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**The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Arvaluk, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Hon. Don Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Hon. John Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Todd, Hon. Tony Whitford, Mr. Zoe

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

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**SPEAKER** (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon, and welcome back. Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 24, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements Mr. Kakfwi.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

**Ministers' Statement 38-12(2): Recent Developments On National Constitutional Reform**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the House of some recent developments on the National Constitutional Reform. As Members know, the Joint Parliamentary Committee on a Renewed Canada tabled its report in Parliament on February 28th. It was made public on March 1st. This report was the culmination of many months of public hearings and constitutional conferences that had examined 28 proposals put forward by the federal government in a discussion paper in September 1991. The joint parliamentary committee report contained over 40 recommendations, and the federal government had initially announced that it would attempt to refine these recommendations into a constitutional resolution or some other form of federal response by April 15th.

Under pressure from several provinces, Minister Clark called a meeting on March 12th to discuss a process by which multilateral discussions could lead to a consensus package of reforms that could be considered by Quebec and other provinces. I attended this meeting, and I am pleased to report today that one of the conclusions was that aboriginal and territorial delegates will be included in all public and private meetings on constitutional negotiations over the next few months. This was a significant change of policy for the federal government and for some of the provincial governments.

A second outcome of that meeting was an agreement to conduct an intensive series of officials' and Ministers' meetings over the next 10 weeks in an attempt to work out the details of a final constitutional package that would be acceptable to provinces, territorial and aboriginal organizations as well as to the federal government. The deadline for completion has been set at May 31st. It was felt that a package of reforms had to be available for Quebec to consider in advance of that province's setting its question for an October referendum on sovereignty.

Last Thursday, March 19th, the first officials' meeting was held to organize the work for the next few weeks. Four working groups of officials have been established to examine various issues. The intention is to have these officials identify and clarify issues to assist Ministers and First Ministers in developing the final consensus package. The working groups started work yesterday in Toronto and will carry on meetings over the next few days. As I said, Mr Speaker, the significant part of these working groups is that they include federal, provincial, territorial and aboriginal delegations. At this stage of the process, officials have not received any mandate to negotiate agreements of any sort. Mr. Speaker, your special committee on constitutional reform will be preparing its interim report on the national reform process over the next few weeks, with the intention of making recommendations to the Assembly on these issues. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

**Minister's Statement 39-12(2): Contract Signed In Russia**

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with considerable pleasure today that I have the opportunity to announce in this House that a northern company has signed a major contract to design and construct a town in the former USSR.

The Department of Public Works has, during that time, co-chaired with the USSR Minister for State Construction, GOSSTROI, the northern construction theme, one of four themes under the program. Following from their initial visits under the program, Ferguson Simek and Clark has undertaken to pursue further private ventures in the Republic of Yakut, which is in the far north of the Russian republic. With the assistance by the Government of the Northwest Territories, and in particular the advice and services of our director of circumpolar affairs,

Mr. Walter Slipchenko, in Ottawa, Mr. Simek has been able to establish a joint venture.

Members have perhaps read in the local media that the joint venture company already has under construction a small wilderness hotel. The project has involved a number of other northern companies, and I am advised that the project is now in its final stages of completion and will soon be open for business.

Following this first success, Mr. Simek, with the assistance of the Department of Public Works, has been able to negotiate a contract to construct an entire town near the city of Yakutia. During these negotiations, the Minister of Public Works was very much involved in securing the confidence and approval of the republic's president. Last year, the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, accompanied by the then Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Hon. Tom Buffers, visited Yakutia, where she signed a protocol with the president of the republic. That protocol outlines a co-operation between the governments of the Northwest Territories and the Republic of Yakutia which has allowed Ferguson Simek and Clark to strike this deal. The project will involve the joint efforts of several northern companies and the Department of Public Works. The municipal infrastructure and housing will be designed to NWT standards, using many of the plans and specifications developed through our capital programs.

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Mr. Speaker, this success is but one example of how the government, and in particular Public Works, is working with the northern construction industry to advance their goals and objectives. It also indicates that our northern construction industry is maturing, and, as it does, they will look beyond our own jurisdictions for opportunities. Ventures such as these offer significant opportunity for Northerners, and the Government of the Northwest Territories must do what it can to preserve and assist in these opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

**Minister's Statement 40-12(2): 1992 Arctic Winter Games Results**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, the 1992 Arctic Winter Games have just been completed in Whitehorse, Yukon. As Minister responsible, I am pleased to provide Members of the Assembly with

highlights on our NWT team's participation in this premier circumpolar sport and cultural event.

Mr. Speaker, our team of nearly 308 athletes with supporting coaches and mission staff brought home a total of 93 ulus: 25 gold, 33 silver and 35 bronze.

**--- Applause**

Athletic excellence, combined with fair play, are qualities to be encouraged and recognized in our young people. The following athletes won gold ulus at the 1992 Arctic Winter Games and deserve special mention:

Tim Angotingoar of Chesterfield Inlet for Arctic sports, head pull; Heather Kolit of Coral Harbour for the one foot high kick; Tommy Iquiyuituuq of Pelly Bay for the Alaskan high kick and one foot high kick; Julie Oolayou of Lake Harbour for the one foot high kick and two foot high kick; Manny Buckley of Hay River Reserve for the finger pull and stick gambling; Lloyd Lamouelle of Rae-Edzo for the stick push and stick gambling; Freddy Tinqu of Rae-Edzo for stick gambling; Charlie Quitte of Rae-Edzo for stick gambling; Christie Elliot of Coppermine for badminton doubles; Melanie Langill of Coral Harbour for badminton doubles; the Kevin Koe rink of Yellowknife for curling; and Amber Ruben of Fort Smith for figure skating; the open women's hockey team, with athletes from Inuvik, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, Iqaluit, Hay River, Lac la Martre, Rankin Inlet and Arviat; the open co-ed silhouette rifle team, with athletes from Yellowknife, Inuvik, Enterprise and the Hay River Reserve; Jaida Green, Fort Smith, three gold ulus in snowshoeing; Warren Magrum, Hay River, two gold ulus in snowshoe biathlon; John Kidd, Hay River, two gold ulus in snowshoe biathlon; the open junior snowshoe biathlon; team with athletes from Fort Smith and Hay River, The bantam mens hockey team with athletes from Hay River, Yellowknife, Enterprise, Fort Smith and Baker Lake.

In addition to these athletes, I am sure Members of the House will join me in congratulating the other 68 NWT medal winners and all members of Team NWT for their excellent performances and the effort they put into making us all proud. Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling a complete list of all the medal winners later this session, as soon as it is translated. Thank you.

**--- Applause**

**Minister's Statement 41-12(2): 1992 Arctic Winter Games Hodgson Trophy**

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 21st, at the closing ceremonies of the 1992 Arctic Winter Games, the Northwest Territories was awarded the highest honour that can be given, the coveted Hodgson Trophy. This trophy is awarded by the Arctic Winter Games Corporation and voted on by all teams for the unit best exemplifying fair play and good sportsmanship. Of the many things that make the Arctic Winter Games unique, this recognition by our northern peers is perhaps the most cherished.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time since the Hodgson Trophy was first awarded in 1978 that the Northwest Territories has won the award. The original trophy is a delicate piece of artwork with soapstone base and narwhal tusk and is placed in the permanent care of staff at the Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife. The winning unit receives a large framed photo of the trophy to keep on display in their unit.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Patterson. That is much nicer than the fish you brought into the Assembly previously. Ministers' statements. Mr. Ningark.

**Ministers' Statement 42-12(2): Canadian Council Of Ministers Of Environment**

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I travelled to Vancouver to attend the spring meeting of the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment. Although the council has existed for 10 years, this is the first time that Yukon and the Northwest Territories have had full status. I believe this is an important step to assist our government to work with other jurisdictions to keep the Arctic environment healthy.

While at the meeting, I was able to gain the co-operation of several other Ministers on transboundary issues. The Ministers of Environment for Yukon, British Columbia and Alberta all agreed to get back to work on developing the bilateral transboundary water agreements. These are important to protect the Liard, Mackenzie and Peace-Athabasca-Slave Rivers. I also met with the Saskatchewan Minister of Environment. We both agreed that the draft bilateral agreement between Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories is now complete. Saskatchewan will also share its

monitoring information on the abandoned uranium mines on Lake Athabasca.

The British Columbia Minister of Forestry travelled to Vancouver to discuss with me the effects of logging on Fort Liard trappers. Unfortunately, trappers cannot be compensated because British Columbia has no compensation program. We did agree on a process to ensure that, in the future, trappers will have an opportunity to comment on proposed logging plans. As well, BC Forestry will advise the Department of Renewable Resources about logging plans near the territorial border.

I was pleased with the co-operation that was offered by all the Ministers that I met. I would like to thank the previous Minister of Renewable Resources, Titus Allooloo, who helped to set up many of the initiatives that I am now completing.

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--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister's statements. Mr. Pollard.

**Minister's Statement 43-12(2): Ministers' Absences From The House**

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend a First Ministers' Conference on the Economy. The Hon. Titus Allooloo will be absent all week to attend meetings with TFN in Pond Inlet, Igloodik and Hall Beach regarding the plebiscite. I will be absent from the House March 26th and 27th to meet with the Hon. Tom Siddon to discuss the health billing dispute, the formula funding agreement and municipal grants in lieu of taxes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

**Minister's Statement 44-12(2): Community Justice Workshop**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to the House upon a community justice workshop hosted by the community of Fort McPherson on the weekend of March 7th and 8th. Some 60 people participated in the intensive two-day workshop, which included representatives from Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik, Aklavik, Arctic Red River and Fort Good Hope. The community also invited Chief Judge Robert Halifax and Judge Brian Bruser of Inuvik, along with senior officials from my department

and the corrections division of the Department of Social Services.

A news release issued by the conference outlines the participation of elders from Fort McPherson who described eloquently the changes in social order and social controls among the Gwich'in people in this century.

Last year, Fort McPherson initiated a community justice committee to give advice and recommendations to Judge Bruser, the regional judge of the territorial court, on meaningful and relevant sentences for offenders before the court. For example, their advice has already resulted in successful land-based programs under the supervision of Gwich'in elders. The conference identified a broad range of additional functions the committees can perform as a networking, communication and referral agency throughout the justice system.

Mr. Speaker, I am very encouraged by these community initiatives, which have been strongly supported by the territorial court. A community justice committee has formed in Tuktoyaktuk, and interest has been expressed by Aklavik and Fort Good Hope, to name just a few of the communities in the West which are beginning to join in efforts to make the administration of justice more culturally-relevant, community based and locally accountable. Similar initiatives are forthcoming in the East, again with strong support from Judge Beverley Browne, the regional judge of the territorial court in Iqaluit.

To date, the committees have performed largely unfunded volunteer efforts. My department and the corrections division of the Department of Social Services are undertaking consultations with communities on how best to support their efforts, along with other related initiatives such as the justices of the peace program. In the long term, I believe that such community programs will play a key role in reducing the incredible pressures on our policing, courts, legal aid and prison systems. It may allow us to redirect funds toward local institutions with both the responsibility and the ability to change the behaviour which has put our people so frequently in conflict with the law, and restore the social controls which were a traditional strength.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Chief James Ross and the local organizers of the conference for their enthusiasm and for the hospitality extended to

community and government participants in the conference. Thank you.

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

### **ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

#### **Member's Statement On Recognition Of Fort Providence Pages**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce, to Members, four young boys from my constituency who are taking a break from school this week. Most schools had a break last week, but for some reason it is this week that these boys, standing beside you, Mr. Speaker, are taking a break,

I would like to introduce them to you. Starting from my right over on this side, Tommy Gargan, is from Fort Providence --are all from Providence -- and his mom and dad are Tommy and Linda; his dad works as a supervisor for Evergreen Forestry; his mom works at The Bay, Northern Store. Next to Tommy is Rodney Bonnetrouge; Rodney's mom and dad are Ronald and Shirley; Ronald works for the Housing Corporation, and Shirley also works there; Harry Joe Landry is the one to your right, Mr. Speaker, and Harry has a famous dad, who is Johnny Landry, a musician and Harry's mom works at the senior citizens' home. On the far right, Mr. Speaker, is Solomon Gargan, and Solomon is my son.

**--- Applause**

His mom works for the Housing Corporation, too.

**--- Laughter**

I want to express my appreciation to you, Mr. Speaker, and the Clerk, for allowing the opportunity for these boys to come over here to earn some money for this week. Of course, these boys have done everything I have told them to do.

**---Laughter**

They all play hockey, and they are also looking forward to going home and spending all their hard-earned cash on the heavy dates that are ahead of them.

Lastly, the boys are staying with me, and so far they have put up with my cooking and they have been well-behaved. I wish the boys well, and I hope that they enjoy themselves here in Yellowknife. Mahsi cho.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** All Members join Mr. Gargan in welcoming the boys here to our Assembly. Members' statements. Mr. Zoe.

