Northwest Territories will be leaving his post soon and that there will be a significant turnover of personnel within the Crown office. Is the Minister able to assure this House that the staff shortage and turnover within the Crown office will not influence the decision on whether or not to appeal the territorial court's ruling on the Paul Quassa absolute discharge?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member will appreciate that the Crown office does not report to me and therefore I am not briefed on the situation. However, I will, through my department, attempt to find out the situation, and I will report back to the House, as quickly as I can, the answer to the Member's question.

Page 128

MR. SPEAKER: Did you take the question as notice, Mr. Patterson? The question was taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O158-12(2): Additional Documents Used In Developing Government Position On "Strength At Two Levels"

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Government Leader. In responding to a number of questions regarding the matter of Strength at Two Levels, you indicated that there were a number of additional documents and reports considered in developing the position that was put forward by the government. I am asking if the Government Leader could make available those particular documents to the Members of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea, Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will take that as notice and try to find out how much I can bring forward to the Member for his consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O159-12(2): Chief Crown Counsel In The NWT

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice with regard to Personnel. I understand that the chief crown counsel is going to be leaving his post here in the NWT to take on a post in Ottawa regarding aboriginal justice. Is this correct?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson. This is not within the Minister's direct responsibility, but if the Minister would like to respond to the best of his ability.

Return To Question O159-12(2): Chief Crown Counsel In The NWT

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I know that it is true that the chief crown counsel in the NWT will be leaving his present position next month. I am not precisely sure of the new responsibilities, but I think the Member is generally correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O160-12(2): Report On Status Of Family Law Review Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In December I asked the Minister of Justice the status of the family law review committee, and he indicated that once this report was compiled, that it would be presented to him and the Minister of Social Services. Can he indicate to this House whether this report has been presented to the Minister of Social Services and himself?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O160-12(2): Report On Status Of Family Law Review Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as I said, I understand the report is being edited at this moment. Neither I nor the Minister of Social Services has seen it as of this day.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O160-12(2): Report On Status Of Family Law Review Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to also advise the Minister that I had asked a written

question in regard to it, and in the same reply in December he stated to me that he would provide me with a response to the written question. So when will the Minister provide the House with the response to the written question?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O160-12(2): Report On Status Of Family Law Review Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, you will correct me if my interpretation of the rules is wrong, but I understood that when a written question is responded to after the session is concluded, that the procedure is to send the response directly to the Member and it would not necessarily go to the House. Mr. Speaker, my best recollection is that I did a written response to that written question directly to the Member, in care of the Clerk. So if she has not received it, it is not because it was not sent.

MR. SPEAKER: My understanding of how we deal with written questions is that after a session has prorogued essentially the issue is dead and the Minister, as a courtesy, sends the response to the Member. Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O160-12(2): Report On Status Of Family Law Review Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if he would consider providing this House with a reply to the written question given to him December 9th. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O160-12(2): Report On Status Of Family Law Review Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, I will do that, Mr. Speaker. It has been prepared, and it will be no problem to provide it to Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O161-12(2): Decision To Defer Construction Of Office/Warehouse Complex, Lac La Martre

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. On February 18th the Minister provided a response to my question I asked about the construction of an office complex in Lac la Martre. Essentially the

Minister stated that this project had been deferred because of an expenditure management program that was implemented by the government. However, the decision to defer the project was not made by the department until November 29th and not confirmed by FMB until late December, about the 20th or 24th. Since that appropriation was approved last spring, it was anticipated that the project would have gone ahead last summer. Perhaps the Minister could explain to me why the tender for this project was not let and construction not completed before the decision to defer this project was made.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice and review the matter with the Minister of Finance. Thank you.

Page 129

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today is budget day in the House of Commons, and the federal Minister of Finance is scheduled to make a budget speech at 2:30 p.m. our time. This budget may have implications for our government's finances. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would seek unanimous consent to waive the rules to recess the House to the call of the Chair to hear the federal budget speech.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive the rules. Are there any nays? There are no nays. I will take one more oral question and then we will recess the House. Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O162-12(2): Cost Of Food In Trout Lake

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As many Members of this House are aware, the cost of food in the North is quite high. I just want to identify the community of Trout Lake as, I believe, one of the highest in the Northwest Territories, and according to the latest food price index published by the Bureau of Statistics, the cost of food in Trout Lake is 68 per cent higher than Yellowknife, and 68 per cent higher than what a lot of people in Yellowknife complain about. Mr. Speaker, the people of Trout Lake live a traditional lifestyle and do not have high income levels. People simply cannot afford to pay such prices for food.

My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and deals with the store in Trout Lake that his department runs. Would the Minister commit his department to look at finding innovative ways to better manage food supplies in Trout Lake to lower the cost of food in this community?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O162-12(2): Cost Of Food In Trout Lake

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Yes, I would be glad to, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: We will now recess the House. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O162-12(2): Cost Of Food In Trout Lake

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi. Supplementary. One possible strategy is to truck food supplies into the community over winter roads and store it either at the store or another facility. This would lessen the amount of food supplies transported into the community by air. Would the Minister take this suggestion into account when he looks at the serious problem?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O162-12(2): Cost Of Food In Trout Lake

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. We will now recess the House until the call of the Chair, and we will freeze the question period clock like a football game.

---SHORT RECESS

I would like to call the House back to order. We are in question period, with 33 minutes and 12 seconds remaining.

Oral questions. Oral questions. One more time, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Written questions. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, can we return to oral questions?

MR. SPEAKER: The Member has asked for unanimous consent to return to Item 5, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Zoe.

Question O163-12(2): Response To Question On Busing Policy

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I asked a question which the Minister took as notice yesterday. I wonder if he is able to respond to me today, with regard to a busing policy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Zoe, would you please clarify, for the record, which Minister.

MR. ZOE: The Minister of Education, regarding the busing policy.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Education, Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question O163-12(2): Response To Question On Busing Policy

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have instructed my officials to review the busing guidelines to ensure that the busing is consistent throughout the Northwest Territories. I anticipate that the student transportation assistance policy guideline will be reviewed with the local education authorities and the divisional boards in time for the 1993-94 school year.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education was never funded to provide students with transportation. The funding for student busing has been provided for individual requests -- the school bus funding has been justified because of distance and severe safety hazards.

In 1990-91, the department provided \$1.5 million to the boards for busing. The department carried out a survey in 1989 analyzing housing patterns in the communities and their distance from the schools, as well as safety hazards and transportation needs of students. As a result, the student transportation assistance policy guidelines were approved in principle in 1989 by the cabinet, but no additional funding was approved to implement the guidelines.

The two main principles guiding the student busing are that all students should have access to school programs, and student age and the distance from their homes should be considered the main criteria for funding of busing services. Mr. Speaker, the criteria

for busing, approved in principle as I said earlier, says that the boards will provide for students who are the age of five and six if they live half a kilometre away from the school; students the age of seven to 10 years old if they live one kilometre away from the school; and students the age of 11 and over if they live one and a half kilometres away from the school. However, this criteria is used now only as contracts. Additional funding is required to implement the policy guidelines if they are to be stated. In some cases where there are no private contractors we have assisted the divisional boards in purchasing the buses through our capital process. Those places are: Fort Rae, Edzo and Pangnirtung. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: If I could suggest to Members that because

Page 130

time is at such a premium during question period, if Members want to pose a question to Ministers that will take a detailed response it would probably be better handled in written questions. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O164-12(2): Tabling Report Of Constitutional Development Commission

MR. NERYSOO: If I might, Mr. Speaker, ask the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development: Does he intend to table the report of the commission for constitutional development?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O164-12(2): Tabling Report Of Constitutional Development Commission

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, Mr. Speaker, whenever the translation is completed.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O165-12(2): Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex Deferred

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, my question would be directed to the Minister for Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has told me that the project for Lac la Martre on the office/warehouse complex has been deferred, but I have not been able to find it in the proposed capital estimates for 1992-93. Will the Minister confirm that this project has not been

deferred as stated on February 18, but has in effect been cancelled?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister for Renewable Resources, Mr. Ningark.

Return To Question O165-12(2): Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex Deferred

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the government restraint budget, and in response to the extremely hard times of financial management, the project is deferred, and we hope that we will be able to put it in this year's budget. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O165-12(2): Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex Deferred

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the same Minister. On February 12, the Minister of Finance told this House that decisions on capital projects were guided by four principles, including honouring prior commitments to communities. Well, Mr. Speaker, a commitment was made to the community of Lac la Martre for the Department of Renewable Resources to build an office complex. Would the Minister confirm that this commitment has been indeed broken?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O165-12(2): Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex Deferred

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the commitment was made by the previous government. Mr. Speaker, the project, as I said a number of times, was deferred until such a time when we can find the money. Hopefully, we will be able to find money to fund the project in the next fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O165-12(2): Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex Deferred

MR. ZOE: My second supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not understand, or maybe the Minister does not understand, that the money was already committed from this particular year's budget, \$420,000 I believe, to build the thing. I do not understand what he means, that there was not any

money there. It has been deferred, so the money has to come back out of this year's budget. I do not quite understand. I would like to ask the Minister again. There was a commitment made, and he has already told me it has been deferred, and I would like to know, is it going to be deferred until next year, this proposed upcoming budget? I cannot find it in there. That is why I am asking him: Is it going to be put into the proposed 1992-93 budget?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O165-12(2): Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex Deferred

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have mentioned a number of times, we are going through hard times, and as each and every Member of the House knows, they were told the bad news that some of their projects were being deferred. Mr. Speaker, I will do everything within my power as the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources to see that project goes on in the next fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. New question, Mr. Zoe.

Question O166-12(2): Assurance From Minister Of Finance To Live Up To Commitments

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has heard the response from my colleague, the Minister of Renewable Resources, regarding the office complex that was committed to Lac la Martre. The Minister has stated, quite bluntly, that the government is committed to honouring the commitments that were already made to communities; however, this certainty does not seem to have happened in this case. Would the Minister give me assurance that he will review this project to ensure that this government lives up to the commitment it has made?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O166-12(2): Assurance From Minister Of Finance To Live Up To Commitments

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of issues here. One is that in the 1991-92 fiscal year there was \$400,000 budgeted and approved by this House for this particular project. The project did not go ahead this year and, consequently, the \$400,000, as the Member

knows, will lapse. The project has not been included in the capital estimates that are before this House at the present time, before committee of the whole, and the Minister who is sitting immediately to my right, Mr. Ningark, has said that he will do everything that he can to ensure that project will appear in the next budget brought into this House, for capital, which will be in the fall of this year, Mr. Speaker, designed for 1993-94.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Renewable Resources is committed to this project, and they intend to bring it forward to FMB in next year's budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Bernhardt.

Page 131

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W9-12(2): Absolute Discharges And Training For Judges Re Sexual Assault Cases

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a written question for the Minister of Justice. Would the Minister please provide this House with: a) a list of all cases in which an absolute discharge has been granted for sexual offenders by territorial court judges within the past five years; and b) a listing showing participants and dates of all training initiatives undertaken by any and all judges of the territorial court within the past five years, dealing with topics related to gender issues, sexual assault, or the sentencing of sex offenders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 9, petitions. Petitions. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have Petition 2-12(2), signed by employees of the Inuvik Regional Hospital, requesting that positive changes be made in the operation of the facility as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Petitions. Petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Reports of standing and special committees.

Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Bernhardt.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 15-12(2), if you would permit me to read it first.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bernhardt, the process is that you just tell us what the document is.

MR. BERNHARDT: Pardon my ignorance. I would like to table Tabled Document 15-12(2), a transcript of the territorial court judgment rendered in February, 1990, which includes a summary of sentencing patterns and sexual assault cases in the Northwest Territories and elsewhere. I would like honourable Members to know...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Bernhardt, the normal practice is just to give the title of the document. If you would like to refer to it in a Member's statement tomorrow, you are more than welcome.

MR. BERNHARDT: I will give it to the Page here and you can have it.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bernhardt. Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motions. Notices of motions.

Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills.

Item 15, motions. Motions.

Item 16, first reading of bills.

Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels; Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction; and Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

ITEM 18: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I would like the committee to come to order. Does this committee wish to deal with Tabled Document 9-12(2), Tabled Document 10-12(2), Tabled Document 12-12(2), or Bill 14? I need direction from this committee. Member for Thebacha.

Tabled Document 9-12(2): "Strength At Two Levels"

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to look at Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels. As Members of the committee, we would like to go through it page by page.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. I will allow any Member who wishes to make general comments to do so before we go into it page by page. That is what I am going to do. General comments before page by page. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent to go through Strength at Two Levels was to bring back to the forum of this House an opportunity for ordinary Members to be able to advise government as to some of their concerns that are put forth in this report; and as a result of the questioning in the House yesterday, it appears that there has been no process to date where ordinary Members of the Legislative Assembly are given opportunity to indicate to government what we think of the report and what we think of some of the direction that this report is recommending. The overall report, we want to stress, is a government document; it was formulated by the government, initiated by the government, and given to the government to look at. Some of the decisions, I believe, they are intending to concur with and find out ways to implement some of the recommendations. The concern that I have heard in respect to Strength at Two Levels is -- when the report was being formulated there was a concern expressed to me a number of times at the lack of consultation in respect to formulating the recommendations of this report.

The Beatty report, the Beatty team, or the team that formulated this report, did not consult enough with the communities or the groups that are being affected by

some of the significant recommended changes that are being proposed, and that has been a concern expressed, particularly in areas that affect not only community government but many of the people in the smaller communities that will be proposing changes as a result of this report. There has been basically no opportunity, or very little opportunity, besides the MLAs taking this report back to their communities and seeing ways that they can get

Page 132

this report discussed among the communities, and then coming back to see whether the communities recommend the recommendations. What has happened, Mr. Chairman, is that these recommendations have been looked at, and it appears that there is a reply or a strategy to address these recommendations, and there has been no time that the ordinary Members have been given any type of opportunity to state publicly whether we concur with these recommendations. This has been a concern to many Members in this House.

When this report was tabled in December, there was an understanding and agreement by the government and the ordinary Members that we would retable this report, and as a result of retabling we would formulate discussions on the report and hopefully some type of strategy would be developed. But as it appears, and I want to emphasize that the appearance is the fact that there has been a strategy developed, an implementation being considered for the strategy that has been developed, without consultation from the ordinary Members. I cannot emphasize the concern in respect to this. This government has made a commitment to work with all Members of this House, and it appears that that commitment has been overlooked.

Mr. Chairman, the report in itself -- and that is why we propose to go through the report page by page -- there have been comments in this House, and I refer to some of the replies given to ordinary Members such as myself by the Government Leader, stating that this report has been too technical and that absorbing some of the comments written in the report would be difficult for Members like myself.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Point of order, Ms. Cournoyea.

Point Of Order

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I did not at any time stress that it was too technical and imply that the ordinary Members would not be able to understand. This is the second time this was brought up. The statement that I made was the technicality of setting up the process. It had nothing to do with the intelligence of any Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Madam Government Leader, was that a point of order or a point of clarification to the other Member?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe it is a point of order, mainly because it is imputing that there is a statement said by myself that questions the intelligence of ordinary Members. That was never my intention when I was discussing the technical nature of setting up the process. It had nothing to do with the motives being imputed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): In that case I will have to review the transcript and report back on that. Mr. Nerysoo, you have a point of order too?

MR. NERYSOO: No, Mr. Chairman, I was going to challenge the point of order that was raised, that it was not a point of order. A point of order deals with procedure and not with regard to a concern that is raised on the comments made by another Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I will review that matter and report back to the committee. Proceed, Member for Thebacha.

Little Input From Ordinary Members On "Strength At Two Levels"

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had said earlier, Members have been expressing grave concern with respect to the point that there has been no opportunity for them to be able to indicate to government, no forum of any type for public discussion, to be able to indicate to government the report in totality. There has never been one session during our sessions here that we have even discussed one page of this report; and the government, as a result, has developed the report, Reshaping Northern Government, and from that document come different types of concepts to be further discussed in this session.

Mr. Chairman, I guess the point that I would like to stress to the government is that everything seems to be going ahead with Strength at Two Levels, with the

recommendations, with very little input from the Members on this side of the House. There are many Members that object to that. Not all Members have taken the opportunity to talk to the government about some of the recommendations, and as a result they feel isolated from government and government formulating their decisions on the different recommendations that came forth in Strength at Two Levels.

Mr. Chairman, because of the fact that this document being formulated, Reshaping Northern Government, has basically been developed by the government as a result of Strength at Two Levels, we would propose to go through the Beatty report and that the government listen to some of the concerns we have with respect to the Strength at Two Levels report, as Members, and we would like to proceed to go through it page by page. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Lewis.

Beatty Report A Product Of The 11th Assembly

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to prolong this business of making introductory comments to a report that we have had for some time now. What seems to have happened is that we have never really sat down in committee to deal with something that really was a product of the 11th Assembly, and it is quite clear that that was the origin of it. What bothers me a lot is that during the 11th Assembly the Executive started -- it is fully explained in the Beatty report how the 11th Assembly got its agenda.

Not long after the election, the Executive Council went out to Snare Rapids and began developing a kind of agenda, unusual in the sense that you have an agenda for government after the election rather than before it. But in our system that is the way it is. You decide after the election what the people are going to get, and the cabinet goes off into the wilderness.

It was outlined at the beginning of this report what kind of government the people were going to get. They outlined five areas: economic growth; improving education; shaping public government; supporting aboriginal initiatives; and also taking our place in Canada as a territory and also a place in the world. Two other ones were added at a later stage: The social issues became a major topic of discussion during the 11th Assembly, and we spent quite a bit of

time, including a mid-term session of the caucus in Baker Lake, in which social

Page 133

issues were supposed to have been dealt with in some depth. Then in June 1987 a seventh priority was set -- it is pretty late in the mandate of the committee, half way through -- the improvement of government administration.

So really the last Assembly did have a kind of a platform or an agenda. What bothers me a little about this report is that it has somehow assumed the status of being the government's agenda. This is what this government is all about. The danger is that we are going to spend all our time navel-gazing and looking at the machine and oiling the machine, and you know, shining the machine, and looking at the machine, and admiring the machine. The point is that governments do things, you know, and it is very, very difficult for me, having sat now in this House -- it is the second session -- to know what this government is all about, because it has been dominated by this government's obsession with the famous Beatty report, and we therefore have come to the conclusion that since so much of the energy of the government is going to look at the machinery, that we had better spend some time at it, because it is our government. It is not just the Executive Council's government; it belongs to everybody. If we are going to spend our time in an obsession, if you like, with the structure, then it makes sense that everybody, in fact, would become involved.

The concern most people have is that despite all the good will indicated publicly that we were going to have a different kind of government now -- it would be an open government and there would be a real attempt this time to involve people -- the understanding, I suppose, was not clearly enough set down at the beginning when we listened to these overtures to involve people.

Really, what we had in mind as ordinary Members was to say, "Fine," you know, "It is wonderful to do something like this, because a lot of it I agree with personally. There is an awful lot I can agree with." The problem that we have is that when we agree to do something, there is always some kind of gap in understanding on what we have agreed on. I know from talking to people that I meet every day that our understanding was that, having got this document Strength at Two Levels, what would happen was that there would be an involvement of people to look at this piece of work and then decide what to do with it,

and since that has not happened people now feel like outsiders. They say, "Well, what is going to happen is that the government will involve us when they have already taken the bike or the truck down the track so far that you are never going to take it anywhere else," because they have decided where they want to take it, and there is that feeling among Members that they really are only going to get involved when they can do no damage, when they can make no significant changes to anything.

Momentum For Change Must Be Built Early

I appreciate what the Government Leader is trying to do, because there are all kinds of evidence that unless you move and get something done, and get it done early on and build some momentum and some energy, and so on, it is very, very difficult to accomplish change. But if you will accept that, will accept that is what you have to do -- you have to move on something; you cannot wait forever -- but what has happened now is that people have been given an understanding that they would be involved in a significant exercise, and the fear among the ordinary Members I have talked to is that this is just tokenism in the sense that, yes, we will agree, you know. We will go along with it, but we cannot involve people at the stage that is so critical that they may slow down the process. But I would argue that by not following through on the commitment, on the same understanding that the rest of us, had the government is in fact slowing up the process itself. We cannot be blamed for slowing the process up if the commitment is not made that from this document here we would be fully involved in determining the direction it should take. It has taken a life of its own, and now whatever we do will be seen as an afterthought.

In my opinion it was a mistake not to get all of the three people that were chosen by other Members right at the beginning so that they could examine this report, because once you have agreed on what you are going to do, then people who have a little bit of pride are not going to be satisfied with saying, "Well, you guys have decided, anyway, and all you want us to do is to go along now on the ride. The bus has left months ago, but you can come along and enjoy the scenery."

I am afraid a lot of people will not be satisfied with that, because once you have decided what you are going to do, how you are going to do it, and so on, then that really becomes an administration job. As politicians we are interested in policy. What is the

policy? What is the program? What is the direction? What is the shape?

You have already developed a second document dealing with the shape. You are going to reshape something, and you are going to decide what the shape is going to be without any input from any Member on this side. There were some very willing people here who would have been quite happy to have helped to take a document like this and to put it into a form where we know what the shape is going to look like. Then you would have some willing, co-operative people who would have been part of the process, would have a sense of ownership, and would want to go with you for the rest of the ride. But they do not have any sense of ownership in the program, the process, the reshaping, or anything, and the fear is that you are going to bring them in too late and there is going to be a loss of dignity among those people who feel that they are an afterthought. Those are my opening comments, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have had an opportunity to read the presentations that have been made and listen to the questions and answers that have been asked by Members, and answers given by the Members of cabinet and our Government Leader.

I want to say that while I might accept some of the remarks that have been made, that there is an interest in seeking the views of Members of this Assembly and the general public about the direction that we wish to take in reshaping northern government, the fact is that the documents and the answers really do not coincide with one another. There have been continuing suggestions that there is no implementation plan; yet your own statement indicates that there is an implementation plan. I am not going to argue about that. I just want to make some additional comments. Maybe that is where the confusion lies for me.

Preoccupation With Beatty Report

I think that I have to agree with Mr. Lewis that there seems to be a continuous preoccupation with the matter of the Beatty report and its recommendations without clearly indicating to the public, generally, what the policies of our government are going to be over the next four years, or what direction you wish to take.

Implementing The 1969 White Paper

The other aspect that I want to point out is -- suffice it to say that despite all our best efforts, and recognizing that we have

Page 134

some significant financial problems, we have to be awfully careful about what it is we dismantle and how we dismantle it, in terms of our government. It is quite clear that even in the areas of health, the Beatty group pointed out quite clearly that we had some very serious problems about how we were, as a government, implementing policies as they applied to status Indians and status Inuit, and that we were, in fact, implementing a policy that was not occurring even in the provinces. We were, in fact, applying, I guess, in many respects, the 1969 White Paper of trying to associate all status people into a program similar to that of all other non-status people. It was the federal government's and, in many respects, our own fault that we were not taking advantage of the financial situation that the Government of Canada had offered to us, and we were doing that to ourselves internally. Maybe there is an attempt on our part to slowly work into implementing the 1969 White Paper here in the North, but at least we should be up front and honest about it and say that status Indians or status Inuit will no longer be treated according to federal government policy. Then let us say it. That is my feeling. If that is the policy of this government and that is the policy of our Assembly, then we should say that to the people of the North.

In terms of some of the questions that had to do with transferring responsibilities to communities, and I do not think that there is anyone here that would argue against the direction in which people want to take this government in improving the ability of people in the communities to take on more responsibilities for themselves. But there is no advantage for communities to take on responsibilities if it means they are going to be, in future, in the financial straight-jacket that this government is in right now with federal moneys that have been transferred to us. It makes no sense for people in the communities. I think that we should not be placing communities in the situation where we give them the impression that our financial situation is such that we can afford to allow people to take on more and more responsibilities with no consideration for the financial situations that they could find themselves in.

I can tell you right now, with the very little authorities and responsibilities that most people in the communities take on, that we do have communities right now where they have simple municipal services that have significant financial deficits. We have to be clear that the efforts that we are going to make in program transfers, service transfers, are going to carry with them all the financial resources that are available to them. We cannot say that it is an excuse for getting away from the financial obligations that we should be transferring. But I do think that we must be prepared to accept that that is what is going to happen.

Amalgamating Of Departments

On the matter of the points of dealing with such things as amalgamating departments -- and I made this point during our presentation and our view of reshaping government when the Government Leader kindly allowed us to have a presentation made by those individuals involved in government and her staff to at least update us on what was occurring. But I do want to say that on the matter -- I will be very specific -- of petroleum, oils and lubricants going to the Power Corporation I can tell you right now that I am not certain whether or not that is really in the interest of the economy of the North or the people of the North or the business community of the North, if the idea of placing that responsibility in the Power Corporation could create a monopoly. We do not know, but it is possible. We need to get a better understanding and an interpretation and explanation from our government on that responsibility and how that is intended, so as not to challenge the ability of private enterprise to get into that particular business.

The other point, in terms of even Government Services -- I was not certain how the matter of computers associated themselves with Public Works responsibilities. Maybe again the Government Leader is going to have to clarify that for me or those people who are associated with that particular discussion.

I just wanted to be certain that these things were being co-ordinated so that if that decision is finally made, that it is clear what divisions of responsibilities are to take place and whether or not there is a reduction in the kinds of programs that are going to be transferred, one program to the next program or next department.

Language And Education Separate Issues

I can say to you that on the matter of the super Education department -- at least it seems that way anyhow, where you are dealing with education, employment and culture -- I was not really sure how the matter of language is really associated with education. I thought that particular matter was a separate issue. Now maybe there is a responsibility on the part of education to deliver education programs on behalf of students or as part of an educational program. But I think that the matter of culture and language is far broader than just the question of education. So I was not clear how that was going to fit.

I was also not certain of how employment was to fit, whether there was a change in the mandate of the department and whether or not we were going to take on a labour force responsibility -- I guess the CEIC, Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, responsibility -- or whether there was a different interpretation to be given to the employment section.

So those had to be explained, and those have to be clarified. I do not think that we, as a government, should be trying to take over a responsibility presently in the hands of the federal government and funded by the federal government, at our expense. I do have many other comments to make and will make them as we go through the document and each section. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Health Care Efficiency Versus Doing Everything In NWT

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the health section on page 151 of Strength at Two Levels, there is a concern in the Keewatin, especially, which has no hospital except in Churchill. Like my friend who just talked about the petroleum, oil and lubricants and NWT Power Corporation integration, I would say it sounds good on paper and for administration but it may have a very negative economic impact. Likewise with health services. Just because we want to have a baby in the NWT, we ship pregnant women and others to a hospital in Yellowknife from Sanikiluaq and Repulse Bay rather than to Churchill, Manitoba, because it looks good to have all the facilities in the NWT; maybe even cheaper in the long run because of transportation costs in Keewatin, or otherwise it would be cheaper and more efficient to continue to send patients to Churchill, Manitoba. If you would bear with

me a little bit, Mr Chairman, there are several questions in that section that should be dealt with -- the impact, the cost, benefits or lack of benefits -- with the whole idea of having everything within the NWT rather than looking at what is efficient. The Beatty report wanted to make the government more efficient and cost-effective, and this proposal or recommendation in the Beatty report will not do that. So that is one of the general comments I wanted to make. Thank you.

Page 135

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am listening attentively to what is being said, particularly to the more detailed comments. Mr. Chairman, the comments that were made by the last two speakers are the work of the committee. This is the kind of work that is going to be taking place when we get into the implementation, and these are the recommendations that are here, our recommendations, and this is the work that will have to take place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Koe.

Incorrect Data Relative To Inuvik

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few comments before we get into page by page on the information and data that is presented in the Strength at Two Levels report. Much of the data or information which refers to activities or tasks in Inuvik in many cases is not correct, and in discussing why with representatives of the organizations and groups in Inuvik, there seemed to be a lack of consultation by whoever was on this task group with the organization representatives in Inuvik, and as such, much of the data is skewed or misrepresented. Also, when we were in the ABC committee talking about some of the aspects that the committee was looking at -- the health boards and Arctic College -- in both cases representatives of these groups in Inuvik stated point-blank that they were not consulted and that the information in the reports was wrong. My point, I guess, is that I have a little bit of a problem taking the information that is presented in this report at face value, and seemingly every time I refer to something, I have to question myself whether it is true or not. In many cases where information was misrepresented, I have been able to get true facts; we will talk to those

when we go into the detail. That is basically my point: that the credibility of some of the information in these reports may not be there. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Gargan.

Health And Legal Aid Concerns

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. About three weeks ago, Mr. Chairman, we met in Fort Simpson, and one of the things that was a concern in the region, at the regional council and tribal council meeting, was with regard to their report and, I guess, the delivery of health services. Another one that was conveyed to me was with regard to Mr. Alan Regel, who gave me a report responding to Strength at Two Levels with regard to legal aid in the Northwest Territories.

I also have a motion, Mr. Chairman, to see if perhaps the government could try to halt the current procedures that will implement recommendations and proposals in the Strength at Two Levels report, and further, that the regional council want to reserve their support of it until they have reviewed the whole document. I keep hearing, Mr. Chairman, in this House, statements like, "Whatever happened in the previous government does not necessarily have to be followed by this government." I think that was the response Mr. Zoe had this morning, anyway, and the report itself was done in 1987, or was worked on and put together, perhaps, by a consultant that used to work for the government.

Since 1987 there have been two things that happened that were of significance, or three things. One of them was that there was a final ratification of the Gwich'in claim; the other is that there was an agreement between the federal government and the aboriginal organizations to have a parallel accord with regard to the shaping of governments for aboriginal people; and the third, of course, is the royal commission. One of the things that the regional council does not want to get into, at least in the Deh Cho region, is they are not at this point in time even considering negotiating a land claim. They are not interested at this point in time, and one of the reasons for that is that they would hope that instead of looking at extinguishing their rights, they would go on what the national forum has to offer them. Most of the agreements that are being implemented now do extinguish certain rights. Also, any kind of self-government that is going to be implemented has got to be reflected in the form of public government.

So I support regional councils that wish to implement that under their regional claims, but I would hope at the same time that perhaps this document is also outdated. It is from the 11th Assembly, and it looked at things before these new developments occurred, and naturally there was also an election at that time, and one of the things that we allowed to happen was that we allowed the Western Constitutional Commission to be created to look at the views through the North, and they have come with an interim report, too, on that.

But what I see, from the last Assembly to this Assembly, is that I still see the difficulties as a Member, Mr. Chairman. For eight years I still see the difficulties of having the government come up with a good strategy plan that does not involve us at all. I do not know how the new Members or the Executive felt about this report itself, but my feeling is that it was a report that was good at the time it was made, but it should no longer apply to this new government. We should be looking at a new vision.

I think that the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development and the government have also suggested that they will recognize the inherent right to self-government and have made that presentation to the Dobbie Commission.

We have a situation in which we could be offering the communities programs that they could control, but the dollars for the delivery of those programs are there but the resources are not there. What I am getting at, Mr. Chairman, is that we could be offering programs to the communities -- we are asking the communities to get into contribution agreements for the delivery of certain programs. At the same time, we are looking at communities -- there are different scenarios; we have claimant areas and we do not have claimant areas.

For the claimant areas I believe the section on self-government has to be in with the public government process. Where there is not, I am afraid that if communities start accepting programs under that direction, as if it was a claimant area, we might find a situation in which those communities have accepted it and the federal government could view that as taking the principle in the form of public government, as opposed to aboriginal government and self-government.

The federal government could also take the view, "We could have given you the inherent right to self-government and those programs could have gone directly to you, but since you accepted the concept of

the territorial government's focus on public government, we are sorry, we cannot offer you that under the inherent right to self-government," in whatever shape or form it will take eventually. This is why the Deh Cho Regional Tribal Council has requested the halt to the implementation of Strength at Two Levels until they have looked at it; as I would like to see it, before any kind of implementation is done. I am aware that there are communities where negotiations are going on with this government with regard to the responsibility for programs; I am aware of that in the Deh Cho region. I certainly do not want to stop them from doing that, but I would also like to ask other communities if they have not started the process that they should not start at all.

Page 136

Political Future Of North Unclear

We have a situation where the political future of the North is unclear. We have areas where political process has already been agreed to through the claims process, but we also have communities where there is no consideration for a form of self-government through the claims process. I do not wish to see communities, if they are looking at delivering those programs --that government should be pressuring communities to do that, or even suggesting that they take on programs.

Mr. Chairman, we do have a situation where municipal governments are in a deficit position. We also have a situation where, if we deliver those programs to the communities, they are going to be getting those programs in a deficit situation too. I find it very difficult that we would be giving them a program that is modelled to fail. We could give them the social assistance program, but if you limit the amount of money that is going to be going to communities with regard to social assistance, the community governments are the ones who are going to look bad. If we say, "The government did not give us enough money. We know that we are supposed to give you \$400, but \$200 is all we can offer you," this would make the community government look pretty bad and the territorial government would look good at that time when the transfer occurred.

At the same time, we are also sending a message with regard to plebiscite questions, for example. We are going to attain the same level of civil servants, and how in the hell are you going to do that and deliver community governments if you are going to deliver responsibility? I would think that if you deliver

the responsibilities more to the communities, the level of civil service would go down.

I do not have any answers, Mr. Chairman, but I see all these different scenarios, and some of them are good and some of them are not good. We have a situation where the political future of the North is going to be questioned within the next two months. At the same time, we are fighting a report that -- I do not know whether it has been implemented or not, but it seems like it has been implemented. Also, we do not know if this applies to the East or for Nunavut or not. I would think that the intent of the report is for a more efficient delivery of programs to the communities. We are already \$50 million in debt, and I do not know how much more it is going to be before the programs are actually delivered to the communities. If we are looking at a year, perhaps the program would be reduced substantially by the time it gets to the communities.

I do not know whether we should also be looking at maybe reducing our deficit even before we consider giving some self-government to the people. If you do not have 100 per cent self-government, then I do not see it working at all. I think it would have a negative impact on the communities if we give them poor programs. I think the government has to sit down and really look at that seriously. If the communities are going to take on programs, they should be healthy programs. The situation that we are in right now, I have doubts that it will work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Government Leader.

Status Quo Not Acceptable

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I fully agree that communities should not be taking programs unless we thoroughly involve the community to make sure that those programs can be delivered.

I do not believe -- and I hope I am not hearing -- that people want things status quo right now. I seem to be hearing, "Do not do anything." But, I think that if a series of communities just do not want to move with this, they can pass motions in their communities saying they do not want to do this, or they may take a period of time.

Different regions do different things. This is all going to take time to do. If Deh Cho does not want to receive or talk about taking over more programs, we

are not going to force feed people to do this. However, we have a very large Northwest Territories. There are different regions wanting to approach things differently. As I said, if people want to move, and one region does not, we cannot do anything about that. If the honourable Member was feeling that his communities do not want to be involved, that should not be viewed as something that is negative, because some people feel they have other mandates or want other ways of dealing with things. We have to look at each community and what they are able to do as well as what they want to do. This is the work that is going to be done with a community so that it does not get short-changed in the delivery.