#### **Member's Statement On Correction Re T-Line Developments Limited**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make a correction with respect to a question I addressed to the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation on Wednesday, March 4. In that question I indicated that the government had run into problems with a company called Treeline Construction Limited, and that this company had failed to pay its creditors. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the company in question was not Treeline Construction Limited, but T-Line Developments Limited. T-Line Developments Limited is a company that operated for a short period of time in the NWT as a northern storefront operation. It is now bankrupt and many northern businesses, unfortunately, lost money in their dealings with T-Line Developments Limited. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make this correction for the record. Mahsi.

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**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

#### **Member's Statement On Financial Situation Of Government**

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, refreshed and revived after a short break in the Keewatin.

--- Applause

During the break I actually spent most of the time answering the phone and speaking with many of my constituents and, in fact, talking to other constituents across the Territories about a number of issues that concern them. One issue that arose time after time during these conversations was the uncertainty of people about the current financial situation of this government. People are unsure about what is happening. All they hear about from the government is that we are in a precarious financial situation.

I, too, am concerned, both as an MLA and as chairman of the standing committee on finance, in the way in which we are handling the current financial crunch. All we hear is the talk of down-sizing, postponing projects, and reducing the size of government. As a result, people are uncertain about

what the future holds. Consumers are not spending and investors are not investing. The result is that our economy is being assaulted by the lack of confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to make light of the problems we are facing. They are important issues and they are troubling issues. However, I believe it is essential that the government also accentuates the positive; what we are going to do to reduce our deficit; how are we showing investors that the NWT is still a good place to invest; and what we are doing to ensure growth and stability in our economy. Or, as my good friend Jim Antoine said, what initiatives are we taking to develop our northern resource base.

--- Applause

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

#### **ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

##### **Return To Question O318-12(2): Consideration Of Sparrow Case In New Wildlife Conservation Act**

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Question O318-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on March 12, 1992. Several years ago the Department of Renewable Resources with assistance from the Department of Justice, reviewed the Sparrow case. The review confirmed that the department's legislation, policies and management practices were consistent with the court decision and that no changes were required.

Since the new Wildlife Conservation Act reflects the existing Wildlife Act, which is consistent with the Sparrow case, no special amendments were needed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

##### **Return To Question O270-12(2): Number Of Youth Justice Committees In NWT**

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O270-12(2), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on March 5, 1992. There are 28 youth justice committees operating across the Northwest Territories with several others in development, in the developmental stage.

**Return To Question O271-12(2): Funds Granted To Youth Justice Committees**

I have a return to Question O271-12(2), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on March 5, 1992. The 28 youth justice committees which exist in the Northwest Territories are financially supported by an overall youth community programs budget of \$296,000 within the corrections services division and through the actions of community corrections specialists located in the regions.

Mr. Speaker, operating in the Baffin Region there are 12 committees with an overall budget of \$30,000; in Fort Simpson there are two; in Fort Smith there is one; in Inuvik there are four; in the Keewatin Region there are three; in the Kitikmeot there are five; and in Yellowknife there is one. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question O332-12(2): Acting Government Leader**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance who is the House Leader for cabinet. In the absence of the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea and in the absence of Mr. Alloo, can he advise this House who will be taking their questions as notice if the Members want to ask questions to them?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O332-12(2): Acting Government Leader

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take those questions, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O332-12(2): Acting Government Leader

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** With that, Mr. Speaker, can I ask the Minister of Finance, is he the acting Government Leader?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O332-12(2): Acting Government Leader

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** No, Mr. Speaker.

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

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Supplementary To Question O332-12(2): Acting Government Leader

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Finance be able to advise this House as to who is acting Government Leader?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O332-12(2): Acting Government Leader

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, I am chairing cabinet on behalf of the Government Leader at the present time. She has instructed me to take questions on behalf of Mr. Alloo and herself, and there is no acting Government Leader at the present time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Gargan,

**Question O333-12(2): GNWT Involvement In Kitty Reynolds Case Review**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 11, 1991, I made a Member's statement to the 11th Legislative Assembly regarding the shameful treatment of Kitty Nowdluk-Reynolds by the Justice system. Honourable Members in this House may recall that I also made reference to this disgraceful episode during our first session on December 12th when I spoke against the victimization of native women.

Mr. Speaker, I have learned that a public review of RCMP conduct in this matter has been convened in Iqaluit. I am aware of the specific matters relating to evidence before this inquiry may be considered sub judice and cannot be raised under the rules of this House. Therefore, I will refrain from commenting on the case itself until after the review has been completed by the public complaints panel.

I do not know Ms. Reynolds personally and she is not one of my constituents. However, I do want to state my strong personal support for her efforts to seek justice and wish her success in obtaining her objective. I am also interested in our government's status through this process and have a question to the Minister of Justice. Can the Minister of Justice

advise this House whether the Government of the NWT has formal standing in this important review?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Quite a long preamble to your question, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O333-12(2): GNWT Involvement In Kitty Reynolds Case Review

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gargan, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O333-12(2): GNWT Involvement In Kitty Reynolds Case Review

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, is this government providing any kind of technical assistance to support the woman, including legal consultation and resources to her?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O333-12(2): GNWT Involvement In Kitty Reynolds Case Review

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, no assistance is being provided, nor was it requested.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O333-12(2): GNWT Involvement In Kitty Reynolds Case Review

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am certain this public complaints process can be emotionally stressful for anyone involved bringing claims against the RCMP. Is the Minister of Justice able to assure this House that appropriate professional support and personal assistance will be provided to Ms. Reynolds if she requests it as part of his department's service to victims of crime?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice and get back to the Member tomorrow on that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

#### **Question O334-12(2): Policy On Sale Of Government Owned Staff Houses**

**MR. KOE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Personnel. On February 27, 1992 the Minister made an announcement about cabinet's decision to sell government owned staff houses in

Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith. My question is, does this new policy or program apply to any other communities than the three mentioned in this statement?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O334-12(2): Policy On Sale Of Government-Owned Staff Houses

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated at the time of the announcement the offer was made just to the three specific communities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O334-12(2): Policy On Sale Of Government-Owned Staff Houses

**MR. KOE:** I am aware that in the last few weeks in Inuvik offers or counter-offers have been made to employees of the government. Under what program or policy has the sale of houses been made or offers been made in Inuvik?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O334-12(2): Policy On Sale Of Government-Owned Staff Houses

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that this may be as a result of an initiative that was taken, I think, back in November of 1990, to offer to sell certain units to employees who had responded to a survey, and that this is moving toward finalizing the initiative that was taken up at that time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Koe, supplementary.

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Supplementary To Question O334-12(2): Policy On Sale Of Government-Owned Staff Houses

**MR. KOE:** In that same statement of February 27, the Minister announced, and I quote, "The initiative is the first phase of a long-term staff housing strategy." My question is, what is your time table for this strategy? When can we in the House see the results or a strategy?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O334-12(2): Policy On Sale Of Government-Owned Staff Houses



**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I had indicated in February that the long-term strategy would be provided to this Legislature in June. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your last supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O334-12(2): Policy On Sale Of Government-Owned Staff Houses

**MR. KOE:** Under the current initiatives, how many houses have been sold or how many offers has the government received and accepted under this latest initiative?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** I do not have that readily available to me. I will have to take it as notice.

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

**Question O335-12(2): Statement Pilot Project  
Extension Of Victim impact**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister of Justice. On July 3, 1991, the 11th Assembly's Minister of Justice announced a pilot project that would provide services enabling victims of crime to make a victim impact statement for consideration by the courts. The pilot project was to involve the RCMP in nine NWT communities, and Yellowknife was not one of the communities identified for participation in the pilot project. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister advise the House whether there are plans to extend the scope of this project to include other communities?

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

Return To Question O335-12(2): Extension Of Victim Impact Statement Pilot Project

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O335-12(2): Extension Of Victim Impact Statement Pilot Project

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could give us a time line for that extension to other communities.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O335-12(2): Extension Of Victim Impact Statement Pilot Project

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, the expansion of initiatives like that will depend on the finalization of the budget in my department and the RCMP budget. So I would expect that it would be part of the O and M budget discussions that we will be having when the Assembly resumes to look at the O and M budget in June or July. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O335-12(2): Extension Of Victim Impact Statement Pilot Project

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Speaker, initially this program was planned to be evaluated after a period of 18 months. Is the Minister now telling the House that it is being considered to be implemented for all communities in the NWT within the next budget year?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson,

Further Return To Question O335-12(2): Extension Of Victim Impact Statement Pilot Project

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** No, Mr. Speaker, I am not intending to say anything of the kind; only that the continuation of existing programs and their expansion will be dependent on the finalization of the budget of the Department of Justice. I am not in a position today to prejudge the outcome of those budget discussions, I think I will have a better idea when the O and M budget for my department is presented to this Assembly, just what kind of latitude there might be to expand programs like that in the coming fiscal year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O335-12(2): Extension Of Victim Impact Statement Pilot Project

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister consider making the expansion of this program to communities which are not served by it, a priority, and attempt to actively seek the funding to ensure that it can be expanded as quickly as possible?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O335-12(2): Extension Of Victim Impact Statement Pilot Project

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I have yet to receive a report, even a preliminary one, on the success of that particular initiative. I will base my judgments on whether or not it should be given priority status within my budget on the success of the program. If the Member has advice for me about its importance I would be most interested in that advice. But having not yet received an evaluation, I am not in a position to state today whether or not it would be a priority.

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

**Question O336-12(12): Response To Question W13-12(2)**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Personnel in respect to the sale of housing. On March 2nd I asked the Minister of Personnel a written question in regard to clarification on the sale of housing in Fort Smith. As of today I have still not received a reply. When does the Minister anticipate he will reply to my written question?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Kakfwi.

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Return To Question O336-12(12): Response To Question W13-12(2)

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** It was filed today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

**Question O337-12(2): GNWT Support To NWT Contractors In Russia**

**MR. KOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Public Works on the statement about the contracts in Russia and the initiatives taken by some of our Northwest Territories' companies or so-called Northwest Territories' companies. The initiatives show that our companies have capabilities and can do international jobs. My concern is on the financial aspects, and it is not clear from the statements the Minister made as to whether or not this government has provided any financial support for these companies in these initiatives. Can the Minister state whether or not the Government of

the NWT has given any financial support to these companies in regard to the contracts in Russia?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O337-12(2): GNWT Support To NWT Contractors In Russia

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that the Department of Public Works, Government of the NWT, did not assist the companies financially. One advantage for Ferguson Simek Clark when they did travel to Russia, because the USSR wanted to deal government to government, was that they did need government people there as protocol. That is the advantage they got. So it did cost this government money to travel there.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O337-12(2): GNWT Support To NWT Contractors In Russia

**MR. KOE:** Is the Government of the NWT providing any guarantees or any securities on the contracts in Russia?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O337-12(2): GNWT Support To NWT Contractors In Russia

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

**Question O338-12(2): Native Constable For Lake Harbour**

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice a question. I made a statement last week about whether there would be a replacement for a constable in Lake Harbour and that there be a native constable available to the community. Has the Minister had a chance to think about if the present constable retires will he have a replacement?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the Member an answer today. But I do welcome his support for aboriginal police officers. Last year there was a quota of seven positions in the NWT for the aboriginal constable development program, and I certainly will make every effort to assist that

community, especially if they can identify persons from Lake Harbour who are willing to become police officers, but I have not, as of today, been able to determine what is or is not possible for that community in the coming year.

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

**Question O339-12(2): Husky Rental Units**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of DPW. I have been advised that the Department of Public Works has acquired leases with a company called Husky rentals -- I do not know if it is the company name or if the units are called Husky rental units. I would like to ask the Minister of DPW if he knows for what length of time these leases are in effect.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I get the Member to clarify the question? Where is this?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** In Fort Smith.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Koe.

**Question O340-12(2): Government Houses For Sale In Inuvik**

**MR. KOE:** A question to the Minister of Personnel regarding staff houses for sale. Are there any government houses for sale to employees in Inuvik?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I would have to take the question as notice, as I am not currently aware of what the situation is in regard to the initiative that was taken a couple of years ago.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been taken as notice. Mr. Lewis.

**Question O341-12(2): Changes To NWT Act In Federal Parliament**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. Just before the break we

moved with indecent haste to pass an amendment to the Official Languages Act on the understanding that the federal government would move very quickly on it. Could the Minister indicate to the House at what stage this amendment to the federal legislation is in, in the federal Parliament?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I should know the answer to that question but I do not, and I apologize to the Member for that. I will have to get back to him as soon as I can.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question is taken as notice. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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**Question O342-12(2): Municipal Planning Engineer, Fort Smith**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I have been advised over the break that there is a position being centralized from the Fort Smith regional office into Yellowknife; basically, the position being a municipal planning engineer. Would the Minister advise me whether he is aware of this intention to centralize this position?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O342-12(2): Municipal Planning Engineer, Fort Smith

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Yes. I am aware of the issue the Member alludes to.