One thing I will tell you for sure is that if we do not do something about this government and reshaping it in a manner so that people want to take over responsibilities, it will be more than \$50 million in debt. Right now, we know what it is going to cost as we go along. I am concerned that the people that are taking the programs over should be fully involved with this discussion at the community level because they are the ones that have to run it; they have to know what resources they require, and the support they need to do that.

Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the honourable Member that if Deh Cho wants to pass a motion that they do not want to be involved with the process for a number of years, so be it. They will be given respect accordingly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, I think that if we get on with this report page by page, a lot of the comments, concerns and perceptions can either be substantiated or unsubstantiated. We had this discussion in 1991, and I think we should get on with it. People should remember that the report, Strength at Two Levels, is titled this way for a very particular reason. We know there is going to be a deficit. One of the first tasks identified is dealing with this deficit. There is the perception that there is, in effect, strength at one level. We have to develop real strength at the community level. We also have to consolidate, simplify and streamline strength at the territorial level as well.

I think we should get into the report so that we can get on to identifying which jobs will be done and what will not be done. From there, once we decide what the jobs are, we can talk about what should be done, when, and by whom. Once we get into this, we

should have the development of a real implementation plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I would like to move to the report as quickly as possible. I am allowed to ask Members for general comments. Let us go page by page. Right now, I would like general comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am not trying to stop communities from taking on programs. I am not letting it happen. The concern addressed, Mr. Chairman, is that we say we are going to give programs to the communities and that we are not going to short-change them. But, what does this mean for other people that are not taking on these programs? Are we short-changing them if they do not have these programs? The more we spend on giving money to communities that have control, the less we have for the government to deliver to other communities.

Page 137

I do not know what the Deputy Government Leader is referring to when he suggests that when we deliver those programs, we are not going to short-change them. Are we then looking at an increase in our deficit in order to maintain those programs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that there is an old saying where you put the cart before the horse. I think what we really need to do is to quickly move toward putting the three ordinary Members who were elected into the process of developing an implementation strategy. That has to be done quickly to give this side of the House the confidence that their input is being acknowledged and accepted on an ongoing basis. That is one.

System Needed For Resolving Disputes

Two, it is fine to say, "Let us get on with it," but as there are, in any document, imperfections, and according to everyone's statements, there are things in this document that some of us are not satisfied with, there needs to be a system set in place for debate, and for the resolve of disputes or differences. To me, this could go on for days. It seems to me that what we have is a feeling of lack of confidence. I think the easiest way to bring about this confidence is to move quickly to move the three Members on this

side of the House into the development of the implementation strategy, and then debate the report on an ongoing basis. Until we solve this, I think there is still going to be a feeling of neglect.

My feeling is that no matter how well-intentioned the objectives are in the period of time between when the report was tabled and where we are today, perhaps, in hindsight, we should have involved the ordinary Members in the development of implementation.

Given that, I think this is what we need to do now: Bring forward the ordinary Members into the implementation process, and then the document and the implementation strategy will reflect not only cabinet's concerns, which are understandable, but will also reflect, to some extent, the concerns of ordinary Members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Todd. General comments. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the risk of belabouring the point, I think it is important to make sure cabinet understands that most of us on this side of the House do feel much the way Mr. Todd has described. There was a real opportunity here for the government to show its commitment to openness, to the consultative process we said we were going to engage in, by opening it up and allowing the three Members we had nominated to participate in the activity of putting together an implementation strategy. We keep hearing that this is not an implementation strategy that is there now, but when you take a look at the document, Reshaping Northern Government, there is considerable thought that has gone into that. There has been a lot of work, and some adoption of principle and policy in order to make the document come together the way it has.

Ordinary Members' Involvement In Policy-Setting

What we are saying is that ordinary Members should have had some involvement in the policy-setting. It should have, and could have, come from the grassroots. You had the opportunity to get us on side, if you will, right from the bottom up -- at least to hear our views about areas where we support the Beatty report, or areas where we do not support the report, and look for some way to find a consensus. Unfortunately, when we were presented with a fait accompli and now invited to have three ordinary Members participate in the so-called implementation strategy, it looks as if we are being co-opted or being brought in after the fact in order to get us on side.

This is going to lead to resentment and distrust. It is unfortunate because there is no way that Reshaping Northern Government happened without a large number of people working a lot of time to examine whether or not there was any possibility of the government, being able to achieve some of the goals that are set out in that report. Before spending all that time, it may have been wise to involve ordinary Members in a discussion as to whether or not certain areas were acceptable in terms of policy and government direction. Now, we have to go back and do that very thing before we are going to be willing to accept the direction given in Reshaping Northern Government.

I think this is going to slow down the entire process, Mr. Chairman, but I hope the government will now be willing to recognize that we have to start again. We have to make sure the grassroots is involved. There has to be a consultative process to include all of us here if you want to get the broad base of support to achieve the goals set out in Reshaping Northern Government, especially in the manner required in order to save a lot of money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask one particular question of one of the Ministers. Could Mr. Kakfwi clarify for me whether or not the government has developed a proposal of the process and the items to be considered for negotiation with the communities that are interested in the process? Could he table the document so that all Members may review it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Kakfwi.

Options To Be Laid Out For Communities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the approach we have indicated to the communities we have communicated and met with is that we are going to try to lay out everything that the government does in terms of programs and services for communities to consider. Whether or not they are practical for communities to take on or whether it is possible for them to have the capability to take these on would be decided through the course of their looking at it. We are not trying to set the stage in deciding what communities can or cannot do. What we have indicated is that we will lay it all out, and the communities can make these decisions. The

communities will decide what they are interested in, and under which terms and conditions they will be willing to assume any work that the territorial government does now, as well as the type of agreements they may want.

It is very clear in this report that the idea is to give more support to the communities so that they can develop the capability and strength to assume much more responsibility and authority. It is not to transfer and reduce resources and costs. I want Members to know that we have said we are willing to start meeting with communities now to discuss the general intent and give them some examples of what they can assume. We can talk with them about how aboriginal self-government may be seen as part of this scenario. The process will slowly develop from there. Communities will let us know what it is they want, and how they want to get this process under way.

We have set certain target dates. We have said that

Page 138

We hope the first transfer agreements come into effect by March 1994. Other than that, we do not have a document that lays out the process and items in detail. We indicated to the communities that we are working on this. As soon as this document is available, we will commence in-depth discussions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any further general comments? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: I would like to make one point before we move on to more specific issues. I think there is a view that -- and it was expressed a few minutes ago by Mr. Kakfwi -- aboriginal government may fit into this scenario. The fact is that we had better be open to the idea of how this government may possibly fit into the scenario of aboriginal self-government rather than the reverse. We may find ourselves in a situation where we may not have as much jurisdiction as most aboriginal governments in a few years from now. We have to be careful about these kinds of things.

The other aspect I want to mention with regard to this is that I believe the Minister pointed out that staff have, in fact, conducted discussions with various groups and communities. Has he any documentation on the matters that have been discussed and whether or not there are any specifics which have been discussed with various communities and regions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Presentation Made To Gwich'in Tribal Council

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I was in Inuvik about a month ago meeting with the Gwich'in Tribal Council. I had a draft presentation which my staff prepared for me. It was one of those drafts that I never used. There is a real problem. The Member picked it up, but I was kind of late in trying to change my wording when I said this thing about how we fit into each other, the sort of phrasing. It was unfortunate, and I am glad the Member picked it up because I am quite aware of what he is raising, and I think everybody else on this side, in cabinet, is aware of it as well. The problem is in trying to finesse a presentation. We are doing it on the fly, so to speak, and it is difficult to come out with a definite presentation that we use all the time, because we are just sort of going at it and it changes, you know, my own particular style of making presentations. I think the many words of advice and caution that the staff and other people give us about how we should say things, what we should not say, is there.

Anyway, that presentation was made, and we had some discussion with the tribal council about how to basically make the presentation that it is done for a lot of reasons, some of them being that this is what the Dene and Metis communities have asked for starting as far back as 1975, that we think whether or not aboriginal self-government is the constitutional right, the inherent right, and whether it is put into the Canadian constitution or not, that we are talking about giving communities real power, real resources, real responsibility to do things themselves, and that is going to be the way to get stronger people, stronger communities, healthier communities, where we can begin to see a better return for our dollars in the areas of education, where we would get a lesser drain on the resources we have.

Going into social problems, we believe that we have to do things immediately in terms of addressing our deficit; that we cannot wait until next year; that we have to begin right now; that we have to reduce the cost of running government. It means looking at consolidating departments. It means looking at reducing the levels of bureaucracy, and it means streamlining and reorganizing government, reshaping government so that we can put more support, more dollars into communities so they can get on with assuming the responsibility they should have had in the first place.

These talks should not alarm people. We are offering to give to communities those things that they can handle. We are offering to help communities get ready to get into meaningful discussions by making sure that they have adequate resources in terms of staff, in terms of administrative and financial support systems, so that they can get on to doing some of these things and not just talking about it and not being afraid about it. If communities are afraid they do not have the human resources available to do some of these things, then that is part of the discussions.

Everything To Be On The Table

As far as I am concerned, we are going to put everything on the table. Some things we know cannot be readily done at the community level, but we are willing to discuss everything that the territorial government does so that there are no hidden agendas. We try to do things as above board as possible. That was generally the approach that I took to the presentation in Inuvik, and the response was generally good. There were a couple of jaundiced members in the audience that said we were not sincere, but other than that I think the presentation went over well. There was interest from places like Aklavik and McPherson and Arctic Red and Inuvik to look at setting up some further meetings where we can have more in-depth, longer sessions to continue the discussions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Maybe if I could get additional clarification, Mr. Chairman. While I can appreciate the position that Mr. Kakfwi has put on the floor, or at least has made known to us, I just want to ask the honourable Member whether or not the matter of legislative authority is a matter that is on the table for discussion with the regions or with the communities, because there are certain things you can do that cannot really be done without any, what you might say, legislative responsibility, and I do not necessarily mean the ability to pass the laws here, but to be able to pass appropriate legislative instruments, I guess, that will implement overall legislation or restrict certain things. By-laws, for instance, are one good example. Regulation is another, because those instruments give certain powers to groups or communities that ordinarily do not exist at the moment. So I just want to know if that particular matter has even been discussed, or is it going to be a matter of discussion at some time in cabinet so that we somehow resolve that matter? Whether or not you like it, it is a matter

that can be discussed with the Gwich'in through their agreement, so it has to be dealt with at some time. My assumption is that it is not going to be only that region, but other regions as well, so I just wanted to find out if the matter has been discussed or whether or not it is going to be dealt with at some future time with regard to cabinet and with regard to your position on the table.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. If not, does this committee wish to go page by page? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Page By Page Review Of Report

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. We start on page five of the report. Mr. Nerysoo.

Page 139

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I might ask a simple question at some time here. I notice that today, or at least the last couple of days, we have been told that we should not ask questions with regard to this particular matter as it relates to the former cabinet and former government, and yet this particular document has been signed by the former Minister; so I am kind of curious as to who is really the body of authority that is to, in fact, deal with this document. Maybe at some time we may wish to ask the author or the signatory of this document to explain some of the details.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when I became the Minister of Finance, one of the earliest documents that I received was this particular document, and it was, I think, released to the House the day after I got it. Early on cabinet decided that this was of such importance that the Government Leader would be the lead Minister in this particular document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page five. Any comment on page five? Page six. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today, if the honourable Member, the Government Leader, recalls, I asked for specific documentation. You will notice on pages six and seven that there were specific groups that developed particular reports. I

am wondering if the interim reports from these committees could be made available if possible, depending on your review and consideration as you indicated earlier.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I did not mean to be hesitant about providing the information. I do not know where they all are or how many there are. The only report that was delivered to us was this, and I undertook to find out where the other documentation or reports that were used in this process are. I will do that; I just have not had time to do that yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page seven. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: In designing this report, there were some private citizens and government employees who provided opinions that were critical to the project. I would like to ask who the private citizens and government employees are on this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Starting at the bottom of page five, it lists all the people on there as well as the different team leaders. There is a management organization as well as service and program delivery. The names are on there. For example, under management and organization, Jim Antoine, Knute Hansen and Liz Apak Rose are on this list.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I thought these were resource people. When I was referring to this section, my impression was that there were public meetings where private citizens and government employees made presentations. I guess that is not the case.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: These were the team organizers. They met with several people by going to the various regions. I do not have a list of who talked to them or how many people met with them making presentations. It is not listed in the book. However, I am sure the information may be obtained.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page seven.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page eight.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page nine. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask if the Direction for the 1990s is still the basis by which this government is operating, or whether or not there will be an indication at some time of either a renewal of those directions or a reassessment and indication by this cabinet of the direction they wish to take over the next four years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Madam Government Leader.

Lack Of Financial Resources For New Programs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The general problem we had in trying to set a direction is our lack of ability to find the financial resources to take on new programs or deliver new initiatives. What we have found is that if we do something about the government, to reorganize and redirect, we would be able to do that. At this point in time I am not planning to go into another Snare Lake and say we are going to set these brave objectives that cost money, because we cannot afford them. Basically, we are staying the course and trying to reshape and redirect funding to take on programs, even the present programs that we have. I think that there is a lot of anxiety that our financial position would not allow us to fund the programs that exist today. Hopefully, when we are going through this process, a clearer direction can be pulled out of this exercise.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Government Leader for responding; however, I must say that the matter of, for instance, dealing with additional provincial-like powers and responsibilities does cause me some concern. I agree that if the case is that those transfers are going to cost us more money, then it is really not in our interest. I do want to caution government about even dealing with the matter of northern control of Northwest Territories'

energy resources if that particular matter is going to, in future, cause us financial problems. I know that some may say it is an advantage because we are going to get resource revenues, but our problem still lies in that we have to assume the responsibility for paying for the overall administration of managing those resources within terms of mineral and energy resources.

I am cautious about it, and maybe even more so I am concerned that aboriginal people are still not secure in their involvement in that process. I just want to raise that concern with you and maybe you can address it some other time, but I just wanted to point that out to you. I know that you have consulted some organizations with regard to legislation, and those kinds of things, but there are still problems with significant changes that are required, and maybe that

Page 140

Is one reason that you are seeking the advice of the various groups.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to restate that we are still committed, particularly to the Northern Accord negotiations. I would also like to say that one of the prime reasons that we have come to a stalemate here is because of the financial arrangements. I fully agree that we have to be sure that those transfers are of a net benefit to us, rather than a net loss. So yes, we are very cautious of that and as we go along we still have a commitment that a Northern Accord has to complement the claims process as we proceed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page nine. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 10

---Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 11. Mr. Gargan.

Growth In Person Years

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, there seemed to be an indication by the previous government that there were going to be some financial difficulties ahead unless it allowed only a one per cent growth, or less than one per cent growth, with regard to person years. The government must also be aware that in 1988 I made a motion with regard to a reduction in the person years of 2.5 per cent with another 2.5 per cent the following year. I do not know what the discussions were with regard to the motion I made. I do not know whether or not it was ever discussed. I would like to tell the Government Leader, on the Executive at that time, that it was a reasonable motion.

In 1988, there were approximately 340 vacant positions open. Implementing something like this could have avoided the situation we were in. How did you come up with this? Is it a one per cent person year growth during the four years of our term of office? During the first year that I was in office, I thought there was an eight per cent growth in person years. My motion in 1988 was to reduce it by 2.5 per cent for the first year and 2.5 per cent for the second or last year of our term. I guess this did not happen.

What is the less than one per cent person year growth? Was this during the last year of our term?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was for a one-year period. I think the Member would be pleased to note that the reduction by the motion was well received. This has been an ongoing, broad situation which people have asked us to address. In order to accomplish the savings in person years, one of the things is that it is very difficult the way we are structured right now is to go in and say we will take this person year out of this department or that department. This is how we are attempting to do it, by reshaping and putting departments together so that we can accomplish that and more. The concern that the general public has, which is that we have far too many civil servants serving the number of people that we have, and the concern that much of the money is being spent in looking after the administrators, is the fundamental concern that we tried to address in this document. We are attempting to gather together how we are going to do that. I hope we can accomplish that and

much more, particularly with the vacancy factors that we do have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Lewis. Page 11

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I did not catch your eye when we were still on page 10. But it is very brief, if I could. I know we have problems when we refer to what happened in the past government because that is history now. It does not matter much. We do not have a party system here. We have an ongoing, flowing system, and a lot of the same people are still around. We have the same kinds of problems as we had a year ago, and yet a year ago we had identified that it was very important for us to set up a new department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. In the Northern Energy Accord we had umpteen briefings on it. We identified transportation as being a key thing for the development of our economy, and in order to give it significance and to give it focus we had to not just state it as a priority but in fact, create a new department to look after developing transportation infrastructure. Also at that time, if you recall, Mr. Chairman, because of the tremendous interest in the last year -- and the Member for Thebacha would recall this very, very clearly -- that safety and the concern for mine safety was such a huge issue that it was felt that we should set up a department for this, to look after safety, the safety of people throughout the Northwest Territories, not only in mines but just safety of our people was so important that we had to set up a department for it. So we in fact created all this government infrastructure in order to meet the program of the government. This is the program. So in order to help the program and to highlight the priorities, this is how we are going to set ourselves up.