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

Supplementary To Question O342-12(2): Municipal Planning Engineer, Fort Smith

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise me as to why this position is being transferred into Yellowknife?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O342-12(2): Municipal Planning Engineer, Fort Smith

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I would want to be very clear with the honourable Member that for certain operational reasons the incumbent in

that job is being transferred to Yellowknife where that person can get better support from my department. It is the individual that is being transferred and not the position. I do not see this as a centralization as much as a redeployment of an individual for specific operational reasons. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O342-12(2): Municipal Planning Engineer, Fort Smith

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** So, can the Minister clarify that the position, municipal planning engineer, will remain in Fort Smith and it is only the individual involved that is being transferred to Yellowknife?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O342-12(2): Municipal Planning Engineer, Fort Smith

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** That is correct as the Member describes it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

#### **Question O343-12(2): Rental Of Houses Built Prior To 1960**

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) My question is directed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. The houses that were built in the early 1960s are not able to be rented. The houses built prior to that -- would the people be able to buy the houses?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O343-12(2): Rental Of Houses Built Prior To 1960

**HON. DON MORIN:** There is a program where people who are living in northern rental units, the older units built in the early 1960s, can make application to the Housing Corporation to purchase those units and also a portion of their rent would go to the purchase price of that unit. I can get the Member more detailed information by the end of the day on that program.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Dent.

## **ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

### **Question W28-12(2): Victim Impact Statement Pilot Project**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the following written question for the Minister of Justice. Would the Minister provide the House with a summary of the number of victim impact statements prepared by the RCMP and/or Government of the NWT Department of Justice over the duration of the pilot project in each of the following communities: Rae-Edzo, Coppermine, Hay River, Fort Resolution, Aklavik, Norman Wells, Rankin Inlet, Pond Inlet and Sanikiluaq?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Written questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5, oral questions, Are there any nays? There are no nays, proceed.

## **REVERT TO ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

### **Question O344-12(2): Transfer Of Municipal Planning Engineer From Fort Smith To Yellowknife**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. A few minutes ago the Minister advised me that the position, municipal planning engineer, the individual would be transferred to Yellowknife and not the position. However, I have a copy of a letter sent to the individual which indicates that "your position" would be transferred to Yellowknife. Will the individual or the position be transferred to Yellowknife?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O344-12(2): Transfer Of Municipal Planning Engineer From Fort Smith To Yellowknife

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, the individual is being transferred, not the position.

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

Supplementary To Question O344-12(2): Transfer Of Municipal Planning Engineer From Fort Smith To Yellowknife

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, is the letter sent from the deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to the individual involved incorrect in stating that the position will be transferred?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

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Further Return To Question O344-12(2): Transfer Of Municipal Planning Engineer From Fort Smith To Yellowknife

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know what is in the letter. I suspect it is a privileged communication, and without having it in front of me I cannot, and will not, comment on whether it is correct or not. I would like to emphasize to the honourable Member that this arrangement has been explained to me as a temporary arrangement being made for operational reasons relating to that particular employee, and it is not intended to be a permanent arrangement which would deprive the region on a permanent basis of that position. So, Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member should not be concerned that this represents an erosion of the support that would ordinarily be available to the region in the engineering field. However, there are good reasons for moving this particular individual at this particular time, and it should be seen in that context as a temporary operational arrangement. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O344-12(2): Transfer Of Municipal Planning Engineer From Fort Smith To Yellowknife

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, it is fine for the Minister to indicate that I should not be concerned about a position being sent to Yellowknife and that it is only the individual involved that is being sent to Yellowknife. The concern that I have, Mr. Speaker -- and I am not too sure whether the Minister has taken my question under notice -- is that I have a document from the deputy minister of his department indicating that, effective May 4th "your position will be transferred to Yellowknife," and it does not state, "you will be transferred to Yellowknife." It states, "your position will be transferred," and I have not received

clarifications from the Minister, so I cannot take assurance that the position will not be transferred when the documentation advises otherwise. Can the Minister clarify this issue for me?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the letter the Member has, and therefore I will have to take the question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been taken as notice. Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Whitford.

#### **ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

##### **W18-12(2): Trip By Department Of Health Staff**

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question W18-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike on March 2nd. It is regarding Department of Health staff duty travel from Iqaluit to Broughton Island. The hospital pharmacist from the Baffin Regional Hospital was invited to fill a vacant seat on the February 24 and 25 Department of Public Works air charter between Iqaluit and Broughton Island. This opportunity enabled the pharmacist to inspect and review the supply of pharmaceuticals maintained at the health centre.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, return to Question W8-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo to the Government Leader regarding tendering process in the Inuvik Region; return to Question W13-12(2), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Minister of Personnel concerning government housing for sale in Fort Smith; return to Question W16-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike to the Minister of Public Works concerning the Department of Public Works staff duty travel from Iqaluit to Broughton Island; return to Question W17-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike to the Minister of Education concerning Department of Education staff duty travel from Iqaluit to Broughton Island; return to Question W19-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism concerning the Department of Economic Development and Tourism staff duty travel from Iqaluit to Broughton Island; return to Question W26-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo

to the Minister of Personnel concerning aboriginal employment statistics within the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Return To Question W8-12(2): Tendering Process In The Inuvik Region

Hon. Nellie Cournoyea's return to Question W8-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on February 20, 1992: In response to the written question asked by Mr. Nerysoo, the MLA for Mackenzie Delta, on the rules and procedures used during the public tendering process in the Inuvik Region, I had officials review the tendering process over the past year and my response to his question is as follows:

- 1) I am not aware of any problems or concerns with the public tendering process in the Inuvik Region.
- 2) The standard procedures for tendering contracts are used in the Inuvik Region in accordance with the government contract regulations.
- 3) Clear guidelines and rules are already in place, and they are applied equally and fairly to all government tender calls, contracts and to contractors in the Inuvik Region, and they also take into consideration any special arrangements with the aboriginal people within the region.
- 4) The present government tendering guidelines are being applied consistently and fairly to all contracts and contractors in the Inuvik Region.
- 5) All the present tendering rules and guidelines have been applied equally to all contracts and contractors in the Inuvik Region.
- 6) There have been no recent changes to the present tendering guidelines or rules,

**W13-12(2): Government Housing For Sale,  
Fort Smith**

Hon. Stephen Kakfwi's return to Question W13-12(2), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on March 2, 1992: The Department of Personnel, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, has been authorized to proceed with the level I community sale program. The community of Fort Smith has a total of 49 detached units. Of the 49 units, nine are currently occupied by employees. Length of service for these employees varies from eight months to 10 years. Of the 40 remaining units, 17 units are vacant, 21 units are occupied by trainees and students from other communities and two units are assigned on charity

leases. The detailed breakdown of houses, including location and the length of service of occupants, is attached.

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**W16-12(2): Trip By Department Of  
Public Works Staff**

Hon. Don Morin's return to Question W16-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike on March 2, 1992: Five DPW employees travelled from Iqaluit to Broughton Island on February 24 and 25 to attend the final inspection of the new school and gymnasium project. This five million dollar project had been built for the client Departments of Education and the Municipal and Community Affairs by PCL Constructors Northern Inc. Typical takeover procedures for major projects were conducted, including tests of major building systems to ensure proper operation and consultations with community and school staff to ensure that they fully understand the operation of the building. This was the first inspection of the building since the GNWT took occupancy in April, 1991 when seasonal and other deficiencies were still outstanding. The final inspection was also conducted to make sure that all these deficiencies had been completed by the contractor.

The five employees and their responsibilities were as follows:

- 1) The Baffin regional superintendent was responsible for operating and maintaining the facility with regional O and M staff. This person needed to see the facility for the first time;
- 2) The regional electrician was responsible for training the local O and M staff on the electrical operation of the building. This person needed to review the facility in conjunction with the headquarters electrical technical officer;
- 3) The headquarters electrical technical officer was responsible for ensuring that DPW electrical standards were incorporated into the design and construction. This person attended the final inspection to ensure that all systems were installed and operating as intended;
- 4) The headquarters mechanical technical officer was responsible for ensuring that DPW mechanical standards were incorporated into the design and construction. This person attended the final inspection to ensure that all systems were installed and operating as intended;

5) The headquarters project manager was responsible for contract administration. This person was required to coordinate all inspections and consultations and to approve final payment to the contractor.

**W17-12(2): Trip By Department Of Education Staff**

Hon. Titus Allooloo's return to Question W17-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike on March 2, 1992: One staff member of the Baffin Divisional Board of Education in Iqaluit travelled to Broughton Island by charter aircraft on February 24 and 25, 1992. This trip was at the invitation of the Department of Public Works and at no cost to the divisional board of education. The purpose of the trip was to attend the final inspection of the new school and gymnasium project in Broughton Island.

While in Broughton Island, the education official also met with the community education council to discuss the school community counsellor position.

**W19-12(2): Trip By Department Of Economic Development And Tourism Staff**

Hon. John Pollard's return to Question W19-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike on March 2, 1992: The area economic development officer, AEDO, from Broughton Island was informed by the Department of Public Works that a charter would be leaving Iqaluit on February 24, 1992, to Broughton Island. On that date, the AEDO had been in Iqaluit on duty travel. As this was considered the most cost effective means of returning home, the AEDO went by DPW's charter.

**W26-12(2): Aboriginal Employment Statistics With GNWT**

Hon. Stephen Kakfwi's return to Question W26-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on March 9, 1992:

1) The Government of the Northwest Territories presently employs 2080 aboriginal people, or about 34 per cent of the total number of 6123 employees.

2) It is not possible to tell how many aboriginal employees the government has recruited since the affirmative action policy was implemented. Our competition information system is now being improved to provide this information from this point onwards.

However, when the native employment policy was implemented in 1985, aboriginal people in the public service numbered 1138, which was approximately 30 per cent of the total number of employees. When the

affirmative action policy was introduced in 1989, a total of 1613 employees were aboriginal people, which represented 31 per cent of the total number at that time.

In 1987, a total of 1454 employees were aboriginal people, or approximately 32 per cent of the total government work force.

a) The breakdown of present aboriginal employees by Department is attached.

b) The breakdown of present aboriginal employees by region is: Baffin, 427; Inuvik, 306; Fort Smith, 505; Keewatin, 259; Kitikmeot, 168; headquarters, 415; for a total of 2080.

3) The present government, which took office in October of 1991, has recruited 146 native people out of a total of 371 employees recruited for the entire period, broken down as follows: October 1991, 47; November 1991, 31; December 1991, 16; January 1992, 25; February 1992, 27; for a total of 146.

4) It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the numbers of deputy ministers, assistant deputy ministers, regional directors, and assistant regional directors recruited since 1987.

However, it is possible to provide the number of aboriginal employees who occupied management positions for each of the years since 1987: 1987, 21, which is nine per cent of total management staff; 1988, 25, which is 10 per cent of total management staff; 1989, 28, which is 10 per cent of total management staff; 1990, 32, which is 10 per cent of total management staff; 1991, 54, which is 14 per cent of total management staff.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, 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. Motion 7-12(2). The mover is not in the House. On to Motion 9-12(2)? Item 16, first reading of bills. The mover is not here for first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

## ITEM 17: SECOND READING OF BILLS

## Legislative Assembly

### Second Reading Of Bill 25: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1991-92

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1991-92, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would make supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1992. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion has carried.

--- Carried

Bill 25 has had second reading, and accordingly, the bill stands referred to committee of the whole.

Item 17, 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; Committee Report 3-12(2). SCOF Review of the 1992-93 Capital Estimates; Motion 6-12(2), Discussion on Sobriety Clause in Contribution Agreements to Committee of the Whole; and Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1990-91, with Mr. Arvaluk in the chair.

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

#### Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93 And Committee Report 3-12(2)

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):** The committee is now in order. Last time we were here, we were dealing with Bill 14, and the next department at that time was Legislative Assembly. What is the committee's wish? We will go to the Legislative Assembly, page 01-8 in the capital estimates. The Minister responsible for the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Pollard, opening remarks.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully request the appearance of Mr. David Hamilton as a witness. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):** Everyone agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):** Proceed, Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, I am appearing on behalf of the Speaker as the Executive Member of the Management and Services Board, and Mr. Hamilton is appearing as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):** Before we proceed, we will have a 15 minute break.

--- SHORT RECESS

(Translation) The committee will come to order. Mr. Minister

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** I wonder if the committee will allow me to bring in Mr. Larry Elkin who has been responsible for this project from day one?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):** (Translation) Are we agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):** (Translation) Please introduce your witness.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** The gentleman on my right is Mr. Larry Elkin who is chairman of the steering committee on the Legislative Assembly building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):** (Translation) Do you have opening remarks, Mr. Pollard?

#### Minister's Opening Remarks

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am appearing before the committee today on behalf of the Management and Services



Board of this Assembly to present the capital estimates for the Legislative Assembly for 1992-93.

Mr. Chairman, the Legislative Assembly has only one capital item for 1992-93 which is the Legislative Assembly building project. The Management and Services Board, on behalf of all Members of the 12th Legislative Assembly, is responsible for the management of the Legislative Assembly building project. The board is continuing to work on the project which was authorized by the 11th Legislature and we have been providing ongoing monitoring and management of the program design and construction.

The funds requested are to complete site preparation and commence construction as well as purchase furniture and equipment for the Legislative Assembly building project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** The standing committee on finance has no general comments on the Legislative Assembly at this time. I have some personal observations I would like to make and I will make them during the general comments.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): General comments. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make it clear that my views on this particular expenditure are as an ordinary Member and not as the chairman of the standing committee on finance. I want to make it clear because I am frankly and completely, totally opposed to the \$25 million Legislative Assembly building. I am amazed that this project is occurring at a time when government is telling us we cannot afford any of the basic needs of our citizens -housing, health and social services. My primary concern is the cost of this project to the government.

When a decision to construct this building was first made public on January 18, 1991, the cost of the construction of this building was estimated to be \$12 million. The cost of construction is now estimated to be closer to \$15 million.

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Mr. Chairman, I realize that the actual construction costs for the building itself will be covered by the Legislative Assembly's bond issue. However, there are over \$10 million in associated costs related to this project for furnishings, audio-visual equipment,

landscaping, site preparation and construction of an access road. For whatever reason, and I am not about to speculate anybody's motives, I do not think this point was made clear, if made at all, at the time that this project was unveiled. Was the public told it was going to cost \$22 million? I do not remember seeing it.

Rightly or wrongly, the perception exists among the general public that the cost to the government for this project would be minimal. I know the Minister of Finance knows my reaction when I was asked to review the \$10 million additional expenditure.

The second concern I have is the sheer size of the new building. It is close to 50,000 square feet. We are currently using only 20,000 square feet at this location. I realize in my tiny little office that we are somewhat cramped in this location and that the new building will contain spaces for offices for cabinet and for a library. However, do we really need another 30,000 square feet, and at what cost?

To my knowledge the cabinet has not even committed to moving into the space on a permanent basis. Most ordinary Members, like myself, spend over half the year in our constituencies. A \$25 million complex for a part-time Legislature? It is unbelievable.

We are told that if division does not occur, and we all hope it does, it may be necessary to build another phase -- I nearly had a heart attack when I heard that -- to accommodate the Members from the Eastern Arctic. An additional 50,000 square feet over and above the 50,000 square feet that we are building now to accommodate 24 Members. It reminds me of a comment made by the famous actor, Oscar Wilde, who said, "Nothing succeeds like excess."

My concern is: Are there any other hidden costs associated with this building? For example, not only will each Member and Executive Member have their own offices, but they have offices for assistants as well. As all Members are aware, there is currently an allowance for \$20,000 available for Members to hire constituency staff. This allowance is not enough or sufficient to hire full-time staff in my constituency, let alone in Yellowknife. Are we going to increase the MLAs constituency allowances so we can have our executive assistants sifting in the office across to us? How many new employees will be needed to run this building? What are the heating and electrical costs for a large building? I would suggest that the operations and maintenance costs of the Legislative Assembly

will increase dramatically when we move into this building.

I cannot in any consciousness support this appropriation. I cannot sincerely justify the expenditure of \$10 million in direct costs for this project when there are people in my riding who do not have decent housing, have not got running water and have not got a damn job. There are too many other important priorities that we should be spending our money on.

There is a famous English playwright called Hector Hugh Monroe who said, "All decent people live beyond their incomes now adays and those who are not respectable live beyond other people's. A few gifted people manage to do both." I guess all of us are the gifted few in the Northwest Territories. I cannot, and I will not, support the \$10 million expenditure for the Legislative Assembly building. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. General comments. If not, we will go page by page. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

#### **Buildings And Works, Total Capital**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 01-9 on the capital estimates. Legislative Assembly, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$3,163,000. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think one of the major concerns we had in the standing committee on finance was that most of us had thought that the total cost of the Legislative Assembly building was going to be covered by the bond issue. Apparently much of this \$10 million that we are looking at in total expenditures over the next two or three years was in other departments' budgets up until this year, and there was a decision made to move everything and show it as one budget item.

It caused us an awful lot of concern, and I guess the public really never seemed to understand that this whole thing would be covered by the bond issue. I know I did not know that.

The question for the Minister is, can we be certain that we have a fairly accurate forecast as to what the total cost will be for this project when we see the \$10.044 million as total capital projections; on a scale of accuracy, how accurate does he believe this projection is?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, we are fairly confident of the numbers. So far, the bids that have been received have come extremely close to budget, if not a little bit under at times. This is a good year to be building because there are an awful lot of people who want to work, and consequently their prices are sharp. So we consider these numbers to be as accurate as they can be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the standing committee on finance the Minister told us that this was the first year that everything had been shown on one account. I just want the Minister to confirm, for the record, that as far as he is aware there are no plants or desks hidden in any of the other departments; this is the total cost that we are looking at for putting this building up.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, the Management and Services Board made a conscious decision to show all aspects of expenditure that would be incurred with this Legislative Assembly building. So I am not aware of any other department that is holding funds that would go toward this building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** I am curious -- actually I was flabbergasted, not curious. In the event that division does not occur, which we all hope it does, why is there a requirement for another 50,000 square feet. What is it feet? That was the presentation that was made by Mr. Elkin and the other gentleman. I was just sort of overcome and I have had some time to think about it, and I am trying to figure what are we going to do with it.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, I apologize to Mr. Todd if I have mislead him but phase 11 is not 50,000 square feet. Phase 11 would be to allow the support staff for the Executive to move into that particular area. As you know, Mr. Chairman, the support staff is presently located in the Laing Building, and the Executive have not made a decision to move into the new Legislative Assembly building

permanently, but if there were a phase 11 it would be for the support staff to move closer to the Executive, and it is not in the order of 50,000 square feet. So once again I apologize if I mislead Mr. Todd. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** In the House of Commons and places like that they run these cafeterias and they subsidize them, which I think is an appalling waste of money. How are we going to operate this cafeteria where we get our nummies? Are we going to operate this on a profit-making basis, subsidized, government employees, contracts? I would like to know about that.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, during the design of the building MLAs were consulted on the kinds of things that they would like to see in the building, and I know Members that were here during the last Legislature went through that whole process of being interviewed and filling in all those forms. I think one of the things that was most popular was the ability to have a cafeteria or some kind of restaurant where Members could eat. The consideration that it was somewhat away from downtown, further than this facility, was another thing that prompted MSB, Management and Services Board, to put in a coffee shop/cafeteria into this building. It will be let on a contract to an operator and the operator will obviously have to recover his or her cost, and presumably they would want to make a profit as well, so it will not be subsidized. It will be done on contract, and Members and their guests will have to pay for food or beverages purchased from that cafeteria. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** How many extra PYs are going to be needed to run this building? Have we any idea of what it is going to cost; how many additional library staff; or is it existing staff; or is it new positions? I would like to know that; building and maintenance staff, library staff, support staff.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, there is a study being undertaken right now to see what the needs would be with regard to staff. There will be some staff taken over obviously from other departments, particularly in the area of library, as that

moves over to the Legislative Assembly. Obviously in the kitchen and cafeteria area that would not be classed as Legislative Assembly staff. I would say that the study is going to reveal that there will be a slight increase in staff to operate that building. I am not sure if the study is taking into consideration executive assistants for Members. I would rather doubt that it is, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When examining the new building at SCOF we were astounded that we were going to get 50,000 square feet and that cabinet would not be committing to take up full-time occupancy in this building, but in fact adding another office to what they already have. In some cases this would mean a third or fourth office for a cabinet Minister. We do not really feel the need for that. I would be happy to offer the use of the office across from mine for a cabinet Minister's executive assistant if you wish, because I am not going to have one. So rather than having that office sit empty I think there are ways to move the cabinet in there.

**Motion That Executive Council Take Up Full-Time Occupancy In New Legislative Assembly Building, Carried**

Therefore, I would like to move that the committee recommends to the cabinet that they make a commitment to take up full-time occupancy in the new Legislative Assembly building in order to reduce the duplication of costs.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Your motion is in order and is being distributed now. To the motion. Mr. Dent. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

**--- Carried**

Thank you. Legislative Assembly, buildings and works, total region, \$3,163,000. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Chairman, if I am right the presentation that our standing committee on finance got in relation to this new Legislative Assembly building -- I think the building committee also indicated that they were anticipating to bring in television to the new Legislature. Could I ask the

Minister or the Clerk how they are anticipating to incorporate this into the new building?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister,

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** I will ask Mr. Hamilton to answer that question.

**MR. HAMILTON:** There are present plans for television in the building is that it is planned to construct the building whereby the chamber would be wired for coverage by television, as well as the major committee room for public meetings of standing committees. The plan also is to purchase the equipment to cover the cameras and all the switching equipment necessary to provide television coverage of the Legislature.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** I wonder if the committee has considered rather than having capital costs for television production equipment, to rent from the private sector, rather than purchasing it on our own?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, in a building such as this and providing that type of television coverage, there is a lot of hard wiring and circuits that have to go into the building. It was decided that putting our own equipment into the building would mean it would be stationary, it would not have to be carted in and carted out all the time. I think it was worked out that over the long haul it would also be much cheaper. So I think a decision was made to putting our own equipment in and having it hard wired and being available at all times.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** I understand the wiring has to take place so that television production can take place. But the cameras and whatever could be rented from the private sector rather than having capital costs to us. I am suggesting to look at that option.

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#### **Motion To Rent Television Production Equipment In New Legislative Assembly Building, Carried**

**I MOVE** that the committee recommends that consideration be given to renting television production equipment from the private sector rather than

purchasing, should plans to televise the Legislative Assembly go ahead.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** I think it is important to point out that no financial decision has been made, because nothing has been presented to this House in terms of what the long-term financial obligations are with respect to televising the Legislative Assembly. And while it may be fashionable and some people see it as a plus and there are some pluses for it, we still have not, at this time, determined whether or not we are going to commit the financial obligations of televising the Legislative Assembly.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to comment for the information of the committee that I understand that a briefing has been arranged for caucus this week from TVNC on this new public television broadcasting capacity that is in place and how the requirements of the Legislative Assembly and Members for communicating with their constituents might be dealt with by that new network.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** As was stated earlier, there was a concern with respect to the total financial expenditure for this building.

#### **Motion To Inform Finance Committee Of Projects And Programs Relating To The Legislative Assembly, Carried**

Therefore, I move that this committee recommends that cabinet inform the standing committee on finance and the Legislative Assembly of all the financial and other significant implications of the projects and programs as it relates to the Legislative Assembly.

What is the total expenditure?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): You commented at the end of your motion. That is not part of your motion.

**MR. TODD:** No.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** At one time it was agreed by Members of the standing committee on finance that we were going to deal with the capital estimates first and then the O and M secondly. Because of the commitment made by Members to go through that exercise based on that commitment, I find it very hard to look at a motion like this that suggests that the O and M of a building should be introduced. It used to be that way that we deal with the O and M first and then before the conclusion we usually deal with the capital. But that is no longer the case.

What the motion suggests is that we are pre-empting what is supposed to be spent and reviewed in May or June. So I have problems with it. I cannot support it. It is suggesting to Members that the government or the Minister of Finance come up with the interim O and M before we approve the O and M for this year. I have difficulty because we agreed on the process already and on the one hand we are looking at reversing that process.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): To the motion. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** I think it is straightforward. It is just requesting that the cabinet inform the standing committee on finance and the Assembly here of all the financial and other significant implications of the new project and programs. That does not mean that they have to come forward before the capital budget is approved to provide us with that information right away. All it is suggesting is that cabinet come forward with the information and provide it to the standing committee and this House as to what the overall cost is going to be. I think the motion in front of us is straightforward, and I will be supporting it.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, the motion is suggesting that we already have the building and there is a cost factor relating to the building itself. If the motion read that the surtax on expenditure of an estimated expenditure, then we might be able to get something, but the motion, as read, suggests that the building is already there and the cost is in black and white. I think the intent is to look at what the forecast would be for the expenditure once the building comes. But that is not what it is saying.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

**Legislative Assembly, buildings and works,  
headquarters, total region.**

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Earlier, the Minister stated that the addition will not be 50,000 square feet to the building. I would like to know if he knows how many square feet it will be.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, the building was built at that size assuming that there would be division. That building is not designed to handle the whole of the Legislative Assembly for all of the time. If division does not occur, there would have to be some additions to that building. If division occurs and no extra space is required, we believe what would happen is that there would be some renovations inside to allow the support staff of the Executive to move into there. The Executive would move in on a full-time basis. It was built taking into consideration that division does occur, spacewise, on the understanding that if division did not occur, there would have to be some addition to the building. Thank you,

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Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Legislative Assembly, buildings and works. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** I have some difficulty accepting this explanation as to exactly what we are building. If that is the case, then for about six years we are going to be living in digs or just will not do the job. In other words, if division does not take place until the year 2000 or around about that time, then in five or six years we will be in bad shape. This is the message I am getting from what the Minister has just indicated.