Government Lacking In Focus And Vision

So now just a year later we have got a document in front of us just simply to provide a restructuring of transfers of programs, and I wonder really the degree to which we are committed, still, to economic development. We spent four years saying, you know, economic development or privatization or whatever, creating jobs, creating wealth, all these different ploys you could have to create wealth and to reduce the dependency of individuals on government, and we suddenly find that the only thing that matters is government. This government, the way I have seen it over the last few months -- we are completely preoccupied with government, and one of the main recommendations in this report is the reduction of

people's reliance and dependence on government. That is the main story of this report: Reduce people's dependence on government. Yet the complete preoccupation of it is with government and the government's service, and so on, and yet with no idea of focus. What is the focus? At least the examples I gave you were attempts to give some sense of priority, to say, "Okay, this is the stuff that people worry about so therefore we will do this." I fail to see that in the documents that we have. The sense of vision, of focus and so on, is just simply, well, it is government but we are going to do government in a different way.

So the fear I have, Mr. Chairman, is that when I look through this page, which is a kind of introduction that gives you a bit of background, the transitional period leading to this report, it bothers me that, right or wrong, at least there was some sense of direction, of focus and so on. What we have got left, it seems to me, does not have that. We do not have a sense of where we are going. In what kinds of ways are we going to create employment opportunities? How are we going to handle a lot of these things, which are ongoing problems for us?

Page 141

I think it is the wrong solution. We did this in education in 1981-82; we said, "Well, we do not know what the hell we are doing, really, but let us let the communities decide." You know, we just handed it to somebody else. Maybe they would do a better job than we did. And it is no solution just simply to say, "Well, you know, the solution is to give people control over their lives, and so on," and maybe give them an instrument that is no good to them. It is no good handing a program over that is of no use to somebody. Maybe they want something completely different.

So what I am worried about and concerned about is that as we go through this document, we are simply talking about government again, reshaping government. We are not talking, really, about where we are going. What is the vision? How are we going to solve all these problems that, in fact, have been plaguing us for so long, if we do not at least begin to look at more than just structure and form and everything else? It seems to me that is just doing what we did in the past, saying we do not know what to do so we will give it to somebody else to do, and anyway things are rough now. We do not have enough money, so we will let them worry about that too. That is the kind of accusation that may be made

unless we can come up with some kind of sense of vision of the kinds of things we could be doing.

I am not talking about huge, expensive programs because so many things can be done which do not necessarily have to cost a lot of money. There are all kinds of things you can do. I do not get that sense after reading the document. I am sure we will have an opportunity to discuss it later on as we go through it page by page so that we can have some sense of vision as to where the government is going in terms of services. I hope we can get some sense of vision as far as the future of our territory is concerned, beyond this basic structural issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Madam Government Leader.

Process For Redirection Of Control And Responsibility

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the document is a document that provides the process and some idea on how to get some of the funding so that we can do some of the things the honourable Member is speaking about. It seems to me that we are taking a lot of time on a document that is trying to reshape the government. It is really a process to provide redirection of some of the control and responsibility to the people that are affected by our programs and delivery system. I believe we are attempting to do that by answering the question that a lot of people have in front of them; that is, it is difficult to get access to the government. I believe it can be fixed very quickly and nicely. We can bring the decision-making to where people want it to be made and, at the same time, provide consolidation so that we can save some dollars and redirect these dollars to economic development and other methods. If we keep on going the way we are and do nothing, we can keep spending on exactly what we have with no changes. We can go out and run around in the community, but our resources are limited as to how we can direct that. That is all we are trying to do. There is a preoccupation on government because Members want to talk about it, and I do not think this should be disallowed as a negative thing.

The honourable Member seems to be telling us that people want to discuss this document because we are preoccupied with government. Right now, we have to understand -- and we all know -- that we are too heavily dependent on government. People's concern is that the government does not do the job they want

to be done for them. How do we correct this? This is really what we are trying to do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further comments on Page 10? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Agreed? Page 11

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Agreed? Page 12

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Agreed? Member for Thebacha. Page 13

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to page 13, some of the recommendations are on separate appendices to the report. I do not know if it is the intent of the committee to go to the appendices, or just go through them. There are some significant recommendations as a result of the appendices to the report, and I am sure they are of concern to Members, in particular, the review of program and program delivery of legal aid and the Departments of Health and Social Services, and advanced education. The chapter and the appendix include numerous recommendations. Even though I recognize that we stated we would go page by page, some of the appendices are somewhat integrated so I would like to state, for the record, that I, as a Member, have concerns with respect to programs and program delivery areas as well as support services delivery.

Mr. Chairman, recognizing the new rules in place and that the House concludes at six o'clock, I would like to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is that a motion?

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, I move to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

**ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE**

MR. SPEAKER: Item 19, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels, and wishes to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

Page 142

---Carried

Item 21, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for this evening, at 6:00 p.m. of the Nunavut caucus. At 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, a meeting of the standing committee on finance, and at 10:30 a.m., a meeting of the ordinary Members' caucus.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 26, 1992.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motions
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Document 9-12(2); Tabled Document 10-12(2); Tabled Document 12-12(2); and Bill 14
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 26, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1992

Pages 163 -184

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngha'naaq, Mr. Arvaluk, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. Bernhardt, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Ms. Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Hon. John Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Todd, Hon. Tony Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MR. SPEAKER: Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Thursday, February 27, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 18-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, cabinet has made a decision to sell government-owned staff houses in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith. The homes will be appraised and sold to the occupants at market rates.

---Applause

There are 113 of these units. The potential revenue to government will be about \$12 million.

---Applause

Occupants who are not able to arrange conventional mortgages through the banks will be able to enter into a lease-purchase plan with the government. The lease-purchase plan will be based on current mortgage rates and conditions. There will be no special deals.

This initiative comes at a time of low mortgage rates and 95 per cent financing. The federal government's announcement of allowing up to \$20,000 in RRSP savings to be used toward payment of the purchase price may be another incentive to some people to buy the home they presently occupy.

The initiative is the first phase of a long-term staff housing strategy. That strategy will outline a plan for providing staff housing where it is needed most and eliminating it in communities where employee needs can be looked after by the private sector. It will consider overall housing needs in the Northwest Territories and will integrate our reduced staff housing needs with other government housing programs.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, employees living in government-owned housing in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith will have four months to arrange financing and make a formal offer to purchase. After that period, the units will be subject to the terms and conditions of the long-term housing strategy which is scheduled to be finalized in June of this year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Mr. Allooloo.

Ministers' Statement 19-12(2): Telecommunications Legislation

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Perrin Beattie, federal Minister of Communications, has advised me that the federal government intends to table new telecommunications legislation today.

The tabled telecommunications legislation strives to deal with the importance of this high technology industry in an increasingly global community. Of particular importance is an obligation of the federal Minister to consult with the two territories and the provinces in the discussions of communications issues.

The Minister has also advised me of his intention to regionalize the CRTC, Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission. He will be obtaining the views of the provinces and Territories regarding the location, method of appointment, and duties of commissioners, including regionally-based commissioners. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Beattie also intends to establish a conference of Ministers to discuss emerging policy issues on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, I point this out particularly as an indication of the success of the Government of the Northwest Territories in being accepted as a partner with the federal and provincial governments in the management of Canada. I am pleased that we continue to move forward in our efforts to strengthen our position in confederation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Speaker's Birthday

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today and had a Member's statement prepared on a different subject from the one I am going to address today. I keep a journal and have kept one for over 30 years, Mr. Speaker, and had thought that your birthday was tomorrow. I have since learned that, in fact, it is today. I would like to point out that as the Minister of Justice our honourable Speaker kept his cards very close to his chest. It was very, very tough to get information out if he really did not want to divulge it.

I remember trying to get from our current Speaker the information I wanted about a lady called Mrs. Hope, who was in the prediction business, who would tell you your fortune, and I found it very, very difficult to find out under what kind of regulation or law she, in fact, practised this profession of predicting people's future. So since we now have a northern government with an access to information act, I would like to urge all Members to use whatever force they can so that this very carefully guarded secret would be available to all people in the Northwest Territories.

I would like to know, and I ask all Members to help me in this process, to find out not only how old the Speaker is, how many years he has got on the clock, but also where he was born, what time of the day, in fact, this great event took place, so that we can refer the information back to Mrs. Hope so that she can predict the future, not only of our Speaker, but also of this Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: That information, as all information,

Page 164

will be available when the freedom of information bill comes out. Thank you for those wishes as I enter my golden years. Members' statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On "Reshaping Northern Government" Working Group

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a statement regarding the ordinary MLAs' participation on the newly formed Reshaping Northern Government working group. The motion

was passed in this House which requested that the Government Leader include three ordinary Members of this Assembly on its strategy committee for implementing the recommendations of the report, Strength at Two Levels. Subsequently, I, along with my colleagues Jim Antoine and James Arvaluk, were chosen by the honourable Members on this side of the House to represent them on the proposed committee, and now everyone in this House is aware of the feelings of most of the ordinary Members relating to the perceived implementation plan of the Strength at Two Levels report.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I rose in this House and spoke about my concern about participating on this committee at this time. When I spoke, I had no information or plans as to what the ongoing process and task of the working group would be. Subsequently, later in the afternoon, I and all my colleagues received a letter from the Government Leader inviting us to participate with three Ministers on the newly named Reshaping Northern Government working group. Also, during discussions in committee of the whole yesterday, the Minister of Finance talked about involving other ordinary Members by channelling any proposed changes through the appropriate standing committees. Mr. Speaker, this is the type of information which we were waiting to hear. We wanted to be reassured that the government was not moving ahead full bore without our involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to proceed with my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent has been requested. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am probably one of the last people to criticize or curtail management ability to get the job done, even if this entails making changes. In one of my first speeches to this Assembly I stated that I do not support the status quo. Changes are necessary to make the business of managing and running government more effective and efficient, and let us get on with it. I am from the school of thought always looking at ways of how do you do something, rather than hearing all the reasons of how not to do anything.

---Applause

Of course, I do not necessarily agree with everyone on everything, but through talking and discussions we

can all make our viewpoints and opinions known. If it eventually comes to a vote, we can vote accordingly.

By allowing us to participate in developing an implementation plan and strategy, all Members will have an opportunity to express their views and those of their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine, the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk, and I have received the full support of our colleagues, and we will accept the invitation from the Government Leader to meet with their representatives to begin the task of reshaping northern government. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Late Mail Delivery

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituency has a concern about mail delivery since Canadian Air stopped delivering it from the East and the West. First Air now has the contract to deliver mail. They fly from Ottawa to Iqaluit, Nanisivik, Resolute Bay and Yellowknife. From Yellowknife, they return the same route. The mail that is coming into my constituency from the West is flown first to Ottawa. The mail arrives very late, which causes real problems for people expecting urgent mail. We did not have a problem with late mail delivery when Canadian Air was delivering it. Canada Post should look into this problem so that my constituents can have better and faster mail delivery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Conversion Of Direct Current Power To Alternating Current Power

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to bring to the attention of all Members a scientific achievement which has been developed in the Baffin Region, and which I am sure all Members will find most exciting. The project involves a scientific method to convert DC power to AC power. In simple terms, the invention uses power from ordinary car batteries and changes this battery power into a form that is exactly the same as what we get from an ordinary wall socket in any home. For

example, it can take two 12-volt car batteries and convert that into 1500 watts of power that will last for a minimum of 100 hours. All of this from a box weighing about 36 pounds!

In addition, the system can be easily recharged in a number of ways from windmills and solar panels to an ordinary battery charger. This means that the power is virtually available at all times, and the life of these batteries becomes spectacular in length.

The implications for power in remote communities is fantastic as it will offer options for a power source that eliminates much of the capital costs we presently incur when we install or provide portable generators. A new company called North Port, under the capable leadership of its president, Mr. Richard Porter, who is in this House today, has recently announced the completion of their factory in Iqaluit to meet the heavy demand for orders of this marvellous product. Initially, 10 local residents -- and I am happy to say they are to be all women -- will be employed in the factory, and with expanded growth potential, these figures will undoubtedly rise.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the efforts of my constituent, Mr. Jean Lambert, who invented this marvellous device, and I believe very strongly that the benefits from the manufacture of this amazing invention should stay in the North. I am also delighted that he has had collaboration with residents of Igloolik, notably Mr. Porter and Mr. Ike Haulli, to get this product marketed and off the ground.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to distribute a recent newspaper article that provides more detail for Members. In doing so, I want to object to the...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, your time has expired.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: May I make a brief final statement?

Page 165

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, please.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Humbly requesting unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker. In distributing this newspaper article, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take strong exception to the patronizing statement in that article that Iqaluit is a part of the world not noted for

technological breakthroughs. Obviously that is no longer the case, Mr. Speaker. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Inmates Voting In Elections

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As many honourable Members know, there are provisions within our Plebiscite Act, Local Authorities Elections Act and the territorial Elections Act which state that incarcerated persons are not eligible to vote. Honourable Members will also be aware, though, that on January 28th the federal court of appeal heard the case of Belczowski versus Canada. On February 27th the court rendered a judgment that in essence held that it is arbitrary, unfair and irrational to prohibit incarcerated persons from voting.

Members who were here during the 11th Assembly will remember that I raised this issue way back on July 3rd, 1991. At the time, I sponsored a motion recommending that the Government of the NWT should use the Legal Questions Act to obtain a judgment on the constitutional validity of provisions in the territorial Elections Act which prohibit inmates from voting in territorial elections. Unfortunately, this motion was defeated. Some Members, including the current Minister of Justice, expressed an opinion that this issue should be decided "by people elected to this Assembly" rather than by the courts. It does not appear that the government has been able to address this issue to date. Now, instead of having a legislative amendment that we could debate, or a legal ruling on the constitutionality of the inmate voting prohibitions in our legislation, we only have confusion and uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories is about to embark on the most significant vote of its political history. There is a risk that the entire procedure may be impacted by these new constitutional developments. I would urge the Minister of Justice to move quickly...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, your time has expired.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent has been requested. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. I would urge the Minister of Justice to move quickly in analyzing this federal court decision and in developing a proactive strategy for government action in this regard. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: On behalf of the Assembly I would like to welcome the president of the NWT co-operatives and its board of directors, Mr. Bill Lyall.

---Applause

Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On 1992 Canada Day Poster Challenge Winners

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Yellowknife South, to recognize four special young people. They are the winners of Canada Day Poster Challenge this year, three of whom are from my riding.

The first place winner is Patricia MacVicar, 11 years of age, from Yellowknife; second place winner is Sonny Lenoir from Fort Simpson, age 17; third place is Jason MacVicar from Yellowknife, age 14; and the fourth place winner is Elizabeth Wilson, age nine, also from Yellowknife.

The first place winner, Patricia MacVicar, and her parents have been invited by the Secretary of State to the official Canada Day ceremony on Parliament Hill on July 1st of this year. Along with the 11 other provincial/territorial finalists, Patricia will be flown to Ottawa courtesy of Canadian Airlines International. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Canada will be celebrating 125 years of Confederation this year.

The other winners will receive monetary rewards for their achievements. Buffalo Airways of Yellowknife and Hay River provided courtesy flights for Sonny Lenoir's flight from Fort Simpson to Yellowknife to attend a reception to be held later today.

Mr. Speaker, 1992 NWT Canada Day committee received no less than 350 entries for the contest, a record number, this year. All of these students who entered this challenge are to be congratulated.

I would also like to commend the 1992 NWT Canada Day committee whose representatives include the honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe; its president, Lynda Comerford; and vice-president, Ms. Theresa Handley, who worked so hard to put this and other

activities together to celebrate Canada's birthday this year.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all Members to join us in this lobby today at 4:00 o'clock for the presentation of awards and to view the very impressive artwork done by these youngsters from across the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: I would also like to add that Mr. Bill Lyall is a former Member of this Legislative Assembly. Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Two Residents Of Sanikiluaq In House

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome two people from Sanikiluaq, since I represent this community. Johnny Cookie, a member of Nunavut; also Lucassie Arragutainaq, a board member for Arctic Co-ops. I would like to welcome these two people to the Assembly. They are representing Sanikiluaq. Thank you.

---Applause

Page 166

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Members' statements. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Member's Statement On Snow Problems, Baker Lake

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak a little bit about the snow problems that we have in Baker Lake. As most people may be aware, the amount of snow in Baker Lake is a major problem. In some years there have been houses which have been completely covered by snow. The only way in which one could tell there was a building in that area was because there was a chimney sticking out of the snow. As a matter of fact, snowmobiles have driven over these houses. These conditions are not only hazardous, they are unacceptable. There was a project which was started a number of years ago. This project was to build a snow fence on the northwest side of the community, in the older section of the community. Today, the new area of the community is now being built with the prevailing winds in mind; however, the older section of the community is still being covered with snow today. I would just like to point out that the snow fence which was started a number of years ago has not been

completed, and this is a concern that I would like to make Members aware of. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O134-12(2): Child Sexual Abuse Specialist Position For Kitikmeot

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Arvaluk on February 24, 1992, and it deals with a child sexual abuse specialist position in the Kitikmeot. There are only four child sexual abuse specialist positions to cover all regions of the Northwest Territories. The positions are in Fort Simpson, Inuvik, Iqaluit and in the Keewatin. The position in Fort Simpson is filled by a local resident. Interviews have been held and an offer made for the Inuvik position, and interviews are scheduled for the Keewatin and Iqaluit positions during the first two weeks of March.

The co-ordinator of the child sexual abuse program has offered training and treatment throughout the Northwest Territories prior to hiring the specialists. Once the positions are filled, she will also be able to concentrate on those regions without a child sexual abuse specialist. Training for the RCMP, social services and health care providers was completed in Cambridge Bay for the Kitikmeot Region. Extensive service has been given in Pelly Bay, Spence Bay and Cambridge Bay by the co-ordinator. The child sexual abuse specialist positions were part of the freeze on staffing; however, they were released due to the necessity of this needed service. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question O43-12(2): Review Of Policies And Procedures Of Akaitcho Hall Residence

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an answer to an oral question asked by Mr. Antoine on February 17, 1992, with respect to the review of policies and procedures of Akaitcho Hall Residence. The Member for Nahendeh requested a review of all policies and procedures regarding the supervision and care of the students staying at the Akaitcho Hall Residence.