It is my understanding that when we decided to build this thing, we were building something that was going to be there for 100 years. If division takes place, we would not have to worry about expansion if it is

already there. We may be underoccupying it for a while, but over a hundred-year period it is going to be okay. The message I got when we discussed this is completely different from the one I have just heard. I am wondering if this is documented anywhere, because I have certainly watched the progress toward getting our own Legislative Assembly for a long, long time now. I have followed every little step. I am wondering if there is any written documentation that I could refer to, because I am very interested in the whole project and how it started and developed, et cetera. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mr. Minister

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be glad to provide the information to Mr. Lewis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Total activity, \$3,163,000. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the explanation that the Minister just gave us, I would like to understand what he is saying, but I have some difficulty in the contradiction he is making when he speaks about the Executive moving into the building. He stated earlier that the Executive would be moving in there permanently. Now, it sounds as if, when division takes place, that is when the Executive would be moving there permanently. Is this the way it looks right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, cabinet has not decided if the Executive would move into the building permanently. It has been suggested to us, as we all know. What I was referring to is the support staff for the Executive moving into that building. If there is division -- and let me back this up -- there is room right now for 25 Members and some support staff to all of those 25 Members. If there is division of the Northwest Territories, then we assume that the Executive would move in there permanently. By saying permanently, I mean that would be their offices year round, as opposed to the suggestion right now which is that during session we would be resident in the building. Outside of session, we would be back, at the Laing Building. If division occurs, the Executive would move into the building permanently and there would be some changes made to the inside of the building to accommodate the support staff, most of whom presently reside in the Laing Building. This would not mean that there would be an increase in

space. It would be a utilization of the space that is inside the building at the present time.

If there is no division, and the Legislative Assembly grows and the support staff in that Legislative Assembly grows there will be a need for phase two. I can hear Mr. Todd asking me, what the phase two square footage is. We do not know, Mr. Chairman. We do not know what the increase would be.

#### **Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Legislative Assembly, total activity, \$3,163,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

#### **Legislative Assembly, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Page 01-7, total capital expenditures, \$3,163,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Does this committee agree that this item is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your witness. The next item is the Department of Public Works. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

#### **Department Of Public Works**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

#### **Minister's Opening Remarks**

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department's capital budget request for 1992-93 is approximately \$4.5 million. Five hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars is budgeted for the dust control program. This program controls dust on roads in non-tax-based communities.

Under accommodation services, renovations to existing offices and tenant improvements to new offices are a large part of Public Works' capital. These projects are in response to growth or organizational changes of our client departments. Potential department consolidation have put much of government's office plan on hold until implications are reviewed. This has allowed for the accommodation services capital program for 1992-93 to be reduced,

In addition to the earlier reductions made during the capital target reduction exercise, and in response to the recommendations from the standing committee on finance, I will be introducing a motion to further reduce this program by \$200,000.

Almost half of the 1992-93 capital program is for major improvements to buildings and works and for replacement of vehicles. This ensures working conditions for employees, provides buildings and vehicles that operate efficiently and results in long-term operating cost savings to the government. As an example, under the buildings and works activity, we will do \$450,000 worth of energy conservation projects. These projects reduce utility costs in public buildings. The cost of each project will be recovered in five years or less through lower operating costs.

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A major renovation and upgrade to the Laing building will be completed in 1992-93. This has been a three year overhaul of the building's mechanical and electrical systems and the replacement of the roof. The GNWT bought the building for one dollar in 1989 after a 20 year lease-to-purchase agreement.

The vehicles and equipment capital program provides for the replacement of vehicles that become inefficient to operate. This target was reduced by \$138,000 in January. The department is also reviewing the use of pool vehicles in Yellowknife and regional centres to see where additional savings might be achieved.

Mr. Chairman, the department's capital target is relatively small, but it is important to achieving effectiveness and cost efficiency in the operation of the GNWT, which you must remember is now a billion dollar a year "business." More importantly, however, is the fact that the department is also responsible for managing the design and construction of buildings and works, so that departments, boards and agencies, and municipalities can deliver programs and services to the NWT residents.

In 1992-93 the department will manage \$70 million worth of capital projects. These expenditures represent a very significant economic opportunity for Northerners. As the Minister responsible for overseeing these expenditures, I wish to assure the committee that the department sees its responsibilities to developing the economy every bit as important as it is to build cost effective and technically sound infrastructure. To illustrate, I would like to outline some new and ongoing initiatives.

For this construction season Public Works will work closely with the Housing Corporation and Department of Transportation to co-ordinate construction activities and will implement pilot projects to strengthen the community-based approach to construction. By community-based project planning, I mean that all projects in the community should be planned and co-ordinated over three to five years rather than as individual projects. The departments will work more closely with municipal councils to establish project schedules which better enable the community resources to undertake this construction work.

This community-based approach has been tested in Snowdrift last year. The local development corporation needed construction expertise. Public Works and the Departments of Transportation and Municipal and Community Affairs agreed to a construction management approach for a road project. Public Works provided a construction superintendent to help the corporation with the project. The council indicated its desire to have the departments plan the projects over a longer period of time to maximize local benefits. The results were positive in that the corporation is now better prepared on future projects in the community.

Community-based projects are also organized in Chesterfield Inlet, where the community asked that several projects originally planned for a two year period be spread over a three year period. This allowed for the creation of three new training programs and much greater employment of residents. During 1992-93, Public Works will implement this approach in at least one community in each region.

Public Works and Housing Corporation are co-ordinating efforts to find appropriate ways to support new and existing northern manufacturing operations, such as a proposed window plant in Hay River. How to make more and better use of northern lumber in our construction projects is also being examined.

The department is managing the new Legislative Assembly project on behalf of the NWT Legislative Assembly Building Society. Major contracts for this project have been tendered and won by northern contractors. This project will require contractors to bring labour and skilled trades into Yellowknife. To assist the contractors, however, in hiring northern labour and trades, a committee of several departments is being established to identify, contact and support people from across the North in coming to Yellowknife to work on this project. In co-operation with Arctic College, training programs will also be established.

Mr. Chairman, many of our projects and contracts are negotiated directly with community development and contracting corporations. For example, the new drug and alcohol treatment centre at the Hay River Reserve is a three million dollar project. Representatives from the communities surrounding Hay River were very much involved in the planning and design of this unique facility. The project has been broken down into several construction contracts which are being negotiated directly with the reserve's own construction company. Department officials are working with a local development company in Igloodik to jointly develop a design for the proposed new air terminal building in that community. When completed, the developer will build a building and lease it back to the government. The department will continue to require staff housing, offices, warehousing and arenas, where possible, through design/build agreements with northern developers and contractors.

Mr. Chairman, the traditional procedures used in other jurisdictions for designing, tendering and awarding contracts for construction projects are no longer employed by this department. All of our design, tendering and construction procedures have been significantly modified to meet the unique needs of our developing northern construction industry and economy. Whether it be to tender under the rules of the business incentive policy, to tender on the basis of northern and local content only, to negotiate general contracts, construction management contracts, design/build contracts, or any one of the several other unique approaches, these procedures have been developed in response to expressed wishes of our client departments, communities and the construction industry itself.

This year the department is co-operating with the NWT Construction Association in a pilot project in which two projects will be tendered through a bid depository approach, Subcontractors will submit their

bids to the general contractor through a depository operated by the construction association. This should enhance the openness and fairness of the bid process and facilitate the evaluation of northern subcontractor tenders over the southern. The department is co-ordinating a review of contracting bonding requirements. The objective is to find ways that northern general contractors can be assisted by reducing the requirements for contract security while protecting northern subcontractors.

Several new training initiatives will also be facilitated this coming year. The department has provided funding to the NWT Construction Association to develop a construction worker training program. This program will work in conjunction with approved capital construction projects to train residents in basic construction skills and prepare them to pursue further training and employment in construction. The association has identified a number of projects that this program will be suited to run with concurrently. The NWT Construction Association is now approaching communities and regional Pathways committees for commitment and funding. Project managers will provide assistance and support as required.

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These initiatives, however, require a great deal of effort and commitment by all departments involved, as well as by community councils, residents and northern businesses. The Public Works' role in this is simply to provide a focus or residence of northern expertise for the management and control of the planning, design and construction of these projects. But it is a critical role, as the project manager will organize and co-ordinate the resources of the community, industry and the government to achieve maximum northern participation while controlling costs to approved appropriations.

One thing that all of this effort does, in addition to increasing the northern benefits from our construction activities, is to increase the cost of individual projects in terms of planning and management efforts and in purchased labour and materials.

Mr. Chairman, the message from the standing committee on finance is clear to me. We must achieve more northern spending, training and employment and business development, all with less total spending. I believe the Members understand, however, that there is an extra cost on a project-by-



project basis, but this is accompanied with greater benefits for Northerners.

Mr. Chairman, the high cost of delivering our capital facilities continue to be questioned, however. These questions are nevertheless welcome as challenges. I admit that these facilities are expensive, for the reasons that I have just mentioned such as in training lesser skilled labour and in using northern consultants and construction businesses with higher operating costs. They are also expensive because they are designed and constructed to high technical standards. These facilities must operate for a long time in a very harsh environment, and with high utility and maintenance costs. The cost of operations and maintenance of a school, for example, over 25 years can be as much as five times the cost of the initial construction. To save a few dollars in the initial construction with cheaper pumps and motors or lesser insulation or roofing systems is a false economy.

The department is aware, however, that it must continually review and refine its construction standards to reduce the costs where possible. Standards and construction details are also improved, as required, to facilitate the use of local materials and skills on particular projects. As examples, the electrical and mechanical designs for recreation centres are being reviewed with two northern contractors to develop and ensure our standards meet particular local conditions and are the lowest yet most cost effective. In another case, Leonard and Associates, the major contractor and employer in Arviat, has been invited to participate in the design of the library proposed for that community. In 1992-93 the department will initiate technical standard reviews on a regional basis, through the regional offices. In addition to involving the client departments, contractors and consultants resident in those regions or experienced in construction in those regions will have an opportunity to participate.

Mr. Chairman, I should just say a few comments about the business incentive policy. As you know, this policy allows a 15 per cent preference to northern contractors and five per cent more when the contractors are local. Public Works has co-ordinated a major effort, over the past two years, to review and revise this policy. A presentation was given to the standing committee on finance in February to outline the proposed changes. Those changes came after a long and intensive review of the policy, a review which included MLA and public input. The discussions with

the standing committee were productive and resulted in further improvements.

I would like to emphasize something I have said before in this House. The business incentive policy is designed to compensate northern businesses for their higher northern operating costs. It is not a policy which in itself can create the kinds of training and employment opportunities that Northerners should expect from government purchasing and construction programs. The review identified that the policy was not effective in creating training or employment and that northern contractors, as well as those from the South, had to import most of their labour and materials from the South. We have a skills shortage in the North that must be addressed by other means.

Cabinet appreciates the frustration of MLAs and Northerners with this situation and is committed to addressing them through the government's capital construction program by better focusing resources and initiatives. The business incentive policy should be enhanced and streamlined to focus on business development. But to establish an absolute preference policy when we know the required skills and materials are not available in the North will only necessitate expenditures of valuable effort and limited dollars to manage all of the exceptions to the policy. I believe that we can better achieve our objectives with an improved BIP in combination with initiatives such as I have outlined.

Mr. Chairman, I apologize for taking so much time in opening remarks when our actual capital request is quite small. But I have listened carefully to the discussions and concerns raised during the debate of the capital bill. They are concerns that I share as an MLA and am now committed to addressing as the Minister responsible for much of this government's capital construction program.

The capital projects managed by the Department of Public Works have significant social and cultural impact on northern communities, but as has been illustrated by this debate in the past, there is much to do in improving the planning that goes into developing the capital program. We will contribute our expertise to the communities and departments in that task. Further, as made clear during the standing committee on finance review, Public Works is a significant economic instrument. The department understands its accountability to this Legislature, to cabinet, and to Northerners in this respect. We will continue to undertake this role in ways which make most effective use of that instrument. The deputy minister has

already met with the NWT Construction Association and a committee of northern consultants to reinforce that message and to tell them that government and industry must work together to further resolve these issues.

With the support of the northern construction industry, and in co-operation with communities, I am confident that we can improve the benefits of construction activities to northern residents and business. We will be able to do more with less.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to answer questions from the Members.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you like to call your witnesses?

**HON. DON MORIN:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring in my witnesses, Bob Doherty, deputy minister of DPW, and Dave Waddell, finance director.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**--- Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): You may proceed, Mr. Minister. Please introduce your witnesses.

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**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Dave Waddell and to my right is Bob Doherty.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Todd.

#### **Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance**

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, let me commend the Minister for the excellent introduction of his budget. It is good stuff. I think it is sincere and the kind of stuff that we have all talked about. Certainly, the current Member talked about it many times when he was in the Legislative Assembly. Clearly, we have to look at the capital budget and the budget of the Northwest Territories as an economic instrument to ensure that maximum benefits go to all Northerners both in employment and in the private sector. The initiatives the standing committee on finance and the current Minister of Public Works is

bringing forward are commendable and in keeping with strong feeling held by most of the Members of this Legislature.

With respect to the capital budget per se, the Public Works capital budget, there was some concern that in these difficult times perhaps office renovations for civil servants at this particular time may not necessarily be a reflection of our needs and perhaps there should be a re-examining of that.

There was also some concern that perhaps the standards -these palatial palaces that some people reside in -- are a little high when you consider the majority of people are having a difficult time finding employment and finding houses, et cetera. As I say on many occasions, and as I will say until we get running water in houses, there are people without running water in their homes.

On the business incentive policy, the committee noted and I know the Minister as a former MLA spoke strongly to it that there has been significant improvement in the "buy North" policy over the years. Everybody has to be commended for that. We do give credit when credit is due. In this case, it is due.

However, like everything else, there is always room for improvement. The business incentive policy is an important economic instrument for bringing about change in this country, in the North. The NWT is in a different situation than the rest of Canada when it comes to unemployment. Our skill level is low, and our job opportunities are few. Northerners have to see changes happening now in order to have hope and to be optimistic for a job for an opportunity in the future. This is not something we should talk about. This is something that we should do. We do not need 20 reasons why we cannot do something. We only need one reason why we should do it.

The committee is prepared to support the government if they will do things differently, as has been suggested in the speech by the Minister. The standing committee on finance believes that northern employers will be more conscientious in the recruitment, hiring and training of Northerners than southern ones. But, also, the standing committee on finance agrees that we have to put in some necessary checks and balances to ensure that Northerners, particularly in the employment field, do behave and perform in a manner which is acceptable to the Legislature. As well, to put in place positive reinforcement to working toward maximum job creation in the expenditure of territorial funds.

The standing committee on finance will recommend that the government implement the policy directive given by the Legislative Assembly which will permit only companies resident in the Northwest Territories and who meet the government's business incentive policy to tender in all GNWT contracts. This is consistent with the previous standing committee on finance, and consistent with many speeches the current Minister has made with respect to this policy.

The committee believes that the "buy North" policy should be implemented immediately. Government should keep it simple and practical, and stop referring to it as an absolute preference. Government should work with employers to provide on-the-job training and provide positive reinforcement for employers to "buy North" and "hire North." This likely means taking a totally different creative way to get the job done, as we have talked about and as you have addressed in your speech, which we appreciate. All government contracts for goods and services, not just construction, should be part of that business incentive policy.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I am certainly encouraged by the Minister's comments today. But you know, there is an old saying that action speaks louder than words. We certainly hope that six or eight months from now what has been suggested and what has been recommended will be put into effect, and that the net effect to Northerners will be a plus, not a negative. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. I should note that this was the chairman's remarks. General comments. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

#### **Members Concerns Regarding Department Of Public Works Budget**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the comments I want to make with respect to concerns on the Department of Public Works have been echoed by the chairman of the standing committee on finance. But, at the same time, I want to indicate some concerns with regard to the budget that is being proposed.

My main concern, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that, quite precisely, the government has been telling this Legislative Assembly that there is no funding and that we are in a time of fiscal restraint. We have all come to acknowledge and accept that and have tried to deal with the financial position that we are in. But, at the

same time, it appears that if you look at this department's budget, when you take into consideration the amount of funding they are using for renovations and the amount of funding they are using for purchasing of vehicles, it is basically serving the organization, which is the government; you look at probably 51 per cent of this particular budget being utilized in either building upgrades or renovation upgrades, which in itself takes 40 per cent. Mobile and other equipment is 13 per cent. Fifty-three per cent of this budget is to either purchase vehicles or to do office renovations. I am concerned with the way they are prioritizing their plans on how to address the needs of the North.

We have many different programs in the government that are going to be facing cuts. We are looking at being scrutinized to a degree because of the cost. Yet, the department is allowed to look at renovating office space and purchasing vehicles for civil servants. What I am concerned about is the fact that this department is being, to quite a degree, self-serving of the government for civil servants. Here we are telling the people of the North that there is no money to purchase this or to do that, but it is okay for us to buy new vehicles for our civil servants to drive around. It is okay for us to be self-righteous and renovate office buildings to suit our needs. I think this is the wrong type of message to send out to the people of the North. I think it is wrong for the government to do that.

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I have indicated to the standing committee on finance that when you look at the Department of Public Works, I find that a good portion of their budget, even though they stimulate the economy and assist the contractors accordingly -- and I believe everybody recognizes that -- is being self-serving. This is the concern I have. I recognize the Minister has some changes to office renovations. He indicated that he will consider cutting back by \$200,000, and he should be commended for that, but at the same time I do not know whether \$200,000 is really enough when you look at the total amount of your office renovations as we go into the details of the budget. You do office renovations only in Yellowknife, which is \$750,000. So \$200,000 is just a small portion. When you look at your total office renovations, I think they come to \$1.8 million. What portion is \$200,000?

I am concerned that if we are going to do things such as send a signal out to the people of the North that there is no money to be able to address issues that

we face in the North and that we are going to spend money at the same time to address concerns of the civil servants who have jobs when many people in the North do not have jobs, I believe we are failing into a wrong type of mode in how we want to serve the people of the North.

I do want to indicate to the Minister that I am still concerned by the fact that 53 per cent of his budget is to be self-serving. I recognize that he cut \$200,000, but I still think the 52 per cent of his budget addresses the civil servants and I do not believe it is serving the people's needs. It is addressing the people's needs of the Government of the NWT, but not the people of the North. I do want him to be fully aware that I am still concerned with the budget that he is presenting to the Assembly.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): General comments on Public Works. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the main reason for our capital budget is to supply a service to the client departments. At the appropriate time I will introduce a motion to reduce by \$200,000 the Yellowknife accommodation services. What is left in Yellowknife is about \$550,000, and \$150,000 of that goes to Fort Rae, \$100,000 to reinforce the floor in the courthouse and \$300,000 for office renovations to accommodate the Department of Safety and Public Services. This is no expansion, just renovation of very poor office space. As of February we have 79 leases with northern and native owned companies and that is approximately nine million dollars a year in business to northern businesses for office space.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, I was not going to dwell on the point and I do not want the Minister to come in defence in regard to the comments I made, but the point I would like to make to the Minister is that he has to bring forth to the cabinet, in respect to this whole budget, the fact that this budget, particularly out of his total budget of \$4.5 million, \$1.8 million is being used for office renovations, regardless of who it is going to. And \$1.8 million is serving civil servants which is depriving the ability of funding to be released so that programs can be addressed and concerns can be addressed in the Territories.

I think that is the point I want. I know the Minister is responsible for delivering services on behalf of all

other departments; I recognize that and I recognize that it is not his budget alone, that it is on behalf of the total government departments that he wants to address these concerns. But I think the concern has to be expressed to cabinet, the fact that if we are going to go out and tell people of the North there is no money, I think at the same time we have to practise as a government and government offices have to make every effort to practise that there is no money and they just have to leave with the walls they currently have. I think it is critical that that concern be addressed, and just to renovate because you have a budget amount allocated should not be entertained as readily as it used to be. That is the specific point I want to make.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree. People should have to justify renovations to their buildings. Departments will have to justify renovations a lot more in this time of very little cash. Even in the communities the renovations that they need, they are going to have to justify them. If a social worker needs an office, everything will have to be justified more. It is not a bottomless pit, guaranteed. So everything will be watched closely.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** If there are limited dollars what are we going to do about it? That is all we are trying to say here. When I look at four boardrooms in one office building for the Department of Health, when I go into some of these offices and see what people have, the rain is not coming through the roof, the heat is on and the carpet gets cleaned and the garbage gets picked up. So I think we have to get down to basics here. It is almost like a revolving door. Every time you turn around somebody is moving from one office to another to another. Renovations going all over the place.

I think Mrs. Marie-Jewell has a point here. We have to give ourselves a shake here. People are doing not bad from what I see. They also have a reasonable salary, not a bad lifestyle, running water, flush toilets. So are these kinds of expenditures really necessary when we have more critical things to address? I think we have to get that message through to people that maybe you have to put up with a little less. We are saying it to everybody else out there. You are saying it to the regions, you are saying it to councils. Why not say it to the civil service.

In the overall pitch of things, it is not a significant dollar issue, but in terms of perception it is important. Public perception should be that we all must take our share of pain, if that is what we all want to do, until good times come, and I understand they are going to be rolling in soon, according to Mr. Pollard anyway. But I think that is what we are trying to say, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will make sure that we send a letter to all the client department and government offices that renovations will be kept to a minimum, and we will make sure that your concerns are expressed to them.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. General comments. If not, does the committee wish to go page by page? Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of comments on what my colleagues have been saying, again, that this is one of the departments that has direct expenditures in every community. A lot of the major projects are visible ones, where people can go to work in the morning and do something and get paid for it, and there are a lot of casual wages related to the construction projects. There is also the contract work, and the one that the Minister is quite aware of, related to use of natural resources, the piling. There has been a tendency, I think, to use imported

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piling, steel or whatever other material they use these days instead of wood piles, or the logs. Various regions in the North have sufficient logs and timber resources that can be used, and I think the Minister is well aware of the positions of the people I represent, and their feelings that where we can, the department, for any kind of construction, should use available local resources. These resources are not only for piling but for rough timber and supports for construction, for utilidors in Inuvik or whatever, for sidewalks, things like that. Way back, years ago, there used to be good winter projects, or these make-work projects, using local resources to build sidewalks and wharves and whatever else, using local labour and timber.

The other aspect, in line with that, and I know you mentioned it in your preamble about buying North, using North, hiring North, designing North. I had mentioned it in a few other areas, too, where, as much as possible, we should use the local or NWT

resources and expertise. You made a statement today about the fact that we are exporting our expertise to Russia now, and it is there. We just have to utilize more and more of it, wherever it is available, and the more local the better, and in many cases, regionalize. I know the business incentive program is looking at localizing a lot of it, but in many cases it almost becomes a detriment, because most firms are regionalized rather than in a small community. They work out of a community like Inuvik or Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit rather than the smaller communities. Consequently, two or three companies are competing for the same contract within the region, but they may not get the extra five per cent, whatever it is that is proposed in the new business incentive policy. We do not want to discriminate, I guess, against the local contractors, but they should be equal and have fair opportunity at contracts.

So I support the initiatives you are taking, and as John mentioned, the proof will be in the pudding this summer, and not in this round but in the next round, when we go through this exercise. That is all I wanted to say. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Members, Mr. Koe and Mr Todd. Talk is cheap, and you need action; you need jobs in the communities; and I would like to thank the Member for bringing to my attention this issue of pilings in the Inuvik area. Wherever available, DPW will buy northern pilings, and they will use them on their projects. That is a guarantee.

When we were developing the proposed business incentive policy and one part that was accepted by the previous cabinet was 15 per cent northern and five per cent local, so that is what everybody told the previous government to do, I guess, and that is what was done, and that portion of it seems to be working fairly well. It needs improvement, and we have submitted that to cabinet. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. General comments.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Page by page.

**Directorate**

**Buildings And Works, Headquarters,  
Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page by page? Okay. Page 10-11, Department of Public Works, detail of capital, directorate, buildings and works, total region, \$60,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total buildings and works, \$60,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Directorate, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total activity, \$60,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** Before we get off this, again, whether it is under this activity or not, a general comment in terms of construction and size of capital projects. Again, it ties in with the business incentive program, but also the capabilities of contractors, especially local contractors who may not be able to put up the security for the bid -- I think it is a five per cent bid bond and a five per cent security bond that are required in a lot of contracts, A lot of our contractors do not have the bonding, and because of the size of the contracts they cannot put up a lot of the front-end moneys. I have mentioned it to the Minister before, and I will reiterate it, that where possible the size of contracts should be broken down so that local contractors can bid with the bigger contractors.

In a lot of cases your bigger contractors come in from the South; they can afford the security bond; they have proper bonding, and the smaller contractors cannot compete for large contracts, so where possible, break them down so that your local contractors can compete and be a little more successful.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a problem for smaller businesses starting out -- the security issue. DPW is right now working with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to try to address that issue as well as the construction association. We already are trying to break contracts down and make them smaller so that people can bid on them. We will continue to try to do our best, and we should have something, hopefully this year, for consideration of cabinet so that our northern businesses can benefit and get the jobs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Total activity, \$60,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Project Management**

**Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 10-13, project management, buildings and works, total region, \$575,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total buildings and works, \$575,000. Agreed?