The Department of Education is currently working with the Akaitcho Hall administrative staff to improve the procedures and staff guidelines for the supervision and care of the students. This will include a review of staff job descriptions to ensure that their responsibilities are stated clearly. As well, the department will conduct a full operational review of the Akaitcho Hall Residence in May, 1992. The review will focus on all aspects of operation, including the goals and objectives of the residence, training of staff, recreation and weekend activity programs for students, student leave procedures, and student support and participation in the operation of the residence.

We will do all we can to make sure that Akaitcho Hall provides the support and supervision a student needs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O172-12(2): Secretary/Manager For Jean Marie River

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs regarding the community of Jean Marie River. Last July the secretary/manager left the community, and the department knew well ahead of time that this person would be leaving, and up to date this position has not been filled. As a result of that, there are a lot of problems within the community in terms of taking care of the administration of the community financially and project wise, and I know the problem there is that there is no co-ordination. Is the department going to be filling this position soon? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question on notice and get back as soon as I can. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O173-12(2): Adjustment To YMIR For Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the WCB. Section 1 of the Workers' Compensation Act defines the YMIR,

year's maximum insurable remuneration, as \$40,000. This means that no matter how much money a worker has been earning at the time of his injury, he will never be paid any more than \$40,000. Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that this situation is rather unfair, particularly to the high income earners who suffer permanent disability injuries and must try to meet existing mortgages, pay the bills, and look after their children.

My question to the Minister is, since becoming Minister, has he received, by way of a formal motion or resolution of the Workers' Compensation Board, a recommendation to adjust the YMIR by amending the Workers' Compensation Act?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson

Return To Question O173-12(2): Adjustment To YMIR For Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, to answer the Member's question in its narrowest sense, no, I have not received a formal recommendation from the Workers

Page 167

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Todd

Supplementary To Question O173-12(2): Adjustment To YMIR For Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Thank you. In that case, will the Minister therefore make a commitment to introduce an amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act, during the second session of the 12th Assembly, which would adjust the earnings ceiling to an appropriate level in the YMIR?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O173-12(2): Adjustment To YMIR For Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, following discussions with the Workers' Compensation Board on this issue, I did ask the board if they would give me advice about what would be an appropriate level. They are reviewing the matter and, once I get that advice, I will proceed as expeditiously as possible to take the matter to cabinet and to this House to be dealt with.

It is a rather easy amendment to make, Mr. Speaker, but it does have financial implications that have to be

studied carefully. I cannot guarantee next session, but I will work toward that goal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O174-12(2): Deferral Of Large Capital Projects

MR. ZOE: My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Department of Finance. Could the Minister inform this House whether or not there is a process in place to inform a community and the appropriate Member when a decision is made to defer or delay large capital projects?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O174-12(2): Deferral Of Large Capital Projects

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if there is a formal process that is followed across all departments, but I can tell Mr. Zoe that in mid-December, 1991, Bob McLeod from Renewable Resources, in a telephone conversation with Chief Isadore Zoe, informed Chief Zoe that construction of the Lac la Martre office/warehouse complex was under review.

In 1992, on the 3rd of February, Len Hedberg advised Chief Isadore Zoe that the office/warehouse complex was under review and that no decision had been made. There was some consultation in that regard but, in answer to the Member's question, I do not know if there is a formal policy. I will undertake to find out, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question O175-12(2): Equipment And Tools To Be Used At The Baker Lake Craft Centre

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism regarding the craft centre that was recently completed in December. I would like to ask the Minister what kind of equipment and tools the craft centre at Baker Lake will be using.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Pollard.

Return to Question O175-12(2): Equipment And Tools To Be Used At The Baker Lake Craft Centre

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they are using a wet grinding process which involves an electric motor that drives a grinding head. That demonstration is presently being put on in Yellowknife this afternoon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O176-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Units In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Personnel with respect to his Minister's statement on the sale of staff housing. Can the Minister tell me how many units out of 113 are located in Fort Smith?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Personnel, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O176-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Units In Fort Smith

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: There are 49 units.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O176-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Units In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate what the criterion is for an occupant to be eligible to purchase these units?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O176-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Units In Fort Smith

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, if a government employee lives in one of these units, they will receive a letter from us, probably tomorrow, notifying them that they can purchase the unit if they are interested.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O176-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Units In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Would the Minister be able to tell me whether there are certain criteria, besides occupying the units, to be eligible to purchase one of these units?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O176-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Units In Fort Smith

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the main intent is to get the government out of providing housing in these larger centres. It is not geared toward making it a benefit to employees. It is to get

Page 168

us out of owning government units that are defined as stand-alone units.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O176-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Units In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I received a concern from one of my constituents stating that it was indicated to them that only government employees are allowed to purchase these units after giving five years of service. This is why I am asking the Minister whether there are criteria set aside for disposing of these units. Can he tell me if this is correct?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O176-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Units In Fort Smith

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I believe that might be confused with the original sale of units that happened last year. At that time the criterion for providing an offer to sell units in some communities was that it must be to employees who have been employed by the government for five years. That criterion is not necessary in this round. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O177-12(2): Government Support For Production Of Converter, Iqaluit

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I heard only a few days ago about the technological advance which will now lead to development of a manufacturing plant in Iqaluit to produce the converter. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Economic Development, is the Government of the NWT in any way involved, either in providing technical assistance or providing financial support for this particular company?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O177-12(2): Government Support For Production Of Converter, Iqaluit

HON. JOHN POLLARD: I think they have been working with our department, Mr. Speaker, but they have not received any funds as yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O177-12(2): Government Support For Production Of Converter, Iqaluit

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The technology has been around a long time, but this is a much more efficient development. I would like to ask the same Minister, and I hope I will not be ruled as asking a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker, from the Minister's understanding of this development, would the generation of power by such a company have to be in any way regulated by any agency of the NWT government?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O177-12(2): Government Support For Production Of Converter, Iqaluit

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board, I would have to say that utilities are regulated in the NWT. If the power was being generated and sold, then that might be something that the Public Utilities Board might have to look at. But if it is merely the use of this particular instrument in the NWT, I would not see that it would fall under the PUB, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O178-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Limited To Three Communities

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel regarding the statement he made on the sale of staff housing. I would like to know why only Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith will be the communities where staff houses will be sold. There are other communities that have staff housing as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Personnel, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O178-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Limited To Three Communities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the overall approach on what we are going to do with government staff housing in the Northwest Territories is going to be addressed in June when we bring out our long-term housing strategy. In the meantime, we have decided that it is probably the least disruptive to the housing market if we go ahead with selling these housing units in only Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife, since they have the most developed housing market. We are aware that by doing this it is not going to flood the private market because we are actually selling them to the people who are living in them.

The question of what to do with communities like Inuvik, Iqaluit, Fort Simpson, among other communities, will be addressed because we do not have, as yet, a comprehensive way to address the situation in those communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O178-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Limited To Three Communities

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the government employees who are living in government-owned staff houses in the smaller communities would feel that they have been dealt with unfairly with this new initiative. I know that some occupants in the past have indicated that they would not mind buying the units that they are presently living in. Would the Minister and cabinet consider selling these homes to the staff people living in them in the smaller communities, such as Fort Simpson? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O178-12(2): Sale Of Staff Housing Limited To Three Communities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, this announcement is just indicating that at this time this is what we are prepared and feel comfortable with initiating and following through on. We are not at the stage where we are comfortable with addressing the situation in the smaller communities, but we will be, I believe, by June. We will take what the Member is saying into consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Bernhardt.

Page 169

Question O179-12(2): Qualified Social Services Superintendents

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the successful delivery of social services at the regional level requires the presence of qualified managers. Would the Minister agree with me that because his department is trying to meet the needs of communities, it is important for regional superintendents in this department to be well qualified in terms of both theoretical and the practical parts of the job?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services, Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O179-12(2): Qualified Social Services Superintendents

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I will not be specific on this except to say that, yes, in every instance that person who is occupying a position, certainly in a management area, must have the diplomas or certificates, certainly qualifications. There is quite a broad range of criteria for determining qualifications in any position. However, I am sure that Members will agree with me that we do, in any position, try to seek the person with the most qualifications, or as high a qualification as possible to meet that particular position.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Bernhardt.

Supplementary To Question O179-12(2): Qualified Social Services Superintendents

MR. BERNHARDT: Does the Department of Social Services have a policy which puts a priority on hiring local candidates for regional management positions, regardless of their level of professional qualifications?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O179-12(2): Qualified Social Services Superintendents

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think that it is certainly a consideration in any decision to staff a position that we meet the requirements set out not only by the job description, but also by the criteria that Personnel has established for the selection of qualified people. One would be to try to find a person as close to home as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Bernhardt.

Supplementary To Question O179-12(2): Qualified Social Services Superintendents

MR. BERNHARDT: Can the Minister explain to the House why he decided to make a direct appointment which places a minimally qualified person in a training position which can eventually lead to her or his assuming the role of regional superintendent in my region, the Kitikmeot?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O179-12(2): Qualified Social Services Superintendents

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have never made a direct appointment in my life. Actually, let me put it this way. I have never made a direct appointment since becoming a Minister of Social Services. That is not something that I can take any account for.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. I wonder if I could take this opportunity to welcome some distinguished guests to our Assembly. George Cleary, the president of the Sahtu Tribal Council; Sandy Whiteman, executive director of the Sahtu Tribal Council; Gordon Yakeleya, council member; Henry Tobac, council member; Leonard Kenny, from the Fort Franklin band; and Danny Gaudet, from the Fort Franklin band.

We have some special guests from Manitoba. From the Swamp Cree Tribal Council, Harold Turner, Grand Chief; and Richard Flett, assistant executive director. Welcome.

---Applause

Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O180-12(2): Potential Implications Of Belczowski Versus Canada Court Decision

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. Last week, in responding to a question from my honourable colleague for Yellowknife Centre, the Minister indicated that his department was studying the potential implications of the Belczowski decision. Can the Minister now advise the House as to the status of this review?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O180-12(2): Potential Implications Of Belczowski Versus Canada Court Decision

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would have to tell the Member that it is still under way within my department. I could add that the matter was raised by the standing committee on legislation of this House at its meeting today, and I have been asked to get back to that committee on this very important issue related to their consideration of the plebiscite and other elections acts which are now before them. I would also note that the recent federal electoral boundaries commission also recommended that prisoners be permitted to vote in federal elections.

Mr. Speaker, my department is examining the federal ruling, and they are also examining just what kind of administrative procedures and changes would be required if we were to implement that ruling for territorial prisoners in facilities in the NWT and in the South. So the review is still under way, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O181-12(2): Disposal Of GNWT Staff Houses

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Personnel once again in respect to his Minister's statement, does he intend to dispose of 49 of these units all at one time?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Personnel, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O181-12(2): Disposal Of GNWT Staff Houses

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the offer is to sell 49 units in Fort Smith to the people who are living in those units. If they choose to accept the offer, we will proceed to complete a sale. If they choose not to purchase these units or negotiate some way to lease-purchase, then they can continue staying in them and the future of those units will be addressed in June when we release our long-term housing strategy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Page 170

Question O182-12(2): Review Of Residency Requirement In Plebiscite Act

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice a question supplementary to the question that Mr. Gargan asked on another item relating to the elections. I wanted to know if the honourable Member is asking his department to review the matter of the residency requirement that is being asked in the Plebiscite Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O182-12(2): Review Of Residency Requirement In Plebiscite Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do recall that this very same issue of the validity of the residency requirement for the NWT Plebiscite Act was litigated around 1982 when the last territorial plebiscite was held. I would be pleased to provide Members of this House with a briefing on that decision, which I understand basically validated the residency requirement and which, I believe, would state the law as it now exists on that subject. So I will provide the Members with a briefing on that decision and its implications on the Plebiscite Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O182-12(2): Review Of Residency Requirement In Plebiscite Act

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member will recall one of the reasons for not invalidating the requirement for the three-year residency was the fact that it was prior to the coming into force of the Charter of Rights. I think there have been subsequent rulings. So I would ask the honourable Member if he could have the appropriate research done into that particular matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O182-12(2): Review Of Residency Requirement In Plebiscite Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be pleased to have that done, and I believe that request was also made by the standing committee on legislation at its meeting this morning. So yes, I will see that it is done as expeditiously as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

Question O183-12(2): Hiring Of Ministers' Executive Assistants

MR. GARGAN: I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader with regard to the hiring of executive assistants. In the process of the selection of executive assistants, have these people applied for the positions and have they been successful in getting those positions, or are those direct appointments?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Government Leader.

Return To Question O183-12(2): Hiring Of Ministers' Executive Assistants

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the executive assistants are chosen by the Ministers responsible because of their particular needs, and these are direct appointments.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Todd.

Question O184-12(2): Allowing Non-Residents To Purchase GNWT Staff Houses

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel with respect to this statement today on the sale of staff housing, which, by the way, I think is an excellent initiative. Should the current residents in the staff housing, government employees, not wish to purchase the units, has there been any consideration given in the policy to allowing others to purchase the units?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O184-12(2): Allowing Non-residents To Purchase GNWT Staff Houses

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O185-12(2): Strategy For Sale Of GNWT Staff Houses

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I might pursue the same question that Mr. Todd has just asked. Is the Minister considering that particular aspect in his strategy?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O185-12(2): Strategy For Sale Of GNWT Staff Houses

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the future of these units, if they are not purchased by the present people living in them, we will be addressed in

the long-term housing strategy that we hope to have for you in June. It will be considered and addressed at that time, I hope.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O186-12(2): Residence Of Chairman Of Mining Safety Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister responsible for public safety. The Minister announced in the House the day before yesterday in respect to appointing the committee to address the mining safety bill. In reviewing the Minister's statement it was noted that the individual who is to be chairman of this committee is from BC. I would like to ask the Minister, basically, if the individual is from BC, and does he reside in BC?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Safety and Public Services, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O186-12(2): Residence Of Chairman Of Mining Safety Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O186-12(2): Residence Of Chairman Of Mining Safety Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Does the Minister feel he could not retain the expertise in the NWT and that he had to go out of the jurisdiction?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Page 171

Further Return To Question O186-12(2): Residence Of Chairman Of Mining Safety Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thought long and hard about this, because of course in most circumstances we would want to take advantage of the expertise of a resident in the NWT. However, the high expectations on the part of the stakeholders in the area of mining safety was that the new process to be put in place would be effective if the chairman was independent, and that led me to feel that any possible candidates from the NWT, although they would bring an element

of local knowledge -- and a very important element of local knowledge -- to the committee, might be seen as coming to the committee with some kind of a bias, depending on their previous experience in one sector or another in the NWT.

So, Mr. Speaker, it was my judgment that in order to ensure objectivity and no one being involved that had an axe to grind, as it were, in this very controversial and sensitive area, that the advantages of appointing a neutral person from outside the Territories, especially with recent experience in developing progressive mine safety legislation in another jurisdiction, would outweigh the disadvantage of not having a Northerner as chair of this committee. It was a judgment call on my part, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O186-12(2): Residence Of Chairman Of Mining Safety Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister feels that we still need a lot of southern expertise that is biased to be able to develop the Mining Safety Act, I would like to ask the Minister, what is this process going to cost?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O186-12(2): Residence Of Chairman Of Mining Safety Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect to the Member, I did not say that we needed a biased southern expert. I said that one advantage of getting a person who is not from the jurisdiction is that they could not be accused of being biased or having an axe to grind, or carrying a particular agenda to the committee. That is, one guarantee of at least the appearance of independence would be to get somebody into this sensitive job who is not labelled as being associated with a particular mine, or a particular union, or a particular experience. It was exactly the opposite of my intention, which was to have an unbiased person in the chair.

Now, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the honourable Member's question about costs, the participants in this committee, I am happy to report -- that is, the members other than the chairperson -- will be responsible for their own costs, so the principal cost of this new consultation process will be the expenses

of the chairperson. Mr. Speaker, the cost of employing the chairperson, who will be retained by the government, will depend on how long the committee takes to do its work. I am hopeful that if we have the right degree of good will and a business-like approach with this committee, it could be done within a couple of months; but at the moment, until the committee meets, I will not be able to estimate the length of time it will require, and therefore it will be difficult for me to estimate the total costs at this point. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O186-12(2): Residence Of Chairman Of Mining Safety Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell this House, what is the cost or the rate of the chairperson's fee per day?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O186-12(2): Residence Of Chairman Of Mining Safety Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the rate of remuneration for the chairperson of the mining safety bill committee will be appropriate to that person's professional qualifications. It will be the standard rate that is paid to a professional engineer -- I do not know how much it is, but whatever a professional engineer -- there is a scale of fees for experts, Mr. Speaker, which is probably well known to the honourable Member. I am not sure if it is a matter of privilege between that consultant and the government, Mr. Speaker, but it is what we would ordinarily pay a professional, in this case an engineer, for work of this kind. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell, you have used up your supplementaries. You did. I have two people who counted. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, a new question.