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**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Project Management, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Project management, total capital, \$575,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Accommodation Services  
Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 10-15. Detail of capital, accommodation services, buildings and

works, headquarters, total region, \$750,000. Agreed?  
Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like to move a motion at this time. Whereas the standing committee on finance has recommended that the GNWT re-examine its priorities and standards for offices and any other renovations and put forward only those exceptional items that are essential and basic necessities; now therefore, I move that the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Public Works under the activity "accommodation services" for the project, office renovations/tenant improvements, Yellowknife, be reduced in the amount of \$200,000. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): I will ask the Clerk to review the wording. There is no requirement during committee of the whole to include the whereas section in your motion. You can simply make a motion in your second paragraph. Do you agree with this?

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are right, of course. I will withdraw the motion and make another one, if this is fine with you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**--- Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Are you going to make this motion now or later?

**Motion To Reduce Project Office  
Renovations/Tenant Improvements, Yellowknife,  
By \$200,000, Carried**

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make it now. I move that the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Public Works under the activity "accommodation services" for the project, office renovations/tenant improvements, Yellowknife, be reduced in the amount of \$200,000. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. The motion is in order and is being distributed. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

**---Carried**

**Detail of capital, accommodation services,  
buildings and works, headquarters, \$550,000.  
Agreed? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we recognize that the Minister has made a concerted effort to reduce the amount intended for renovations of office space under accommodation services. Recognizing this, he has requested a reduction of \$200,000. At the same time, I believe Members of this Assembly are concerned that renovations are still being addressed in the amount of \$1.6 million in this particular budget. I recognize the comments the Minister made earlier in that the budget is small and there should be no problem in passing. He apologized for the length of his opening remarks. I want to note that his budget is small, but even though it is small, it is highly self-serving for civil servants. It is a concern to Members on this side of the House.

**Motion To Defer All Office Renovations Pending  
Strategy To Be Approved By Legislature, Carried**

With these comments, Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter a motion. I would like to move that this committee recommends that all office renovations be deferred until a plan is developed, and a strategy is approved by the Legislative Assembly that justifies renovations given the current fiscal reality. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Thank you. Your motion is in order and is being distributed. To the motion, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, I believe my earlier comments have indicated why this motion has been developed. There is a great concern by ordinary Members that there is a lot of funding expended in renovations, without justification. This motion is requesting that they bring forth to Members of this House, a plan and justification for renovations taking into consideration the fiscal restraint that we are in. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Question has been called. Those in favour? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

**--- Carried.**

**Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital,  
As Amended, Agreed**

Department of Public Works, total region, headquarters, \$550,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Fort Smith, total region, \$125,000. Agreed? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, can the Minister clarify or indicate the intent of the expenditure for \$125,000 in the Fort Smith Region?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you. The Government of the Northwest Territories owns the Milton building which houses the majority of the GNWT departments in the community. The intended improvements to this

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building have not been updated for several years. As a result, the present layout does not conform to efficient utilization of the space. It is proposed to commence renovations to this space occupied by the Department of Personnel, Municipal and Community Affairs and Economic Development and Tourism. That is \$125,000 in Simpson.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, it appears that the Milton building upgrade is getting \$90,000 in Fort Simpson. What expenditure is identified for the \$35,000 remaining under the Fort Smith Region?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Milton building is for the Fire Marshal upgrade.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Can I get clarification, because under the Fort Smith office renovations/tenant improvements, various Fort Smith, we have \$125,000 that we are currently being asked to vote on to determine whether we concur with this expenditure. I have asked for basically an indication of what we are going to expend this funding on. The

Minister indicated the Milton building, however, I know on page 10-18 we are going to be looking at an additional \$90,000 for the Milton building. So is the Minister indicating to this House that in addition to \$125,000 plus \$90,000 we are going to be spending \$215,000 to upgrade the Milton building in Fort Simpson?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The work schedule for that \$90,000 is for replacing the existing forced air heating and water radiation system. That is to bring the building up to code. That is our concern, that the building is up to code. What the client department is asking for in this activity we are discussing now, the client department being MACA, Economic Development and Tourism and Personnel, they are asking for this \$125,000 renovation to this same building. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Are we going to be expending approximately \$215,000 on the Milton building in Fort Simpson?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Yes.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** How old is this building? Is it government-owned or a leased building?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the age of the building; I know we bought it in 1984 and it is government-owned.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, if we purchased that building in 1984, what year was the building built?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** I do not have that information here.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dent): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** This Milton building could not be more than 20 years old and we are considering



renovations of \$215,000. I recognize that part of those renovations are to bring it up to standards. There is no intention to address the old dilapidated regional buildings that they have in Fort Smith which are probably 40 years old or older. If you look at the way it is, the halls are so narrow and it has not been up to standard for 15 or 20 years. What is the intention of the department to address the regional building in Fort Smith?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Milton building in Simpson was built by developers and it was not built very well. They went broke and we ended up with it in 1984. We bought it, then in 1989 there was a proposal from the development arm of the Simpson band to sell-lease it back to us and that fell through and we had to start upgrading it immediately to bring it up to code. That included installing a new sprinkler system and replacing the existing furnaces with boilers and a few architectural renovations. The building was in very bad shape because it was built cheaply. We ended up with it so we had to bring it up to code. The client department has also asked us to renovate it so it is better suited to their needs.

In Fort Smith there are some major renovations in the longterm plan for that building in 1995-96. Presently, that building is up to code. I believe that building is an old building that has been maintained by the government so it has been kept in good shape in the past and right now it is at code, I believe. We are looking at some major renovations in 1995-96. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Region, \$125,000. Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Fort Smith, total

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the regional building in Fort Smith, when was it last determined that that particular building was up to code? When was the heating system installed in that particular building, or was it ever changed since it was constructed?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** The assessment of all government buildings, including that one too, is every year. The heating system has never been changed; it is the original boiler system that is in good shape. It has been well-maintained by the department and it is still functioning. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Can the Minister indicate to this House, with respect to the regional building, Mr. Chairman, the age of that building?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That building was built in the early 1940s and had a major addition in the 1960s. It is older than me.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** The point that I wanted to make is that that building is well over 50 years old, and in as much as the department wants to ensure that they keep it maintained, it is probably one of the oldest buildings in the community, next to the school. I think the regional building is the oldest, then the school is the next oldest. I am somewhat concerned

that there is no intention by the department to address these fairly old buildings that I believe have probably

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to some degree used a good portion of their purpose. I want the Minister to be aware with respect to addressing the regional building, in totality, we are looking at renovations in 1995 -- I would like to ask him to consider looking at that regional building and seeing whether or not the structure, the building itself, and even other methods should be considered, such as a lease-purchase, or maybe even giving consideration to leasing a building for regional purposes out of the Fort Smith office, which would greatly reduce the capital costs for future renovations of a 50-some year old building. Would the Minister consider this suggestion, as opposed to looking at renovations to the building?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you. That building is an old building. It must have been built well by people in Fort Smith because it is still standing and is in good shape. My information is that a new building, if we had to replace it -- the estimated cost to replace that building is three million dollars. We could rent for \$450,000 a year; that is what it would cost us. It would bring the operations and maintenance down by \$15,000 a year, but we would spend \$450,000 to pay for that cost. It is an old building, and I am willing to

look at it and see what is best for everybody concerned.

**Buildings And Works, Fort Smith,  
Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Total region, \$125,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Inuvik,  
Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Inuvik, total region, \$334,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Baffin,  
Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Baffin, total region, \$400,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Keewatin,  
Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Keewatin, total region, \$150,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot,  
Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Kitikmeot, total region, \$45,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Total Capital,  
As Amended, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Total buildings and works, \$1,604,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Accommodation Services, Total Capital, As  
Amended, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Total activity, \$1,604,000.**

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Not everybody agreed.

**Buildings And Works**

**Buildings And Works, Headquarters,  
Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 10-18, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$1,090,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Fort Smith,  
Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Fort Smith Region, total region, \$115,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Baffin,  
Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Baffin Region, total region, \$330,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total buildings and works, \$1,535,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Baffin Region, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 10-19, equipment acquisition, Baffin, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

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**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total acquisition of equipment, \$100,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Can I go back to the power generation system in Sanikiluaq?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Proceed, Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** For power generating I thought that the government is not responsible for that. I have asked on several occasions on some power line relocation, and the government's position is that this is not their responsibility but either the Power Corporation's or else the private companies'. I am just wondering what the deal is here with regard to this.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess this goes way back to before we were around. The NWT government has got this one power system for Sanikiluaq, and we are in the process right now of negotiating with the Power Corporation to take it over. That \$100,000 is for -MACA has got to develop two new subdivisions, and they require electrical services as they are built, for new poles and supporting facilities.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** So that power generating system right now in Sanikiluaq is the responsibility of this government?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Which other community has a similar arrangement?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. None.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** What is the arrangement with Colville Lake?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it is NWT Power Corporation. It has nothing to do with DPW; I know that.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Equipment acquisition, Baffin, total region. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** How far back are we looking with the Sanikiluaq situation?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** A long, long time. I have nothing on it.

--- Laughter

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Can I safely say over 40 years ago?

**HON. DON MORIN:** I was born in 1954, but Bob says he was there in 1976 and the government was looking after it then.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Equipment acquisition, Baffin, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total acquisition of equipment, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total activity, \$1,635,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Vehicles And Equipment**

**Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 10-21. Vehicles and equipment, headquarters, equipment acquisition, total region, \$32,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Fort Smith, total region, \$84,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Inuvik, total region, \$125,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Baffin, total region, \$178,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 10-22, Keewatin, total region, \$64,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

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**Equipment Acquisition, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Kitikmeot, total region, \$17,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total acquisition of equipment, \$500,00. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Vehicles And Equipment, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total activity, \$500,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Department Of Public Works, Total Capital, As Amended**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 10-9, program summary, capital expenditures, total capital expenditures, \$4,374,000. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** There is one concern that I have with regard to DPW, and that is last week I was in Hay River on the reserve and there was vandalism that occurred in the school before my time. What has happened is that DPW is saying it is not their responsibility to do the repairs. I do not know if it is because the vandalism occurred on the reserve or the department no longer assumes responsibility over government property that is vandalized. I am wondering what the arrangements are with regard to that. I know the school was broken into and there was quite a bit of damage done and DPW has refused to do the necessary repairs or cover the cost for the repairs.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is our responsibility, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Doherty will be faxing the regional person in charge down there tomorrow morning to instruct them to do the repairs. It

is DPW's responsibility. I apologize for the holdup of the repair.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Program summary. Total capital expenditures, \$4,374,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** I did want to ask, as you were quickly going along, about the vehicles and equipment activity and the \$500,000 capital expenditure he is requesting for that particular activity. I would like to know what the standard is with respect to determining when DPW should purchase new equipment.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): I will keep that page for your question so that we do not have to get consent from the House to go back. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally, the equipment is replaced on the following basis. Small equipment such as motor toboggans is replaced after three years. Passenger vehicles are replaced after five years or 100,000 kilometres, or whichever comes first. Heavy equipment is replaced after eight years or 16,000 hours of operation, or whichever comes first. Before deciding on replacement as stated above, an inspection is carried out to assess the condition of the equipment. If the condition is found to be good, the replacement is postponed in the interest of economy. In addition, the client department is requested, before replacement, to reassess its need to replace in order to conserve government funds.

The equipment is sometimes replaced before reaching the age, mileage, hours of operation as stated above due to exceptional circumstances. For example, a unit may be beyond economic repair; the unit may present a hazard to the operator or its passenger; the unit has been involved in an accident resulting in major damage; or, the unit is no longer suitable for its original purpose.

As a result of the restraint exercise on replacement as described above, we have a large number of equipment items older than the recommended replacement age as stated above, as follows. Fifty per cent of the small equipment is older than 1987; the average year is 1983 -- seven years old. Thirty-three per cent of the passenger vehicles are older than

1985; the average year is 1982 -- eight years old. Six per cent of the heavy equipment is older than 1982; the average year is 1975 - 15 years old. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** So some measures have been placed into effect, taking into consideration the fiscal reality that we are in with respect to purchases of new vehicles. Is this correct, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Yes. We are also taking a look at our pool vehicles to see where they can better be used, or to see if we need them, or dump them, or whatever. We are looking at where departments or people could use the rental market.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** I would like to commend the Minister, and I would also like to encourage him to take every step necessary to either utilize vehicles from the public service, whether they be taxi service or whether they be rental units as opposed to purchasing new government vehicles. There is a perception by the public in the time of fiscal restraint that it is still okay for the government to purchase new vehicles. I guess the same concerns I expressed in respect to renovations of office accommodation can be applied here with new vehicles. Any other significant measures that you can take in respect to justifying the need for new vehicles or to be able to address avoiding purchases of new vehicles should certainly be considered and utilized.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** I agree. We are doing it.