Question O187-12(2): Responsibility For Costs Associated With Mining Safety Bill Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under a new question, Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Safety and Public Services, and it is regarding the mining safety bill. Did the Minister indicate to this House that the Union of Northern Workers, Echo Bay Mines, and Polaroid Mines will be absorbing the total costs for their

members to be participants of the mining safety bill committee?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O187-12(2): Responsibility For Costs Associated With Mining Safety Bill Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O187-12(2): Responsibility For Costs Associated With Mining Safety Bill Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, how can the Minister convince this House that committee will be unbiased?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O187-12(2): Responsibility For Costs Associated With Mining Safety Bill Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think there is a saying, "He who pays the piper calls the tune." I would think the honourable Member would be more persuaded that the members of the committee would be unbiased if they were paying their own costs, rather than if the government was paying their costs, and so I do not know why she suggests I need to persuade or convince the House that those four people, who are paying their own way because of their concern about mine safety, are somehow in the pockets of the government. We are

Page 172

paying the chairperson, Mr. Speaker, because I believe it is the government's responsibility to put in place an independent and qualified person credible to all concerned who can do the job, but I am delighted that the four participants are willing to undertake their own expenses, and I wish we would see that more often in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Actually, I was happy that he answered the way he did because I did want him to allude to the fact that we were paying an independent chairperson, and I would like to know,

how much is the Minister paying this independent chairperson?

MR. SPEAKER: This is getting very close, I think -- it is really using a supplementary as follow-up to your old question, so I am afraid I will not be able to entertain that one, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O188-12(2): Integration Of Housing Corporation Into Communities

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for whatever the Housing Corporation is called now, because I understand it is going to be changed. Last week the Minister indicated that although he intends to get rid of the board of the Housing Corporation so that we can better integrate all government activities, and since housing, in fact, takes place in communities, I would like to ask the Minister, since he has indicated that at the local level Housing Corporation bodies will remain in place, since they will remain independent, how are they going to be better integrated into the economy of the community?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O188-12(2): Integration Of Housing Corporation Into Communities

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to assure the Member that the Housing Corporation is still called the Housing Corporation today. As far as the community organization, how it would be more effective -- and I did say last week in this House that we were not going to touch those organizations, and it is still my plan not to touch them immediately. That is going to be addressed through the community transfer agreements that the Minister responsible, Mr. Kakfwi, is responsible for. So it is my understanding that the housing authorities will continue to do the job they are doing now in the future, and once community transfer is made to the community local council, then it would be changed. That is my understanding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O189-12(2): Highway Patrol Operations

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation with regard to his response to the highway patrol operations by the department. In his response, Mr.

Speaker, the Minister indicated that the officers are on patrol duty one eight-hour shift a week. What day of the week is that?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I understood the question correctly, the Member is asking what other duties the patrol officers do in their day-to-day jobs.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, please restate the question.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, the Minister in his response to me said the patrol officers spend one eight-hour shift a week patrolling. What day of the week are those patrols done?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Mr. Gargan.

Question O190-12(2): Vehicle Accidents In The NWT

MR. GARGAN: I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Transportation. In his response with regard to the accidents occurring, the Minister said that Highways No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 are the main transportation corridors in the NWT, on which 75 per cent of all accidents occur. Seventy-five per cent of what number?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation, Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O190-12(2): Vehicle Accidents In The NWT

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seventy-five per cent of the total vehicle accidents that occur in the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O190-12(2): Vehicle Accidents In The NWT

MR. GARGAN: I realize it is 75 per cent of all the accidents, but how many accidents? Seventy-five per cent of how many?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I do not have those figures with me at the moment. I will take the question as notice and get back to the Member tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O191-12(2): Hamlet Of Rae-Edzo Cash Flow Problems

MR. ZOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Could the Minister give me an update on the status of the cash flow problem that the hamlet of Rae-Edzo was having?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O191-12(2): Hamlet Of Rae-Edzo Cash Flow Problems

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member raised urgent questions in the last session of the Assembly about a surplus ground water problem that had strapped the municipality in its water system and resulted in financial problems. I was pleased that just after the session ended, arrangements were made for the Housing Corporation and the Department of Education to make contributions for the extra water and sewer requirements which had flowed from buildings they owned in Rae. My understanding is that those cash contributions have resolved the financial crisis that the honourable Member was concerned about when this matter last came up in the House. So my understanding is that the hamlet is now back on a better footing.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary Question O191-12(2): Hamlet Of Rae-Edzo Cash Flow Problems

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister review with this department as to what is exactly going on with the cash flow of Rae-Edzo? Because my understanding is that the Housing Corporation and Public Works are disputing their accounts. I do not think it has been fully resolved.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O191-12(2): Hamlet Of Rae-Edzo Cash Flow Problems

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to review that again.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O192-12(2): MLA Involvement In Changes To The Plebiscite Question

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. He has indicated publicly on CBC today that he is prepared to allow some changes to the plebiscite direction, at least the question in it, if we can evolve some process. What does the Minister have in mind to involve Members of this Legislative Assembly in examining this question?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Constitutional and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O192-12(2): MLA Involvement In Changes To The Plebiscite Question

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, when I did these interviews yesterday, I remembered about 11:00 last night -- I guess it sort of hit me that I never finished the last part of the sentence on two occasions during the interview. In the interview I started out really well...

---Laughter

...that technically the Legislature, of course, has the political power to force a change to the wording of the plebiscite question. But politically it is almost impossible or unwise to tamper with it. I thought it was important to indicate that you can do that.

There are a couple of things that should be brought to people's attention here. One of the things is that the TFN agreement in principle was initialled in December, and before they initialled off, TFN was quite insistent that the plebiscite issue was sort of put to bed, resolved, so they could go into finalizing their claims package, knowing that Article 4, that part of the claim that deals with the creation of Nunavut, was clear. So as a cabinet we had dealt with the draft question in November, with the understanding that it had to be addressed quickly in order to meet the deadlines that TFN had set for themselves and meeting the commitments that we had made, relative to the spirit of Article 4 of the TFN agreement.

It should be mentioned as well that during the last Legislative Assembly, last summer in July, when the whole question of division and the creation of the

Western Constitutional Commission came up, the Executive was mandated by this Legislative Assembly to proceed with the plebiscite. When we dealt with the Plebiscite Act and making amendments to it, at that session, there was a provision in the Plebiscite Act which provided for -- I think in 1985 it made it explicitly clear that the Legislative Assembly at that time was going to draft the question. In July, that provision was removed because it was outdated, and I think Members at that time felt -- knowing that TFN was going to be trying to finalize their claim in the early fall and they would be calling for a plebiscite in the early fall --that the Executive would be mandated to draft the question to deal with the plebiscite question.

That is the background to it. I wanted to make it clear that technically, politically you can have -- if there is a massive call for redrafting the question, we would have to adhere to it. I must draw to your attention -- with the best of intentions the government had made a commitment to TFN, as an aboriginal organization, in trying to help in finalizing their claims package -- that we made a commitment to them and I think we are politically bound very strongly to that.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O192-12(2): MLA Involvement In Changes To Plebiscite Question

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister: Since several Ministers in this House, in fact, voted in favour of a plebiscite in Norman Wells in 1988, and at that time there was a proviso that our support for going ahead with this depended upon a number of conditions made by Members of the Legislature before they could support a question being put to the people of the Northwest Territories, is the Minister prepared to include those definite preconditions before we were prepared to accept that this plebiscite question be put to the people of the Northwest Territories with regard to cost, with regard to levels of service, and with regard to whatever capital infrastructure will have to be spent by the federal government for this to go ahead?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O192-12(2): MLA Involvement In Changes To Plebiscite Question

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the general conditions under which most political leaders of the

Western Arctic have indicated they would support division have been fairly consistent and fairly clear since 1980-81. Those conditions were that the constitutional future of the residents of the western territory would be fairly secure -- those are my own words -- before division would proceed. There would be some assurance that the level of service that is provided for people, that they are accustomed to, would not be adversely affected or disrupted in any major way. Also, a more recent arrival to the scene was the growing concern for the well-being of our government workers, that they would not be unfairly dealt with if division should occur. Those have been fairly consistent, and I think we have already taken those into account in drafting the question. They are provided in the preamble. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O192-12(2): MLA Involvement In Changes To Plebiscite Question

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the preamble to the division question contains three selling points to promote a "yes" response to this question, presumably because it was at the request of TFN, would the Minister undertake to also include the guarantees that the people in the West have asked for, for a long time, that if this question is going to be supported by Members that we have those guarantees in that question, or get rid of all preambles

Page 174

to the question so that we would not have any difficulty with our constituents who believe that we supported this on an understanding that in the West we would not have to pay for whatever consequences may emerge as a result of this question being supported by the majority of the people of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O192-12(2): MLA Involvement In Changes To Plebiscite Question

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wonder how extensively we can go into these questions, because it is an issue that is in front of the committee of the whole. The plebiscite direction proclamation is tabled and is presently on our agenda in committee of the whole. I do not mind continuing here, but whether it should be continued or not --I can do that, but -- I guess I answered my own question.

I am of the view, and I think everybody should be, that this is not about wondering whether division will happen or not. We are going on the assumption that the call for division was answered in 1982. A plebiscite at that time said that the people of the North support division. This plebiscite is asking, based on the assurances in the preamble, are you going to support this particular line as a boundary for division? This is what it says. If it seems to be in the affirmative, it is perhaps not unlike some people's thinking; but it is trying to take a positive slant to what is going to be a very historic event. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: If I could just clarify. Although in parliaments it is tradition that normally if something is before committee of the whole questions are normally not asked, our experience in this particular House, is that oftentimes documents before committee of the whole can stay before the committee for weeks and sometimes not even be dealt with. So in order to allow free flow of discussion, I am allowing those questions to be asked unless the document in question is being actively discussed in committee of the whole. Oral questions. Time has expired for oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W10-12(2): GNWT Guidelines For Northern-Owned NWT Sawmills

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism:

- 1) Has the government issued any instructions to government departments regarding the purchase of lumber products from the Hay River Sawmill that was recently purchased by the Northwest Territories Development Corporation?
- 2) Will the same purchasing rules and guidelines apply to all northern-owned sawmills in the NWT?
- 3) Will the Government of the Northwest Territories support the purchase of the other sawmills in the NWT?
- 4) Will the government requirements for kiln-dried lumber be applicable to the Hay River Sawmill as they were previously required for northern sawmills, including the sawmill in Fort Resolution?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question W11-12(2): Meeting Of Canadian Coast Guard Officials

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Government Leader, and it is concerning Arctic Bay. NTCL usually meets with the hamlet council of Arctic Bay on which way they can travel in the winter or summer. They usually meet with the hamlet council. Would the Government Leader please find out if the meeting of Canadian Coast Guard officials regarding the seasonal route for transportation of ore from Arctic Bay to Nanisivik, which is scheduled for March 17 in Nanisivik, can be relocated to Arctic Bay?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 9, petitions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Mr. Speaker, I wish to take up my five minutes from yesterday's petitions.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: I would like to thank you first, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak on Petition 3-12(2), as it was your error yesterday for not giving me the time. Mr. Speaker, I would like to use this time to make a few points on the petition. Presently the Wildlife Act does not permit the feeding of caribou or big game to dogs within the community. The community of Baker Lake is the only inland Inuit community in the Northwest Territories, with a population of approximately 1200 people, the majority of which are natives of the area.

There are three main uses of dogs in Baker Lake. Pet dogs are kept by some families, indoors and outdoors for various reasons. Racing dogs are bred for recreational purposes. Working dogs, which is the third use of dogs, are also bred for hunting and fishing. Some hunters are using dog teams to hunt and to fish, as it is very expensive to hunt by snowmobile. It costs approximately \$32.20 to purchase 10 gallons of gas, plus \$8.45 for one quart of oil. A snowmobile drive belt can be as high as \$66.32 each. Therefore, a hunter going out for a day on a snowmobile will pay approximately \$111. This

does not include the price of food for the trip, which could be in the neighbourhood of \$40 per person.

We, in Baker Lake, have no marine mammals to feed our dogs. The coastal communities have seals, walruses and whales to feed their dogs, but we have none of these in Baker Lake. All we have is caribou, musk-oxen and fish. Most dog team owners cannot afford to buy fishing nets or other gear needed to fish for their dogs; therefore the people of Baker Lake need to feed their dogs caribou meat. The Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Association, on behalf of the community of Baker Lake, have therefore sent me a petition, asking me to have the present Wildlife Act, subsection 57(2), changed to be able to feed their dogs caribou meat and not break the law. I thereby submitted a petition yesterday signed by 103 residents of Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arnagna'naaq. Petitions. Petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Todd.

Page 175

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 3-12(2): Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The standing committee on finance is pleased to present its report on the review of the 1992-93 capital estimates. Good financial management should not be something we just talk about; it should be something we do. If we do not do something now, this government will be \$381 million in debt by March 31, 1995. More people will be homeless, uneducated and out of jobs. That is the bad news, and it is a sobering thought. The standing committee on finance wants the Legislative Assembly, the civil service and the public to clearly recognize this problem.

The good news is, we can change it. That is why we are here. Not just by talking about it but by taking responsible, results-oriented action. Our stakeholders, the public, investors, the federal government, to name just a few, want to see a well thought out recovery plan to turn this government around in these leaner times. Our stakeholders want to see a plan that will ensure that this government will

be in a modest surplus position by March of 1995 and that more people will have homes, more people will be educated, and more people will be employed. And they, the stakeholders, the public, want to see what is planned to ensure the basic needs of our constituencies are met. They will, and should, hold us all accountable when they next vote.

---Applause

It is incumbent on the standing committee on finance to offer criticism to our colleagues in cabinet, provided that criticism is constructive and done professionally. If we are going to criticize, we must also offer possible solutions.

During the week of February 11, 1992, the committee expressed a number of serious concerns with the capital estimates in advance of the Minister of Finance's budget. This was done to give the government the opportunity to review our recommendations and determine an appropriate course of action. We are pleased that the cabinet responded to our concerns and demonstrated a will to work with the committee. Of course, some of the responses, Mr. Speaker, may not have gone far enough, in our opinion, but we respect the decisions, and these matters we will bring forth in the coming days when we address the budget. This report reflects these same concerns, and reflects the guiding principles of this committee; that is, the need for fairness and good value for public money.

Some of the major issues of concern include: the Department of Education's budget in many respects; public housing; the Departments of Economic Development and Tourism, and Transportation in general; specific matters in other departments and related matters of principle which we will deal with in the departmental reviews; a general lack of vigilance in spending; and the responsibility to ensure that the effects of balancing the budget are not placed on the backs of those people who are most in need.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, it is important to remember that this budget is a creation of past and present governments. None of us can abdicate our responsibilities. Government should and must respect previous commitments which are still justified prior to proceeding with new initiatives.

---Applause

It is the committee's observation that departments tend to be activity-driven, not results-driven. There are numerous examples of this, but the most obvious is the Department of Education, which measures success by statistics with little reference to achievement. Current graduation statistics and comparative testing show quite the opposite. In order that we may make our decisions in light of all the facts, it is the committee's intention to incorporate results measures in future reports to the Legislative Assembly. This is consistent with the position of the previous standing committee on finance. All departments and agencies must be challenged to achieve more with less, not just do more.

Special Warrants Approval Process Needs Improvement

We also want to be assured that immediately after this capital budget is approved in the Assembly, the government does not issue many special warrants, as was past practice. This concern is, again, consistent with the previous standing committee on finance, who raised the use of special warrants, abusing the process and circumventing the Assembly.

---Applause

A method has to be determined to include the committee's involvement in the approval process of special warrants.

It is the committee's belief that developing a long-term strategy with respect to our financial obligations must be a priority. Long-term planning is essential to good government. It is essential that with future capital budgets, a multi-year plan be presented. When capital estimates come in front of the committee again in October, we will want to see a five-year plan.

---Applause

Cabinet should also consider doing a thorough evaluation of the capital management planning and allocation process. It is obvious to this committee that the current system is not working as well as it should. Finally, and I have said it many times, the committee does not want the burden of balancing the budget to fall on the backs of the people who are in most need...

---Applause

...the homeless, the unemployed, the uneducated in small communities and in large. In coming up with our recommendations the committee considered that if sacrifices must be made, they must come from

areas of surplus and enhancements; things we might like to do but cannot really afford to do.

If we cannot afford it, maybe we should not be renting four boardrooms where two will do; maybe we should not be building large arenas when medium arenas are satisfactory; enhancing a park or paving a road, and the list goes on and on. If we cannot afford it, then do not buy it.

The standing committee on finance feels that there is a need for fundamental change in the way that the government does things. We want to be a part of the process, with the Legislative Assembly, to bring about this change for the benefit of all Northerners.

---Applause

It is obvious that a long-term action plan is essential if we are to determine what our short and long-term financial obligations are. This, in the committee's opinion, should be the priority. We are prepared to work with cabinet to achieve this. We propose that cabinet and ordinary Members of the Legislative

Page 176

Assembly undertake a one-week strategic planning workshop in order to develop a shared vision that we can all work toward. This is unprecedented in other Assemblies.

---Applause

We cannot continue to run this government without some indication of what our priorities are, how we are going to achieve them, who is going to get us there, and what it ultimately costs. The responsibility lies with all of us. The challenge is our ability to look beyond constituency interests and determine what is in the best interest of all Northerners.

---Applause

The standing committee on finance accepts this challenge and awaits your response. We must be part of a solution, not part of the problem.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee on finance respectfully submits a list of 52 recommendations for consideration of this Assembly. Specific concerns have also been identified in the departmental reviews which are part of this report.

**Motion To Move Committee Report 3-12(2) To
Committee Of The Whole, Carried**

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report and, therefore, I move that the report of the standing committee on finance be received and moved into committee of the whole for discussion, in conjunction with Bill 14. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Zoe. Your motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

CR 3-12(2) will be put into committee of the whole today. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**ITEM 11: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE
REVIEW OF BILLS**

**Report Of The Standing Committee On Legislation
On The Review Of Bill 8, Bill 10 And Bill 11**

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the standing committee on legislation has reviewed Bills 8, 10 and 11, and wishes to report that Bills 8, 10 and 11 are now ready for committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule 66(3), Bills 8, 10 and 11 are ordered into committee of the whole. Reports of committees on the review of bills.