#### **Department Of Public Works, Total Capital, As Amended, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Program summary, total capital expenditure, \$4,374,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**--- Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Does this committee agree that that concludes DPW? I

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): I would like to thank the Minister and your witnesses.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Members. Thank you, Bob.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): What is the wish of the committee? Bill 14, Safety and Public Services. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Mr. Chairman, let us proceed with Safety and Public Services.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Patterson.

### **Department Of Safety And Public Services**

#### **Minister's Opening Remarks**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 1992-93 capital budget for the Department of Safety and Public Services is \$50,000, a reduction of \$60,000 from the previous year. The amount in the 1992-93 capital main estimates is a relatively small amount in relation to the overall capital plan.

An amount of \$30,000 is needed by the department to meet the requirements of section 35(3) of the Mining Safety Act which states that the department shall maintain mine rescue equipment in good and serviceable condition. This amount expended in compliance with this section is fully recoverable from the active mines and is therefore recorded in vote seven as revenue. The remaining \$20,000 will be used by the department to acquire environmental testing equipment to monitor underground working conditions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Chairman of finance committee, Mr. Todd.

### **Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance**

The committee certainly does not question the need for reasonable fire safety measures, but many of these buildings have been in satisfactory condition for lengths of time without any hazard. The question we were asking ourselves is: Who is watching the watchdog to ensure that reasonable standards are being enforced? To our knowledge, at least to my knowledge as chairman of the standing committee on finance, there seems to be no appeal mechanism.

#### **Motion That Cabinet Re-Examine Safety Acts And Ensure Safety Standards, Carried**

So therefore the committee, if it may, would like to move, I would like to move that the committee recommends to the cabinet that they re-examine the relative safety acts, and a process be put in place to ensure reasonable safety standards, that reasonable safety standards are followed, the Office of the Fire Marshal is monitored, and an expeditious appeal mechanism is put into place.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Todd. Can I have your motion distributed? Will the Pages distribute the motion? Thank you. Mr. Todd, your motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Nobody is suggesting for one minute that there is no requirement for reasonable safety standards. None, whatsoever. But I think, to a person, on the committee, everybody felt that, particularly in relation to the Fire Marshal, they seemed, if you will excuse the expression, almost out of control. They were buzzing around the communities, telling people they have to meet these new standards, et cetera. We have 30 years of buildings in the Northwest Territories. We cannot solve all the upgrading problems in 30 days. We particularly cannot solve them in these difficult financial times. So there is a concern that perhaps there was a lack of appreciation for the total environment that we live in. You put a uniform on these guys and they get carried away, if I can be a little flippant. I believe we refer to them in the Keewatin as "Inspector Gadget." However, at the risk of being somewhat flippant, this is a serious issue, but the fact of the matter is that I do not think there was one single person on the standing committee on finance who had not had some difficulties, that in some of the things that were, perhaps, being asked, the total environment and the conditions we all operate under were not taken into consideration, I guess. Clearly there is a need. There is nobody

suggesting for one minute that we want anything to happen to anybody and we do not want standards, but it is the way in which we approach the changes that are necessary. It was the general feeling among Members on the standing committee on finance that, rather than working in harmony with government or with the private sector, it was more an antagonistic, confrontational situation that was taking place, and that there should be a recognition that Rome was not built in a day, and neither was the Northwest Territories, and we are not going to change some of these buildings overnight. It was having a serious impact on the capital budget, because a number of Ministers that came forward used the Fire Marshal as the bogey man, as the cabinet sometimes does when we talk about the Auditor General. "The Fire Marshal says we have to do this; therefore, we have got to expend it."

There is a perception, whether it is real or not I do not know, that there is a limited appeal mechanism in place, if the Fire Marshal or the fire chief comes into the community or into your building and says, "This has to happen," or "That has to happen." So that was another concern, and that was the reason for this motion. Probably I will have the Fire Marshal at my door tomorrow. But anyway, the fact of the matter is that, clearly, on a number of occasions, the capital budget was being driven by the Fire Marshal's request to upgrade, meet certain standards, et cetera. The financial resources are simply not available to do some of them. Hence the reason for the motion.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

**--- Carried**

General comments. Does the committee agree to go page by page?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**--- Agreed**

#### **Mine Safety**

#### **Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 8-10, detail of capital, mine safety, equipment acquisition, total region, \$50,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**--- Agreed**

#### **Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total acquisition of equipment, \$50,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**--- Agreed**

#### **Mine Safety, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total activity, \$50,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**--- Agreed**

#### **Department Of Safety And Public Services, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Then we go back to the program summary, Department of Safety and Public Services, capital expenditures, total capital expenditures,, \$50,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**--- Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Does the committee agree that we have concluded the Department of Safety and Public Services?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Mr. Chairman, can we proceed with Justice and the Executive? The \$600,000 and \$100,000 budget that we may want to try and deal with now.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): We will go to the Department of Justice. Mr. Patterson.

### Department Of Justice

#### Minister's Opening Remarks

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear today to present the capital budget of the Department of Justice for your consideration. I am sure Members agree that during a time of fiscal restraint it is important that we balance our needs between fiscal responsibility and the concern for public safety that we all share. With this in mind I am requesting 1992-93 capital funding in the amount of \$663,000 for the Yellowknife Courthouse renovation project. Mr. Chairman, the project is ongoing and is designed to address the following outstanding security issues within the building:

Firstly, modification and relocation of prisoner holding cells, away from public areas and judges' offices; the addition of young offender holding cells to separate young offenders from adult offenders; provision of adequate witness waiting areas and interview rooms; modifications to territorial court judges' chambers to ensure restricted access to the public; the provision of a secure working environment for maintenance enforcement staff; modifications to improve security of court records and exhibits; the relocation of the sheriff's office to enhance its security role within the Courthouse.

It is anticipated that completion of this project will provide a safe and secure environment within the Courthouse building for both the public and all the various people employed or interacting with the justice system. So I now invite Members to examine this budget. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Patterson. Chairman of finance committee, Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** We have no general comments on this.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:** Mr. Chairman, while this is not a matter that is in this particular budget, has the Minister considered or is he developing a memorandum of understanding on capital projects

and capital construction for the RCM Police as part of our commitment to that agreement?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to date, we have had a limited role in capital projects with the RCMP. There have been some cases where we have been able to co-operate in building requirements like housing for the police using the government's own resources; for example, if an RCMP housing unit was a GNWT housing project, but generally, we have not had a particular role in capital projects under the present agreement. However, Mr. Chairman, I can inform Members that this particular phase of the agreement is coming to an end this coming year. I will certainly be willing to take a look at greater involvement in capital projects through the renewed agreement. Thank you,

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** Is the Yellowknife Courthouse owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories, or is it leased?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, the building is leased.

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**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** If it is [leased, is this capital expenditure considered leasehold improvements?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Yes, Mr. Chairman

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** This brings the question of why could the owners not put in the leasehold improvements and charge it back as part of their lease and save us a bit of money in terms of capital?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, I think we would pay it one way or another. We would pay it through increased lease fees or we could pay it in one shot as a capital project. I guess it was determined



that rather than having an ongoing charge on the O and M budget, that the best approach would be to deal with it as a one-time capital expenditure.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** This begs another question. How long is the lease? What are the terms of the lease?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, that is information I do not have at hand. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** Can we get this information? I think it is relevant in terms of \$663,000 of capital moneys that could be used elsewhere if there are other options that could have been considered. I am not sure of all the details that were considered and put in this item in the capital budget.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to get this information as soon as possible for the committee. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. General comments on the Department of Justice. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, with regard to the Minister suggesting that we could pay either way. I am wondering whether or not it would be best to have the landlords do the renovations and then do it on a charge-back on the lease. Is this arrangement better than making a guesstimate of \$663,000 and instead getting the actual cost?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, in my opinion, with the pressures on our operations and maintenance budget that we are facing, if we are faced with a long-term annual rental commitment to pay for the additional costs of these improvements, it is preferable to put such improvements in the capital plan, pay it out once and then have no additional pressures on our operating budget. In fact, I am informed by the Minister of Finance that it is a standard policy of our government that leasehold improvements should be capitalized in this manner for those reasons. So it is the way we do all other requirements of this kind. I think it eases the pressure

and gives us more flexibility on our O and M budget. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, we are in a time of restraint. Is it the policy of the government to make improvements to leased buildings that they have? The moneys we are allocating are based on an estimate, not actual cost. The landlords of these buildings should be making the improvements themselves and billing the government for the costs of those renovations.

Are we saving money by doing it the way the Minister is suggesting? We are going to have to maintain more rooms now. Is that appropriate at this point in time? You have areas for witnesses waiting and also separate areas for prisoners, young offenders, more security for judges. Is adding more rooms saving this government money? We are allowing the capital estimates to go forward and presumably the contractor will be obliged to spend that kind of money, as opposed to the landlord doing it, then he will do it in the most efficient way to save him money and in return might save this government money.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should not give the committee the impression that this is a money-saving initiative. It is primarily a safety and security initiative. It is safety for the public, protection of young offenders from being held with adult prisoners, protection and security for judges, for people who are working in the sometimes sensitive area of enforcing maintenance orders, better protection for our court records and exhibits. So it is not really intended to be a cost-saving measure, but it is intended to protect the safety of the public and public officers in our system. So I cannot say it is going to cost less, but it may save some people from having their personal safety endangered.

As well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that this amount is an estimate. The project has been designed and would be put out to tender shortly. The actual cost may vary according to the tender bids. I assume we will get the best price that the marketplace will allow. I am not sure if this would be the case if we ask the landlord to undertake improvements. We would not have the same control over costs if it was done in that manner. Here, our Department of Public Works will be managing the project following public tenders. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you. Again, regardless of whether or not this government, the landlord or a contractor does it, it is not going to eliminate prejudice over the safety of the people that are going to be attending court. I am suggesting that whether or not the contractor, this government or the landlord does it, I think the end result is for safety and protection regardless. What I am suggesting is if the landlord has done it, we might save money. I do not know. I am just looking at whether or not this is an option in a time of restraint. We have to look at measures or ways of saving this government money. I think this is one way to do it; that is, to have the landlord make the necessary renovations to accommodate this government.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. General comments. Shall we go line by line?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

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#### **Registries And Court Services**

##### **Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Order, please. Department of Justice, page 07-9. Detail of capital for registries and court services, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$663,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

##### **Registries And Court Services, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total activity, \$663,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

##### **Department Of Justice, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Page 07-7, Department of Justice, program summary. Capital expenditures, total capital, \$663,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Does the committee agree that this concludes the Department of Justice?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Let us proceed with Executive, \$100,000.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Does the committee agree to go to the Department of Executive?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

#### **Department Of Executive**

##### **Minister's Opening Remarks**

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the absence of the Government Leader, the Department of the Executive capital estimates for 1992-93 indicate a standard ongoing requirement for minor projects for Executive offices at headquarters and the regions, In the upcoming 1992-93 fiscal year, as in the past, the funding will be used to acquire new or replacement equipment and to make minor unforeseen structural modifications within the Executive offices in the regions and here at headquarters. That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. I will try to answer any questions on behalf of the Government Leader. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Chairman of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Todd,

**MR. TODD:** We have no general comments on this, Mr. Chairman. There may be some individual comments by Members.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:** So that I do not prolong this discussion, I want to ask Mr. Pollard if he could provide the details of the projects. Not necessarily now, but later on.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Yes I will, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): General comments. Line by line?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

#### **Executive Council Secretariat**

##### **Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Detail of capital, page 02-9, buildings and works, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

##### **Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total buildings and works, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### **Executive Council Secretariat, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Total activity, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed,

--- Agreed

#### **Department Of Executive, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 02-7, program summary, capital expenditures, total capital expenditures, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Does the committee agree that this concludes the Executive?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): I would like to thank Mr. Pollard. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:** Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Those in favour of the motion? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

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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. Chairman.

**MR. ARVALUK:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 14 and Committee Report 3-12(2) and wishes to report progress, with six motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Item 20, third reading of bills. Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day. Mr. Patterson,

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to returns to oral questions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to returns to oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays; proceed, Mr. Patterson.

#### **REVERT TO ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Return To Question O341-12(2): Changes To NWT Act In Federal Parliament**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Lewis asked today about the status of a bill to amend the Northwest Territories Act to confirm the amendment to the Official Languages Act of the NWT which will extend the time for making all statutory instruments in English and in French to September 30, 1992. The bill has received third reading in the House of Commons, and I understand it was scheduled to be introduced to the Senate today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Returns to oral questions. Item 21, orders of the day.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE:** Mr. Speaker, meetings for this evening: at 6:00 p.m., the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions, followed immediately by a meeting of the standing committee on finance; at 8:30 tomorrow morning, the special committee on constitutional reform; at 10:30 a.m., of the ordinary Members' caucus; and at 12:00 noon, the full caucus.

**ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 25, 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: Bills 26 and 27
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); Motion 6- 12(2); Bills 21 and 25
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, March 25, 1992.

**--- ADJOURNMENT**