Item 12, tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motions.

Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills.

Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to written questions.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is asking for unanimous consent to return to Item 6, written questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**Question W12-12(2): Costs For Chairpersons Of
Boards, Agencies And Committees**

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members.

Will the Government Leader provide to this House the amount paid for the present expertise of the chairmen for all boards, agencies and committees?

Will the Government Leader provide the following: 1) the rate of pay; 2) the daily rate of indemnity and daily allowances; and 3) the amounts paid for all chairpersons in 1991-92? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Written questions.

Return to Item 16, first reading of bills. First reading of bills.

Item 17, second reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels; Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction; Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93; and Committee Report 3-12(2), Review of the 1992-93 Capital Estimates, with Mr. Arvaluk in the chair.

**ITEM 18: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): This committee has come to order. Yesterday we were on Tabled Document 9-12(2), page 18 of the Strength at Two Levels report. We will break for 15 minutes before we proceed. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

**Tabled Document 9-12(2), "Strength
At Two Levels"**

The Chair recognizes a quorum. Once again, I would like to thank all the Members for being so prompt in returning to the House. The committee now resumes dealing with Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels report, on page 18. Any comments on page 18? Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 18 we talk about the amalgamation of the Northwest

Territories Power Corporation and petroleum products. I have some concerns about that, as I have expressed in the past, and I would like to try and express them today. Power and fuel are two essential services that none of us can live without. The Northwest Territories Power Corporation is currently controlled in terms of the charges back through the Public Utilities Board. I have a kind of an uneasy feeling that we are putting two essential services under one umbrella, and yet when we did a review of government through the Strength at Two Levels report, we never really did a review of the NWT Power Corporation to determine if, in fact, it is being run as efficiently as has been suggested. I am not convinced, and I have spoken to Mr. Pollard on this, but I am not convinced that we should be amalgamating both these departments at this time until we get a better handle on the efficiency level of the current NWT Power Corporation.

One of the standing committee on finance's recommendations

Page 177

-- and maybe I am letting the cat out of the bag -- but one of the recommendations in the report is that we should fast-track the possibility of selling off, as has been suggested by the Minister of Finance, the NWT Power Corporation. So I have some concerns about the fact that we would be moving POL into that jurisdiction, and if we can get an agreement in this House, to fast-track -- if, as I say, we can get an agreement to fast-track the privatization of NWT Power, how that would affect the communities and the costs and the charge-back accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in looking at that recommendation, it is my understanding that this recommendation was a recommendation supported by the previous standing committee on finance. Before the purchasing of fuel is incorporated with the Power Corporation, we are embarking on a study to see just how viable all that is, so I would be prepared to probably offer the terms of reference on the study, and also keep you up to date on the study team, on how they feel it can be done. The decision has not been made to carry out that task because we do not have all the facts and all the figures and what it would mean. But I think some of the arguments that were previously made is that the Power Corporation is one of the largest purchasers of

fuel, and the government for public housing, et cetera, and so in combining those there may be some cost savings; also in incorporating the storage tank facility that each group has.

So I would be prepared to provide the terms of reference on how we will be looking at this possibility of incorporation. In terms of fast-tracking the Power Corporation, I have not done an update at this point in time on rescheduling, on how we are going to do that. So as soon as we embark on that, I think it is part of the implementation, and it is not something that is decided, because I do not know if the Power Corporation, once we look at what to do, whether they really want it or not. So I will be prepared to pass those studies, as it goes on, to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Thank you. I recognize that the previous standing committee on finance did recommend this; however, we have a new standing committee on finance, and it might want to take a different position. I guess that is the one point I want to make. Let me try again. I guess my concern would be, it seems to me these two essential services are ones that we all need, and a reflection of the charge-back is a reflection of the way in which they run -- the cost of producing the product, whether it is petroleum or whatever. It is my understanding, and somebody correct me if I am wrong, that a subsidization program is in place, particularly with the purchase of fuel, et cetera. I have some difficulty in understanding, if we put it into an independent power corporation, given that we require petroleum products almost 12 months of the year and it is an essential service, it seems to me that it is putting a tremendous amount of clout in one particular group of directors or one particular corporation. I am not sure that is in the best interests of the public and I am not sure it is in the best interest of the Eastern Arctic. Cost savings are important, and I do recognize that, and there is a way, perhaps, in which we could amalgamate bulk fuel purchasing; but I have not heard a convincing argument yet, especially in my northern health discussions, that the NWT Power Corporation is going to be able to run it any more efficiently or less efficiently than what it currently is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Any Minister want to respond to that? Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I think that in everything we do, whether it is the Power Corporation or Health and Social Services, these questions should

be answered as we go along. First of all, there is a study going on to see how that can be done and what has to be done before we even embark on trying to put those two tasks together, so that will be available. At this point in time, I do not even know whether, once we shake it out, the Power Corporation would even think that it is a good thing to do; so as we go along I can assure the honourable Member that, while we are looking to implementing and co-ordinating these tasks, the information will be brought forward as we go along, because we just do not know all the answers to those questions, and it is quite valid in what is being presented right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): As Members may have noticed, our lobby is beautifully decorated today. The fine artwork that adorns the walls commemorates Canada's 125th birthday, according to some. An awards presentation for the Canada Day poster competition will be taking place in the lobby in just a few minutes. I would ask all Members to join me for this presentation; therefore, the committee will recess for a few minutes. The bells will ring to bring the committee back to order.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels. Page 18. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Mr. Chairman, if you will give me a couple of minutes, I have lost my train of thought.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you. Since the train has already left without Mr. Todd...

---Laughter

...I will jump on the back of it and indicate to this committee that if there was anything in this report that caught my eye immediately it was the fact that there was a proposal to have the Northwest Territories Power Corporation assume responsibility of the distribution of petroleum products.

I looked at the words carefully, and I wondered what was meant by distribution. We see the word "amalgamation" and so on, and then if you look at the exact word it just says "distribution." When I looked at this originally, I could see the Northwest Territories Power Corporation being a mammoth consumer of diesel oil. It would be a pretty monolithic and huge corporation if, in fact, it not only was responsible for

the distribution of power but was responsible also for the distribution of all other fuels for the production of energy.

My background, Mr. Chairman, makes me very, very uneasy about monopolies, especially when you look at potential for the only really significant utility which could have a major implication for the development of our economy. We all know that if you are going to develop any kind of base beyond just very, very simple manufacturing, you really have to look to this kind of utility if you want to develop an industrial base of any kind, even a very modest one. This proposal

Page 178

to amalgamate POL with the Power Corporation bothers me at that level, simply putting it with a corporation under its current structure. It frightens me when I consider the possibility of the whole thing being privatized, because then you would really have the monopoly that gives me nightmares.

We all know, for example, that in half of our territory, the area in the Eastern Arctic, there is a complete dependence on diesel for the generation of power. Right now we have a system in place which provides a degree of protection for those people; and it is in our interest, in fact, to keep a corporate structure together as long as we can, and to make sure that the interests of those people who are highly dependent on diesel is protected.

I am always interested in hearing good solid arguments for doing something. Like my colleagues here, I do not want to put up false fences against something that will change things, advance us and improve things. I think that would be a terrible mistake. But when you see a development like this to which you really cannot judge any advantage -- when you look at the way it is being proposed, you try to figure out what is going to be gained if we are to go that route. For example, if now the corporation assumes this responsibility for purchasing power, I can see ways in which, perhaps, we could begin looking at developing ports in places, and identifying these great oil tankers on the sea somewhere and dragging them into some northern place and have them off-load their oil, and so on. There are all kinds of visions that you can have on how things could be different.

The major concern that all of us really have with this -- I will give just one example of something that is just a minor detail, perhaps, but currently if the government

purchases oil and sells it, then we are somewhat exempt from different levies such as GST and so on. It does not affect us. If the corporation were to take it over and this was to be considered just another one of their purchases, then they would automatically have to pay those taxes.

Danger Of Huge Monopoly

My major concern, Mr. Chairman, is that I see a real danger in developing a monolith, some huge monopoly, which has tremendous potential for doing things which may not be in the interest of all the people of the Northwest Territories. In looking at this document, that is what we have to bear in mind; not what may help one little area or one little region, but what is best for all of the people of the Northwest Territories. There are some things here which do not give me the kind of satisfaction, if you like, that we would be serving all the best interests of all of the people in the Territories, if we were to put these two things together, and do it in such a way that there are no real advantages for everybody. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, as I said, this is an area that is being explored. Whether we actually do it or not is another thing, as we go along exploring whether this is the best thing to do. I was hoping that the Member would be able to give me more insight, because it is my understanding he was a deputy chairman of the last standing committee on finance which did make the recommendation that this is a task that could be undertaken by the Power Corporation. In light of changes, I suppose the primary objective, to my understanding, is that the Power Corporation orders its own fuel and has its own tanks. Government Services orders its own fuel for communities and has its own tanks. We had a large number of new projects to develop new tankage in communities which cost a great deal of money, and there was some question whether the Power Corporation was fully utilizing the tanks they did have, or whether they could be incorporated for their needs and the needs of distribution of fuel services to communities. The idea is exactly what the Member has suggested; that is, to look at it where it would best serve all of the people in the Northwest Territories if we were going to consolidate and cut the costs of building two structures.

I think the study is going to go on, and I am not quite sure how it will break out in the end, but all that

information will be made available through the proper process, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, not as a point of order but as a point of information for Members, there were many things that the previous standing committee on finance approved that I was personally not in favour of, but it was always our policy to show a united front whenever we went to this House. I am publicly on record as being against our participation in Seville, even though that committee was supposed to be in support of it. I use that as one example, but there were lots of others.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Does anyone want to respond to that? If not, Mr. Zoe.

Designing Producer Support Programs To Support Viable Domestic Economy

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I want to make some comments on this report, particularly under this heading, "Finding of the Review Project." Mr. Chairman, it states that, "The North and the people of northern communities are now in the middle of a long period of transition in which permanent communities and a more modern economy will be the dominant features of life. At this stage, however, the transition is not successful and the modern North is largely a 'welfare economy.'"

Mr. Chairman, this perspective on the North and its aboriginal population sounds like a statement one would find during the days when the North was managed by Ottawa and they had little or no understanding or appreciation of northern aboriginal culture and economy. Mr. Chairman, where does support for the domestic economy and traditional culture and values fit into this perspective? "A transition" to what? A southern economy based on industrial production and wage labour?

The report goes on to say that the project review group read the SCONE report and they are closely in line with the findings of the SCONE report. Mr. Chairman, the project group could not have possibly read and understood the background study prepared for the SCONE committee called "Strategy for Supporting the Domestic Economy of the Northwest Territories." If the project group had read and understood the recommendations of this report, they would not have been so insensitive in respect to the domestic economy and the importance of government

transfer payments as a form of producer support, although most inadequate at this point.

Mr. Chairman, I see nothing in this report that approaches this question of redesigning our social welfare programs so they can be used to finance the production of food from the land. I agree with the authors of the report that welfare in itself tends to erode, rather than enforce, cultural values. However, the answer is not necessarily a modern northern economy that mirrors the industrial wage economy in southern Canada.

Mr. Chairman, the answer lies in designing producer support programs that channel a portion of welfare payments into supporting a strong and viable domestic economy. I just wanted to make those comments. Mahsi cho.

Page 179

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): If there is no response to that, Mr. Todd.

Proposed Amalgamation Of NWT Power Corporation

MR. TODD: I do not want to leave the proposed amalgamation of the NWT Power Corporation. I have no argument with the fact that you have to find a way to utilize POL tanks or NWT Power Corporation tanks, et cetera. But I do not think that is the reason for putting them together. We could do that now; a government policy could be developed. The superintendent at the local level along with the government representative could find some method to utilize the existing tanks. I have a problem with that. But that is not my argument.

My argument, or my concern, is similar to Mr. Lewis'. We are putting a terrible amount of power -- if you will excuse the pun -- and a terrible amount of influence under the one umbrella. I am not sure, for example, what would the Public Utilities Board's role would be if POL was under the NWT Power Corporation. What is its role in this thing? I am not convinced the NWT Power Corporation is being run efficiently. Some are; but I am not.

I find it interesting that there is no -- I cannot find it, anyway --but with respect to this NWT Power Corporation, there is no privatization component to it in the report. Let us sell it; let us run it more efficiently. I am told that it can be done by some people. I do not know. I do not see any reference to

it in this report. All I see a reference to is making it bigger.

So the issue of utilization of tankage, bulk buying of fuel -- they are administrative problems that could be solved. The real issue is, what is it going to cost us and who controls it? So I am wondering if somebody could advise me on -- hypothetically, if this took place, how would we see it being controlled with respect to its charge-back to the client? I wonder if the Government Leader could give me some indication, if we were to fast-track the privatization of the Power Corporation, how would POL have been affected there? I am a little unclear on that. So I wonder about the protective mechanism to ensure that the charges are appropriate, and the PUB is currently performing that function, I understand, for the NWT Power Corporation. I believe Mr. Pollard said himself that if we sold the Power Corporation we could solve our deficit problem.

So I wonder what the Government Leader's position would be on should, -- and again hypothetically -- we privatize the Power Corporation, where would POL fit in on this privatization thrust? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, at this point in time I cannot answer that question. I think that is one of the questions that has to be addressed as we look at these two tasks and whether it is appropriate to move in that direction. So I am sorry, but right now I am not qualified to answer those questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: These two very important questions; that is, what is the controlling instrument of the NWT Power Corporation/POL, and are they currently being looked at in the development of this amalgamation plan? Are they being looked at in terms of what the role of the PUB would be, and how we would view POL, should it come about and we sell the Power Corporation, as hopefully we will get support for? Has that been looked at in the current discussions that have taken place with these two departments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, if those questions have not been addressed in this task, I will make sure that they do get addressed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Any further general comments on page 18? Mr. Pudlat.

Northern Regions Fear Amalgamation Of Petroleum, Oil Lubricants And NWT Power Corporation

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) I, too, would like to speak on page 18. We are representatives of the NWT as legislators. We represent the northern regions, and because of that fact I tend to keep saying that the smaller communities within this report, Strength at Two Levels, have a fear, particularly dealing with POL and the amalgamation of the NWTPC. I am wondering, at the very start perhaps it would proceed very well should there be an amalgamation, but we have to look further into the future to see if it might not proceed as well as it might be intended.

My question, then, is to the Government Leader. You indicated that a review process is being undertaken, and I wonder when you will be able to pass on this information. As a last comment, while this information is being researched, I would like to be provided with the details.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I think this is what all the process is about right now. In terms of supplying energy or power to communities, what we do is that the Power Corporation charges a rate to home-owners or to their clients and it is subsidized at the Yellowknife rate. That is what exists today, and I think that one of the concerns is that we maintain that, but at this point in time, certainly in terms of rate structures, how the Power Corporation charges those rates, that presently, I believe, will soon be under review by the Public Utilities Board, so that will be in the spring. The commitment by the Power Corporation when we took out the work; that is, the different stages that we had to move through in terms of the task of looking at what is presently in POL and how that will be handled, that information will be available to all MLAs and also to the working group and to the standing committees, as it comes forward. Certainly the questions of concern will be addressed in those reviews. So yes, I will provide the information as soon as it comes forward, and we can

have additional information sessions if the information is more than reading material.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did want to make a couple of comments in respect to the areas of program and program delivery. There is a suggestion in the report that the use of co-payment and means-testing possible in the delivery of social assistance programs be introduced and increased; and in respect to that, I guess what I would like to ask is, in what areas does the government feel that the author of this book recommended that they introduce or increase the use of co-payments and means-testing, particularly when it comes to social programs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer that question because I do not recall exactly which areas they had suggested to look at. I cannot answer the question at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

Page 180

Co-Payments And Means-Testing

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I guess the reason I asked is because I am concerned about this recommendation. I think we will probably be one of the only jurisdictions in Canada that would look at implementing some type of thing like this, and I am concerned, when trying to address social programs in a universal manner, that you start also addressing them in a means-testing approach that at times takes away from the intent of the purpose of the social program, so I would like to suggest, and I would like to point out, that they certainly look at this with caution and that we do not start setting precedents to delivering social programs on a means-testing basis.

The other comment that I did want to make, Mr. Chairman, is in respect to the employment development and income support co-ordination. It states that consideration be given to establishing a department of education and employment with a mandate for delivering all of the programs related to employment development and income support, including social assistance. I have to state that I certainly do not agree with that at all. I find that you

may be using a lot of your social assistance funding for development of employment programs, and that was not the intent of social assistance to begin with. The intent of social assistance, in my mind, was the fact that the federal government basically stated that people in need can be provided with social assistance to cover some of their basic needs that they need to live and cope with society. If you start looking at tinkering with social assistance and placing it into employment development, and looking at income support, you are doing away with the initial intention of social assistance, and I think you will be asking for a horrendous increase in costs. I think that is totally unfair to a recipient who basically needs social assistance to cover the basics, with no intention of employment development in their career path. There are many people who could be illiterate or that fall into this category, so I do want to stress that I do not agree with the idea of social assistance being placed in with the Department of Education, because social assistance was not meant to be in the Department of Education. It is meant to be in the Department of Social Services, to provide for a fundamental need to residents, and I strongly recommend against that. Those are basically my comments that I do have in respect to page 18, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe those are comments from the Member that have to be weighed in our deliberations in what we do in the implementation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Further general comments on page 18. Page 19. Member for Thebacha.

Concerns About Arctic College

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did have a few comments in respect to the top part of page 19 on Arctic College. The authors of the report indicated that the campus structure of the college be rationalized. I totally agree with that recommendation. I just feel that, first of all, the college has evolved to the point where they have six campuses across the Territories, and I do not believe that our financial environment will allow us to continue in that route. I believe the structure of the college has to be rationalized for the amount of funding we are giving and going to be looking at in the future.

There is a lot of concern about the fact that there is duplication of courses being delivered at these colleges, and it is starting to not only cost a lot, but you are at times delivering the types of courses that could be delivered with different methods used. I take, for example, the social services course. Apparently there is one being delivered at Iqaluit campus and one at Thebacha, and I have been advised that the one in Iqaluit has good community concepts in the course, whereas the one at Thebacha has good theory concepts being delivered in the course, so they are not being delivered in the same fashion and in the same manner, and I think this must be somewhat difficult for people to decide what course they want to go and take.

I feel that the campus structure of the college has grown to the point where I do not think this government can afford to continue to keep dealing with Arctic College in the way that it has been. I think we have to look at the financial reality that we are in, and there is no doubt, in my opinion, that there should be only two colleges in the North. I have always said that. There should be one in the East and one in the West. Without hesitation, I state that the college in the West should be in Fort Smith because that is where it began.

Mr. Chairman, the other area I want to talk about is that the college is certainly looking at funding priorities for adult basic upgrading. I certainly find that with the high rate of illiteracy in the Territories, it is a necessity. I want to indicate that I certainly support the adult basic upgrading, but I do not believe that these adult basic upgrading courses should mean that there should be a campus at these locations. I am of the opinion that adult basic upgrading should be part of the school system program and question whether or not it should be part of Arctic College. This decision was made a few years ago.

Some of the problems I have come to recognize since this course has been placed in Arctic College are that it is encouragement for young students to drop out of school when they get to the grade 10 level, knowing that if they wait for a couple of years they can go to Arctic College and obtain access to the student programs which will pay them to learn. I think this is wrong. I believe we have to look at reconsidering whether or not the adult basic upgrading should be defined in criteria or look at the idea that it should stay with other grade levels as opposed to the secondary level of education. These are my comments on Arctic College, Mr. Chairman.

"Northwest Territories Way" Of Concern To Constituents

My comments with respect to health services and facilities, I am very, very concerned about the Department of Health being given the encouragement to continue with the "Northwest Territories Way." I have heard many concerns expressed by my constituents with regard to the implementation of the "Northwest Territories Way." They feel that the model for the delivery system and rationalization for hospital facilities is looked at totally with the idea to do away with some particular hospitals in the Territories that have been in place for years by downgrading them to small nursing stations. I do not think this is right. Further discussion of the "Northwest Territories Way" has to take place in this House because of the fact that it is a very important model being proposed by the health delivery system.

Mr. Chairman, as I go on to some of the comments with respect to page 19, it indicates at the bottom of the page some of the concerns regarding Ministers being disciplined, and the difficulty of having solidarity on cabinet. I have two different viewpoints on it. First of all, your solidarity on cabinet reflects the way the Government Leader runs cabinet. I can state without hesitation that I feel the current Government Leader has the loyalties needed and the solidarity of a cabinet

Page 181

team to run this government effectively, but I will not say that for the previous government. However, I want to stress that there has been a concern among Members to ensure the solidarity is followed through by cabinet Members. Cabinet Ministers must seriously consider submitting their undated letter of resignation to the Government Leader.

Motion That All Ministers Submit Undated Letters Of Resignation To Be Tabled In The House

With this comment, Mr. Chairman, I move the following motion: that all Members of cabinet submit their undated letter of resignation to the Government Leader; and further, that the Government Leader table all the letters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): The motion is in order and is now being distributed. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, it states in the report that there is insufficient focus of power within cabinet to maintain among Ministers a discipline in solidarity which is essential for the effective operation of cabinet and government in the Canadian tradition. I recognize that we have tried to be a somewhat unique government, but at the same time, in order to deliver an effective government, I feel that you need a strong team at the cabinet level. The current system does not allow for a cohesive team. With this comment, Mr. Chairman, this is the purpose of formulating and moving this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we worked on the special committee on the northern economy we found that one of the major weaknesses we have in developing any structure or any kind of overall direction or system is in the nature of our government, where the loyalties of individual Ministers were owed to the Members that voted them in to office as an executive of this Legislature. Therefore, they are torn both ways. They are torn to loyalty to colleagues on cabinet as well as loyalties to people on this side of the House. It makes it very difficult, from time to time, for the Leader to pull the team together and get everybody rowing in the same boat.

There are a lot of other reasons why this is necessary. It was identified in Strength at Two Levels as the basic weakness in our system of government. I fully believe that the Government Leader already has powers which she knows how to use. I think all this would do is really indicate to the rest of us that there will be loyalty; that there will be a team; and that Members will respect the fact that we really cannot have any progress unless we have a government that can really show loyalty and operate together. I am sure the Leader, if she were to get these letters, would use them with the right amount of discretion at any particular time she may have to use them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I will speak after we have dealt with the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

**Motion That All Ministers Submit Undated Letters
Of Resignation To Be Tabled In
The House, Carried**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? Against? The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Thank you. Back to general comments on page 19. Mr. Todd. I am sorry, Mr. Todd, but Mr. Nerysoo will have the floor first.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Todd, for allowing me to speak. I just want to make a couple of comments with regard to some of the statements that were made by Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

I want to say that I support the position that she stated earlier about the idea of rationalizing Arctic College and its programs. I think there is a need to decide, not only the programs that you are considering offering, but the direction you want to take Arctic College and whether or not you are going to consider rationalizing the campuses or whether or not you are going to offer programs in the regions, and what those programs are going to be.

I want to say that despite the fact that I may have argued previously for more decentralized programs, I still believe that those decentralized programs have to be based on the capacity of our government to pay for those particular programs.

The other point I wanted to raise is that we have to have the capacity to deliver quality programs to our college students. If the idea of decentralizing programs causes a reduction in the quality of programs that we offer, then I do not think it is in our interest, and I do not think it is in the interest of the students.

There have been a number of concerns previously expressed, and I would ask our government, in particular the implementation review group, to consider what they intend to do with adult education. I do not think that we have been totally successful in the delivery of those adult programs, and I think that we should reassess where they should be delivered from. I know that the Arctic College, the board, and all those involved in that particular structure have had to deal with significant problems, not only in terms of

the delivery mechanism, but financing of the programs as well. In that context we have to be certain that if we are going to run those programs and offer adult programs, they should be funded appropriately. I do not know if, under the present financial circumstances, we can afford to do that. The question I have is, if we do it, then how do we deliver those programs properly?

The other point I wanted to raise is with the health services and the facilities. I do think that before we embark on major restructuring or major downsizing, or consider downsizing of regional hospitals, we should determine whether it is really in the interest of the regions that downsizing occurs. In the long run, if you do not offer proper quality service in the regions, you are still going to have to pay for those services to be delivered. Whether or not you bring people to Yellowknife or whether or not you take them to southern institutions, you are still going to have to pay that cost. You could be taking away services that could be better offered at the regions. I just ask you to consider that.

**Continuing Arguments For Better
Medical Services**

I also want you to be aware that the nursing stations, in many cases, are the first point of contact for medical services, and

Page 182

I still think that we should consider how we are going to offer services in those communities and whether or not there is a need to improve them. I know in some cases there have been continuous arguments for better medical services. I recall the arguments that were made by Mr. Kakfwi, for instance, concerning the need for a doctor in his particular region, and the former government responded to that because there was a need in that particular region. I would hope that if there was a requirement in other small areas or regions, that same thing would occur, obviously recognizing the cost of delivering that service. I would not want to impress upon our government that there is a need, but I do not want the rationalization or restructuring in any way to diminish those services.

On the matter of the motion that we just passed, there were a couple of points that I wanted to make, and I will make them now. I supported the motion, but I still do not think that is the only way in which the Government Leader can receive the loyalty of her colleagues in cabinet or those who are participating.

We are going a long way, in many respects, to articulate and to define the powers of the Leader. I still do think that the most important authority that one receives is the mandate that they receive from the people. If you are talking about mandates, there is none other more important than the ability of people to give government, the Leader included, a mandate to implement certain policies. At the moment it is still in the hands of 24 Members, 24 people in the Northwest Territories, to determine the mandate in the direction of government. I think that we have to rethink that particular issue and we have to look seriously at how we continue to evolve so that the people themselves give to our government a certain mandate.

I just wanted you to be aware of the concern that I have, and I think the Government Leader knows now the feelings of people on this side. We may have some personal differences at times, but she knows that we understand and are concerned about how she can retain and maintain a certain amount of authority. We were all concerned about that, but I think that we cannot stop just at this motion. It has to go beyond this, and hopefully over the next four years we can discuss those kinds of options and those kinds of considerations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Would the government like to respond to that? If not, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Sometimes when I look at Arctic College I think there has been a preoccupation with the acquisition of assets, rather than looking at the quality of education which we are delivering. This group here, on this side of the table, believes that the K to 12 has to have the priority. We have to take a fundamental look at how we are educating our kids. They are simply not coming out the system, in my opinion, with a level of education that is necessary to click in to the policies that we are trying to develop with respect to northern content, whether it is a northern hire policy or a northern buy policy.

I agree with the other speakers that Arctic College is, in my opinion, somewhat out of control. It has gone from a \$10 million to \$12 million budget to a \$30 million budget. It is trying to be all things to all people and it simply cannot. There has to be a hard look at how this operation runs. There has to be a focus. For example, in my riding -- I have spoken on this a number of times -- I think the focus should be on trades. We are in an unfortunate situation where most of our kids do not really have the quality of

education, or the level of education, I should say, that allows them to move into an academic stream. Arctic College, in my opinion, has to be given a thorough review.

I agree with the report that adult education upgrading and the adult education components are absolutely essential, certainly for the Eastern Arctic in our small communities. They are seen as a method in which younger and older people can participate in the educational process. The focus, in my opinion, should be there; and I tend to doubt that it is there.

On the "NWT Way", everybody knows my opinion on that. We will not accept reducing the level of health care in the Keewatin Region. I will, if necessary, vote against it in the coming weeks if that is the way the government wishes to go. We should be taking a different approach by finding the resources to upgrade the level of health care. We are talking about your kids and my kids. We do not have the luxuries of Yellowknife's \$50 million white elephant for which we would all be paying the consequences, in my opinion, if you look at the "NWT Way." I want to make it clear to my colleagues that I have no intention of supporting the "NWT Way" model for health care delivery at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Todd. Madam Government Leader, would you like to respond?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, what I would like to offer to the Member and Members -- and I have spoken to Mr. Koe about it -- is that I have a 20-minute presentation on the reference to the "NWT Way." I think the whole issue is in a broader concept. What is being referred to are specifics that come from the report. The report does not necessarily guide what is known as the NWT health care way. I just want to offer, at some point in time, that we could take about 20 minutes to do the background, because I think the general principles are going into specifics. I would like to offer this at some point in time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Employment Development And Income Support Co-ordination

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a few comments on page 18 regarding employment development and income support co-

ordination as well as the Arctic College section of the report.

In the last two paragraphs of the report it states consideration should be given to the establishment of a department of education and employment. I was under the assumption that there already is a department of this nature. I want to raise the point that I do not see where or how -- when we are talking about reducing or consolidating departments -- or why there would be a need to create another department for this matter.

I also wonder why we have advanced education as well as Arctic College. In my mind, these two areas should be one and the same. The matter of Arctic College and the way they are spending their funding makes me uncertain as to what direction they are taking at this point. I am not sure of the mandate for Arctic College, nor am I sure about the mandate for advanced education.

I would like to point out, for example, the manner in which Arctic College appears to be spending their funding. This is the Keewatin teacher education program which is being held in the Keewatin right now. From what I understand, Arctic College is planning to take the students from the Keewatin for the summer and send them to Iqaluit for a period of four to six weeks. Now, that is going to cost Arctic College the number of students there are in Keewatin times the air fare to Iqaluit from each of those communities, and they will be instructed by how many instructors I am not sure, but if it is two or three, then is it not more cost efficient to bring the instructors from Iqaluit to the Keewatin communities? I am not

Page 183

certain, either, of how the government funds Arctic College at this point, but I think to have this type of spending by Arctic College when we are in a time of restraint is not right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Are there comments from the government? If not, other general comments on page 19. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Motion That Arctic College Develop A Strategy To Avoid Duplication Of Services And Programs

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in respect to the comments that have been expressed on Arctic College, I would like to move that the committee

recommend that Arctic College develop a strategy that would avoid duplication of services and programs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I do not feel that it is necessary to elaborate on the motion. I think there are many concerns expressed by Members that there is a duplication of services being offered at Arctic College, and in this fiscal environment that we are in, we just can no longer afford it as a Legislative Assembly, and the government should ensure that we try to get the most for our dollar. I know that the intent of the motion is to ensure that the duplication of all these courses and services be addressed, that it is too costly, and that this cannot be afforded any longer and a strategy has to be developed to address the Arctic College programs that are being delivered. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): To the motion. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, I am, I guess, a little bit puzzled by the behaviour of some of the ordinary Members, in that they have been complaining all week about not feeling that they are involved in a grand plan of how to approach implementing changes or recommending changes. We have, I thought, just reached agreement that we are going to set up a working committee.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Point of order has been called. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, would you ask the Minister to speak to the motion on the floor please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Will you speak to the motion?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, I was speaking to the motion. This is my preamble. Now this particular motion is getting very specific about what I would say is not unimportant, not insignificant, but it really can be seen as a very small part of an enormous task that we are going to jointly define. We have said, and I think we have agreed, that this committee is going to look at all the jobs that need to be done to reshape

northern government, and yet we have here a motion that is jumping the gun. This kind of motion would be coming, I thought, only after there is massive consideration of the entire job that has to be done, not just picking specific little areas, and I find it quite premature. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr Kakfwi. To the motion.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Question.

Motion That Arctic College Develop A Strategy To Avoid Duplication Of Services And Programs, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): The question has been called. Those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Any more general comments on page 19? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been pretty silent during the past couple of days, going page by page, basically listening to my honourable friends, getting direction for the task they asked me to do on their behalf. At this stage, on page 19, there are a couple of subjects that are dear to my heart. One is education and one is health care and hospitals. When the Members and I as chairman of the standing committee of agencies, boards and commissions, had our first public sessions in Fort Smith, there were some very interesting scenarios in terms of what the media -- the types of questions they were asking, and the types of concerns that were being brought up by students at Arctic College in Fort Smith because of the information that was in print in the local newspaper. The issue, or what concerned me, was that people thought the ABC standing committee was just formed to make all these cuts and changes to agencies, boards and commissions because of this report. We quickly cleared that up, as to what the committee's role was.

Also, the Members that were there had a chance to mingle with the students, and they were very concerned that we came down to Fort Smith to cut Arctic College. We had a lot of discussions and talks with many of their peers. But I agree with the motion that was just passed. Arctic College has grown. In the region or riding I represent there is a campus that has been going through fairly difficult times in terms of finding operating monies and finding its mandate; why

is it there and what is it supposed to be doing? Things are changing, as everything else does, and I think this motion just gives direction to the people that are in charge of Arctic College to look at their strategies and find out what programs and services should be where, and how effective and efficient they are.

In terms of health services and facilities, this is another area that the standing committee on ABCs looked at, and we heard a lot of input and feedback from people involved in the delivery of health care -- doctors, nurses, regional boards from across the Territories, and other people that are interested. They were very concerned about the methods that seemingly have been used to implement this "Northwest Territories Way." I am glad the Government Leader has offered to give us an update and briefing on this, and hopefully that would help us in our deliberations and provide us with more information.

Inuvik has had a hospital for many years. It used to be a fairly large, fairly active centre with a wide range of services compared to what it is today where it has two wards, one of which is a long-term care ward with seemingly limited services. I am not one for saying it should be reduced further. At this stage, I am not willing to support any moves to do that.

I want to make these comments to clear the air on what our role is as a committee, and some of the perceptions we found when we were out visiting communities. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Further general comments on page 19. Page 20. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at the contents up to page 20 in Part I of this report, I think some of the comments we have

Page 184

made gives government an indication of some of the concerns that Members have. In the foreword of this document, we have been able to express part of these concerns in the introduction to the review project. There is a lot more -- in excess of 200 pages -- that we have to go through.

Motion To Defer Tabled Document 9-12(2), Carried

Since the government has allowed the three Members to start a working group, I would like to move that this committee defer further consideration of Tabled

Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels, and that it be kept on the order paper.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any objection to concluding for now; however, it is difficult being a cabinet Minister because we have a lot of similar feelings about what is happening in the communities and what services can be delivered, because we have constituents, as well. From page 21 on, we get into more detail about how the first part came to form. I was looking forward to going through the document, and perhaps we can at a later date. I want to assure you that a lot of the opinions and concerns that you have are the same concerns I have on behalf of my constituency. I know our Members here have these concerns on behalf of their constituency as well. At the same time, the matter of services to communities, health care and education are very relative no matter where we go in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. To the motion. Order, please. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The motion for deferral of Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels, has been carried. What is the wish of the committee? I cannot add too much here unless I hear from Members. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we can go to Bill 14, in conjunction with the tabled document from the standing committee on finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): There has been a request to go to Bill 14 and Committee Report 3-12(2). Does the committee agree? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): The motion is in order. It is not debatable. Those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: Item 19, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

MR. ARVALUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 9-12(2) and wishes to report progress, with two motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder to the motion? Mr. Nerysoo. Your motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 20, third reading of bills. Item 21, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): There will be a meeting of the ordinary Members' caucus at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, February 28, 1992.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents

13. Notices of Motions
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Documents 9-12(2), 10-12(2) and 12-12(2); Bill 14; Committee Report 3-12(2)
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 28, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT