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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arvaluk, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Ms. Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Hon. John Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Todd, Hon. Tony Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Thursday, March 26, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Government Leader, Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 46-12(2): Regulation Of NWT Power Corporation

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise Members of the pending changes to the regulatory regime in which the Northwest Territories Power Corporation operates. Since purchase of the corporation from the federal government in May 1988, regulation of the corporation has been a combined responsibility. The Government of the Northwest Territories has had authority in the areas of budget approval and rate setting, while the Public Utilities Board has been responsible for revenue requirements and terms and conditions of service.

It was the previous government's intention, and I would affirm the intention of this government, to establish the Northwest Territories Power Corporation as a going concern responsive to northern needs and to offer the corporation for private sector participation.

Consistent with that objective, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act was amended during the eighth session of the 11th Assembly. This amendment gave the Public Utilities Board, the PUB, the authority to set the rates of the corporation. This regulatory regime is consistent with that of Centra Power and Northland Utilities and will come into effect April 1, 1992.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories maintains authority over the corporation, as

owner, and may issue directives to the corporation as required. The corporation remains accountable to this Assembly through myself, as Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. ,

The Public Utilities Board was established to protect the public interest in the supply of energy throughout the Northwest Territories by public utilities and to remove the opportunity for political influence. As of April 1, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation will be subject to the same review, accountability and regulation as any public utility operating in the Northwest Territories.

Since 1988, the corporation has prepared for transfer to an independent regulatory environment. In December 1989, the corporation made a submission to the Public Utilities Board with respect to revenue requirements and terms and conditions of service. In 1990, at the request of the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Public Utilities Board conducted an electrical rate structure review of all utilities, including the NWT Power Corporation. Finally, in April 1991, the corporation submitted a cost of service methodology to the Public Utilities Board. Each submission to the Public Utilities Board included a thorough public consultation process and resulted in clear directives from the PUB to the corporation.

During the next several months, the corporation will participate in public hearings into its current revenue requirement submission. The corporation then intends to file a cost of service study, incorporating the PUB's December 1991 recommendations, and to file a rate zone proposal.

I am confident that these regulatory changes, coupled with operational experience, will result in further improvements in the delivery of electrical service and profitability by the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as Members know, I have returned from a trip to Ottawa. If Members would like, I could make a report today or tomorrow. There was not ample time for translation...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Ms. Cournoyea. There is no statement filed.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as I began, I said the statement was not filed because I

have just returned from Ottawa, and I would like to offer to the Legislative Assembly, today, a statement as an emergency statement. although it can wait until tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has just indicated it is an emergency statement. Proceed, please.

Ministers' Statement 47-12(2): First Ministers' Conference On The Economy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members.

I would like to take the opportunity today to inform Members of the Legislative Assembly of the discussions at the recent First Ministers' Conference on the Economy.

To begin with, it is important to note that the Government of the Northwest Territories was a full and equal participant. Officials were part of each and every working group. I believe this is a sign of the growing acceptance and recognition of the North's place in Canadian confederation.

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AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Because the meetings covered many of the different issues and areas, I will not try to summarize them. Rather, I would like to focus on the North's interests and concerns and thereby illustrate why we must continue to be at each of these meetings.

The discussions focused on eight topic areas including social programs, training, investment in infrastructure, interprovincial trade, international trade, fisheries, agriculture and crossborder shopping.

Social Programs

The discussion on social programs focused primarily on health care and the need to find more cost-effective ways of delivering this vital service. Ideas which were debated included increased efforts to promote health and prevent illness and disabilities; reduced reliance on hospital and medical doctors in favour of more flexible community-based care; development of national health goals and objectives; and increased public input and awareness of health issues.

What is of particular importance is how far ahead this territory and Assembly are in these areas. We have already initiated public awareness programs focused at preventing the need for high-cost treatment. Consultations are already under way with regional health boards as to the best model of health care delivery. Finally, a special committee on health and social services has been established by this Assembly.

Training

The second issue area included not only training in the narrow institutional sense but brought in all facets of education, social insurance, unemployment insurance and on-the-job training. The consensus which emerged was that there must be greater flexibility and willingness by the federal government within a broad national framework to allow for a redesign of current programs to address regional human resource development needs.

A new round of consultation between federal officials and representatives of provinces, territories and the private sector will soon be initiated. The Government of the Northwest Territories intends to participate actively in these discussions so that the changes to the current system will allow us to use social assistance and training funds more effectively to help train people and assist them in seeking out jobs rather than pay for them to stay at home.

Investment In Infrastructure

The third issue area, investment in infrastructure, received a great deal of debate. All First Ministers saw it as a means of creating jobs in the short term while investing in long-term economic opportunities. Roads, wharves and other forms of infrastructure will be a key component in unlocking the Northwest Territories' huge resource and tourist potential. A new federal cost-sharing highways program would allow us to upgrade and build vital infrastructure which we could otherwise not afford. At the same time, it would free up funds to spend on other infrastructure initiatives such as airports or resource-based facilities. This initiative has been fast-tracked, and I hope to be able to report back to MLAs very soon.

Interprovincial Trade

On the fourth subject, interprovincial trade, I am able to announce immediate implications for the Northwest Territories. First Ministers agreed to move aggressively to reduce all forms of internal trade

barriers such as subsidies, contracting restrictions, procurement rules, and restrictions to labour mobility. However, as part of this initiative, we were able to achieve a special exemption for the Northwest Territories in light of its high level of unemployment and cost of doing business. In conjunction with the business incentive policy and other initiatives designed to maximize northern benefits from our capital spending, this should help northern businesses in these tough economic times.

The areas which were of lesser interest to the Northwest Territories international trade, agriculture and cross-border shopping received little discussion. But the final one, fisheries, did provide us with an important opportunity to press our point. We were successful in ascertaining our role in all facets of the Atlantic fishery and the management of those fish stocks off Baffin Island. This included clear and unequivocal recognition of all provisions of aboriginal land claims agreements which provide for the participation of aboriginal people in this important economic resource.

Mr. Speaker, this has only been a short summary of a day and a half of very intense discussions, and I have tried to outline only the key issues to the Northwest Territories. Of equal importance was the tone and conduct of the meetings themselves. All First Ministers recognize the grave economic situation facing the country and the need to work cooperatively in dealing with these problems. As we face the tough choices brought on by difficult financial times, I believe we in this House will have to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister's statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Formation Of Kiguti Dental Services, Keewatin

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to inform this House of the formation of Kiguti Dental Services. Kiguti Dental Services is a joint venture between the Tapiriit Development Corporation of the Keewatin and the Adam Dental Clinic out of Yellowknife and Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most exciting aspects of this development is its marriage of dental care expertise, as provided by the staff of the Adam Dental Clinic,

and strong Inuit participation as provided by the Tapiriit Development Corporation.

--- Applause

Mr. Speaker, up to now dental services have been provided from the South and, to put it bluntly, teeth in the Keewatin are in bad shape. With the formation of Kiguti Dental Services, Inuit will no longer be merely patients; they will play an integral role in the decision-making process.

Kiguti Dental Services will begin operating at the end of this month with a staff of nine residing in Rankin Inlet. This means dental services will now be provided by residents rather than outsiders. It also means tax revenues will belong to the Northwest Territories, rather than Manitoba, and that additional jobs will be created in Rankin Inlet as local businesses provide logistic services.

I should also point out that the switch to these dental services from those provided out of Manitoba will not add any additional costs to the health care system in the Northwest Territories. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Kiguti will operate as a non-profit organization and any surplus revenues will be used to improve the state of dental health care in the Keewatin.

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I think this development shows that the people of Keewatin have once again taken the initiative to make changes which will better their socio-economic circumstances.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not reiterate a point I made in my Member's statement on Tuesday -- that this government has gone on long enough about downsizing, postponing projects and reducing the size of government. It is time to move on; build consumer and investor confidence to ensure the long-term health of the economy of the Northwest Territories. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, the people of the Keewatin understand this and have done exactly that. Thank you.

--- Applause

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O313-12(2): Conservation Plan For Peary Caribou

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O313-12(2), asked by Mr. Ludy Pudluk on March 12, 1992. A Peary caribou recovery plan is being developed by a team of caribou researchers from across Canada. The chairman is a biologist from the Department of Renewable Resources. She wrote a letter last year to hunters and trappers associations' presidents informing them that the Peary caribou recovery team was established and that communities would be involved in making management decisions. Meetings or workshops will be held with communities in the High Arctic when a draft recovery plan is developed.

Residents of Resolute and Grise Fiord are concerned about the low numbers of Peary caribou and have voluntarily reduced the harvest. The Department of Renewable Resources had been providing funds to assist residents to travel to other hunting areas. Until Peary caribou increase in numbers, the department will continue, as much as possible, to assist residents to obtain caribou from other areas. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O231-12(2): Negotiation Of Agreement With Federal Departments

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O231-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on March 3, 1992. The Canada/Northwest Territories Accord, currently under negotiation for a five-year extension, has been in place in the Northwest Territories on a year-to-year basis since 1987. The accord was designed to redirect money previously spent on social assistance, for the development of new training and work experience programs. These programs are directed to social assistance recipients to enhance their employment opportunities.

The new agreement proposes that both the federal government, through the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, and the territorial government, through the Department of Social Services, will continue to provide \$750,000 from each government, for a total of \$1.5 million toward funding employment enhancement projects. The Department

of Education is a partner to the agreement, as is Health and Welfare Canada.

The Department of Social Services retains the responsibility for referral of clients to the projects. During the first three years of the agreement the Government of the Northwest Territories' funding of \$750,000 was transferred to Canada Employment and Immigration Commission for administration along with the federal portion under their Canadian job strategy program.

During the last two years, approximately half of the Government of the Northwest Territories' portion was administered by the Department of Education through their training-on-the-job program, and half by Arctic College through their upgrading and specialized skill development programs. Canada Employment and Immigration Commission will continue to administer their portion through their Canadian job strategy program. The Department of Social Services retained the client referral responsibility to all administrative bodies.

The new agreement proposes to continue the current arrangement for five years, from 1991 to 1996. The five year extension will allow more time for planning projects and allow clients to embark on career paths from upgrading, to training on the job, to job placement.

The agreement recognizes that the Government of the Northwest Territories will administer the accord by utilizing two committee structures: regional committees made up of representatives from Canada Employment and Immigration, Social Services and Education, who will approve projects submitted by community groups; 2) a management committee in Yellowknife made up of similar representation which will provide policy guidelines and administrative procedures.

Mr. Speaker, approximately 250 social assistance recipients per year have participated in the accord projects in the past. Some participants may remain on from year to year to accommodate their upgrading, training and job placement needs.

The five-year agreement is in the final draft process and is expected to be finalized and signed in early spring of 1992. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O382-12(2): Clarification Of The Process The Minister Stands Behind Re Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, in reviewing unedited Hansard of yesterday, when we discussed the issue of abortions with the Minister of Health, the Minister replied, 'I stand behind the process that we have.' I would like to ask the Minister if he can explain to this House what is the process that they have,

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get a clarification if this is the process of complaints by patients.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell, if you could clarify the process you are referring to.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, my question was formulated from page 1623 of unedited Hansard. It was asked by one of my colleagues, Mr. Nerysoo, in respect to how he was going to address the matter with department officials in regard to medical procedures regarding abortions with the hospital.

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Mr. Speaker, maybe for further clarification, if I may be allowed to preamble prior to my question, the fact is that he did indicate that there is a proper process that he stands behind. What is the process? Is it a medically standard procedure?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O382-12(2): Clarification Of The Process The Minister Stands Behind Re Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I see the point that the Member is raising. As I mentioned yesterday, the Stanton board has been asked to conduct a review of hospital abortion practices or procedures. The review will be done by someone who does not work for the hospital or the Department of Health. It will be comprehensive, objective and respect the confidentiality of patients. It will be open to outside input. And finally, the conclusions and recommendations of the review will be made available to the public and Members of this House. I will circulate my letter that I have written to the Stanton board on the matter later this afternoon.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that we are prepared to have Dr. Kinloch of the Department of Health, and the executive director of the hospital, Ms. Olenek, available as professional witnesses during the discussions on my capital budget in committee of the whole, to answer specific questions on abortion procedures. We are also attempting to arrange a suitable time for representatives of the hospital board and staff and my department to meet with the media to answer any questions that they might have on this.

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

Supplementary To Question O382-12(2): Clarification Of The Process The Minister Stands Behind Re Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, that does not answer my question, but I will pursue the issue at hand. Yesterday the Minister indicated, and I checked unedited Hansard, that he was going to look into this matter through a public review. Later on in question period, at the point that I did ask him about the public review, he did indicate that he did not state it was a public review, and when I asked him to check Hansard he said he would check Hansard and correct his statement. I have not heard any correction to the statement that he made. Could the Minister now clarify what type of review will be conducted into this matter? and will it be a public review as he stated publicly?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return Question O382-12(2): Clarification Of The Process The Minister Stands Behind Re Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the honourable Member for bringing this to my attention. I did mention to her yesterday that I did state in this House, and as I was talking I guess I did say a lot, and in error I said the word "public," that it would be a public statement. It is going to be a review, and the results will be made public. It is not going to be a public review, but it will be an independent review and the results and the recommendations will be made public.

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

Supplementary To Question O382-12(2): Clarification Of The Process The Minister Stands Behind Re Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Taking into consideration that the Minister will be doing a review in respect to this matter, can the Minister inform this House when he expects that this review will be completed and a report received by his office?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return Question O382-12(2): Clarification Of The Process The Minister Stands Behind Re Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are endeavouring to proceed with this matter with all haste, but as with anything else, we have time against us. I will endeavour to have the committee in place by the first of April, and the results of this will certainly be presented to the House in June.

MR. SPEAKER: New question, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O383-12(2): Abortion Issues Brought To Attention Of Minister

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: If I may ask a new question to the same Minister. I was somewhat astounded, as I kept reading through the unedited Hansard of yesterday, that when I asked the Minister yesterday if the issue of the medical procedures used in abortions have ever been brought to his attention or his department officials' attention, he indicated it was never brought to his attention. I would like to quote Hansard, in one particular area, where he has many time discussed issues with the executive director of the Status of Women Council to the degree where he states, and I quote: "I meet the executive director quite frequently in different social functions, and this has never been addressed to me." Does the Minister expect that the issue of abortions and medical procedures should be addressed to him at social functions?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O383-12(2): Abortion Issues Brought To Attention Of Minister

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I also did state in Hansard somewhere along the way here that I am a very public person and I think I was referring to the fact that I do meet many people, and I certainly meet the executive director at many social functions. I do not anticipate that we will discuss the issue of abortion at a social function. However, it is a medium for the meeting of the member and the Minister, and certainly at a time like that it could be said that you

have a problem that you would like to discuss at another time. I think this is what I was referring to. At a time like that, they can say they have something to talk about and arrange a time. That is what I was meaning by that.

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

Supplementary To Question O383-12(2): Abortion Issues Brought To Attention Of Minister

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Has the Minister been able to ascertain whether or not his department officials were aware of the medical procedures used in respect to abortions and brought to the department's attention?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O383-12(2): Abortion Issues Brought To Attention Of Minister

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I can only

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reiterate my offer to have my assistant deputy minister of the Department of Health and the executive director from the hospital, Ms. Olenek, to be made available to answer any technical questions that may be asked.

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

Supplementary To Question O383-12(2): Abortion Issues Brought To Attention Of Minister

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Minister may want to bring the issue into committee of the whole for discussion, but I am asking the Minister a question. Have department officials been aware of the issue prior to it becoming a public issue? The Minister indicated, yesterday, that he would determine and ascertain from his department whether or not it was brought to their attention. I would like to know whether it was brought to the department's attention. He did not answer my previous question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O383-12(2): Abortion Issues Brought To Attention Of Minister

HON. TONY WHITFORD: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. I apologize to Members. That was a new question by Mrs. Marie-Jewell. I should have gone to Mr. Todd for a new question. Mr. Todd.

Question O384-12(2):Lack Of Departmental Communication To Minister Of Health

MR. TODD: It is not my intent to prolong the debate on this abortion issue; however, I do have a bureaucratic concern with respect to it. I have some concerns that officials at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital and/or the Department of Health may have been with holding information from the Minister. At 11:15 o'clock this morning, I spoke to Lynn Brooks of the Status of Women Council. Ms. Brooks confirms that she raised this issue in detail during a lengthy conversation with Dr. Richard Nuttal, who is the regional medical health officer in the Department of Health. She also indicated that she had discussed women's complaints about the abortion procedures with Dr. Donald Hadley at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, as well as with Dr. Jack Bromley of the NWT Medical Association. This is what the lady told me at 11:15 o'clock this morning. These medical professionals were aware of this problem. Did they bother to convey this knowledge to the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O384-12(2): Lack Of Departmental Communication To Minister Of Health

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

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

Supplementary To Question O384-12(2):Lack Of Departmental Communication To Minister Of Health

MR. TODD: Recognizing that subsection 5(e) of the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act gives the Minister the authority to ensure that adequate standards are maintained in hospitals, is it the Minister's position that these officials should have advised him directly that standards pertaining to surgical procedures used for abortion had been drawn into question by complaints from the Status of Women Council? Should they?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Supplementary O384-12(2): Lack Of Departmental Communication To Minister Of Health

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have no way of knowing or ascertaining what took place in the conversation between a doctor and the executive director of the Status of Women Council, and what the conclusion of that conversation may have been. Therefore, I would have no way of knowing whether or not the doctor should have conveyed anything to me as a result of that alleged conversation that may have taken place.

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

Supplementary To Question O384-12(2):Lack Of Departmental Communication To Minister Of Health

MR. TODD: I never got an answer to my question. I asked if it is the Minister's position that his officials, who were advised of the problem by the executive director of the Status of Women Council, should have advised him directly. Are his officials with holding information from him?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford, Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, if a hypothetical question is being placed, is it the Speaker who determines whether the question is in order or out of order?

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, whenever a point of order is to be raised in this House, I believe it is the Member's obligation to indicate that it is going to be a point of order, not to be rudely interrupted into the process without advising this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. Nerysoo.

Point Of Order

MR. NERYSOO: No, Mr. Speaker. On a point of order, I did not hear you rule out the particular question as being hypothetical.

MR. SPEAKER: I made no ruling on the question; that is correct. I want to remind all Members that a Minister, in response to an oral question, has the right to take a question as notice. I thought, in this particular case, that this particular question was, in fact, in order. Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to argue with the Speaker, but I believe that question is out of order according to our rule book under section 35...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Whitford. You cannot question the Speaker. Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if I have questioned your authority in this House. I did not mean to do that; I was merely pointing out something, I thought. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O385-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Absence Of Resident Doctor, Inuvik

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health. Is the Minister aware, or was he made aware by his officials or the director of the Inuvik Regional Hospital, that there was a period of time in which there was no resident doctor in the Inuvik Regional Hospital or in the community?

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O385-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Absence Of Resident Doctor, Inuvik

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O385-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Absence Of Resident Doctor, Inuvik

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Minister of Health who authorized that the doctor should be absent from the Inuvik Regional Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O385-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Absence Of Resident Doctor, Inuvik

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe he left on his own.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O385-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Absence Of Resident Doctor, Inuvik

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if it is policy of this government to allow a regional hospital to have all their doctors absent from a particular community.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O385-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Absence Of Resident Doctor, Inuvik

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there are other doctors at that hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O385-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Absence Of Resident Doctor, Inuvik

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, earlier I asked the question, is the Minister aware that all the doctors were absent, not necessarily the general surgeon, but all the doctors were absent from the hospital. I wanted to know if he was knowledgeable of that.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O385-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Absence Of Resident Doctor, Inuvik

HON. TONY WHITFORD: No, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O386-12(2): Patients Not Wanting Pain Relief During Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pose a question to the Minister of Health. In reviewing the unedited Hansard, Mr. Speaker, the Minister in his point of privilege yesterday, when he announced his point of privilege, tried to explain to the House what he said to the reporters. I would like to quote: "What I was trying to say to the reporter was that I have been advised that patients have a choice on whether or not they wish to have pain relief during an abortion procedure." My question to the Minister is, have there been any patients who did not want to have pain relief administered during this procedure?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O386-12(2): Patients Not Wanting Pain Relief During Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I have no knowledge of that.

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

Supplementary To Question O386-12(2): Patients Not Wanting Pain Relief During Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, the issue at hand is the fact that the public does not feel that the medical procedures used during abortion -- there is a concern in the Territories by women that the procedures used for abortions are not medical procedures. Apparently it has been indicated that the same type of practice is not necessarily used in any other part of the country. If the Minister could think of the pain that could be endured during such a procedure without a pain relief measure taken. I would like to ask the Minister, does he believe that there have been no patients who did not want to have pain relief during this procedure, and that it should not be administered?

MR. SPEAKER: - Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O386-12(2): Patients Not Wanting Pain Relief During Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can only say that I can only extend again the offer that Dr. Kinloch of the Department of Health and the executive director of the hospital, Ms. Olenek, will be available as professional people to discuss any concerns that the Members may have from a professional point of view.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O387-12(2): Minister Of Health Being Informed Of Specific Complaint

MR. TODD: The Minister has given me no choice but to ask this question. Yesterday, the Minister indicated that he had no knowledge, there were no complaints about the abortion procedures used at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. But there were some Health officials who were aware of these complaints. On September 29, 1991, a former patient who had been treated at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, following a failed pregnancy, wrote to the hospital administration. Has the Minister of Health now been informed of this letter dated March 25, 1992?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O387-12(2): Minister Of Health Being Informed Of Specific Complaint

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said yesterday that Stanton Hospital had received one letter and two concerns and I believe that those were dealt with.. I explained that to the House yesterday. But the specifics as to September, I have no knowledge of that.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Todd.

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Supplementary To Question O387-12(2): Minister Of Health Being Informed Of Specific Complaint

MR. TODD: Can the Minister inform the House whether he was advised of this complaint by the hospital administration or by the patient herself?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O387-12(2): Minister Of Health Being Informed Of Specific Complaint

HON. TONY WHITFORD: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O387-12(2): Minister Of Health Being Informed Of Specific Complaint

MR. TODD: Can the Minister inform the House whether he was advised of this complaint by the hospital administration or only by the woman herself? Did the hospital administration advise you of this lady's complaint, or did she advise you directly?

MR. SPEAKER: If I could ask for some clarification of the complaint, Mr. Todd. If you are talking about a complaint made in September, the Minister was not responsible for the portfolio at that time. So that question would not be an appropriate question to ask. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, has the Minister of Health now been informed of this complaint by a letter dated March 25, 1992? The answer was yes, I thought. I asked the Minister if he was informed of it by the hospital administration or by the lady herself.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O387-12(2): Minister Of Health Being Informed Of Specific Complaint

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I answered, no, to both of those questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

**Question O388-12(2): Availability Of Doctors
In Inuvik**

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Question to the Minister of Health. It is with regard to the doctors in Inuvik. Is the Minister aware at any time, or told by his officials, that there were no doctors available at the hospital within the last month or so?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O388-12(2): Availability Of Doctors In Inuvik

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

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

**Question O389-12(2): Use Of Anesthetics In
Performing Abortions**

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. In respect to the issue of the medical procedures used for abortions, the point we are raising is the fact that women are enduring pain during such a medical procedure. An anesthesia is not given to the women. The Minister basically indicated, through unedited

Hansard as of yesterday, that if they want it they can ask for it or there are types of pain relief given. Does the Minister believe that during a medical procedure used for abortions that the procedure should allow the use of an anesthetic?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O389-12(2): Use Of Anesthetics In Performing Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I explained yesterday as best I could what I knew, and I hope the review would explain even further as to what may be necessary to know.

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

Supplementary To Question O389-12(2):Use Of Anesthetics In Performing Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I just cannot imagine the type of answers, and I am really appalled. I would like an answer, yes or no, and an answer as to whether this issue can be dealt with. I am not getting anywhere and I am getting very frustrated. But I am going to keep pursuing the Minister on this issue throughout question period, because it is a critical issue and I am not getting answers for it. The public would probably want to know. I would like to know, during medical procedures, when abortions are being conducted, does the Minister believe that anesthesia should be used?

MR. SPEAKER: In your capacity as a Minister, as a government policy. Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O389-12(2):Use Of Anesthetics In Performing Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, whether or not it is government policy to advise a doctor whether at a particular moment or in a particular procedure, whether there should be anesthesia; I am not sure what the question is. I thought I did indicate yesterday that my information had it that there was a process that took place, everything from counselling prior to the abortion to minor medication to deal with anxiety, and medication to suppress pain would be administered according to a particular type of procedure that was taking place. The individual at the time and the doctor's advice to the patient, the patient's advice back to the doctor, there was a consultation process that took place throughout, and I believe I explained pain suppressants would be administered accordingly, and if the pain intensified there would be more, and if it was not needed it would be 'less or none. I thought I explained that, but that is as much as I know.

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

Supplementary To Question O389-12(2):Use Of Anesthetics In Performing Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health, can the Minister of Health give me one example, which is indicated to him by his advisors, why anesthesia should not be used on patients when abortions are performed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O389-12(2):Use Of Anesthetics In Performing Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD:No, Mr. Speaker, it is not within my ability to answer those specific things. I indicated that perhaps Dr. Kinloch, who is a medical

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doctor would be able to better explain the medical procedure than I would be.

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

Supplementary To Question O389-12(2):Use Of Anesthetics In Performing Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat concerned, if I may explain. Mr. Speaker, I guess the fact of the matter is, the Minister in this House is responsible for the delivery of health in the Territories and he is accountable to this House to ensure that the delivery of health is brought forth. The Department of Health indicated that anesthesia is not administered to patients when abortions are performed. I would like to ask the Minister: Can he give this House an example as to why his advisors advised him that anesthesia should not be administered during this medical procedure?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O389-12(2):Use Of Anesthetics In Performing Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I said the Department of Health said these things. I believe there are quotes on the radio and stuff like that about anesthetics not being given, but I do not think the department said this.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O390-12(2): Limiting Review Of Surgical Procedures

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, if I could ask the Minister of Health why he has changed from a public review to an independent review of the surgical procedures that are being carried out on behalf of people in the NWT at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Why is he limiting it only to the Stanton?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O390-12(2): Limiting Review Of Surgical Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had indicated earlier on, and I had erred in saying a "public" review. What I was referring to, and it has always been the intention, that this be a independent review of which the results would be made public. It is not a public review. No one changed my mind. I recognize the word that I had said would suggest it would be a public review, but it will have public input. But the results of it were to be made public.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O390-12(2): Limiting Review Of Surgical Procedures

MR. NERYSOO: How is the Minister going to ensure that the regions and those others hospitals that refer patients to this hospital, are going to have an input into the review, if it is not a public review?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O390-12(2): Limiting Review Of Surgical Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I intend to work as closely as I can on this matter and the terms of reference will direct the review committee to include whatever is necessary

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O390-12(2): Limiting Review Of Surgical Procedures

MR. NERYSOO: If I could ask the Minister of Health and his advisors, whoever they may be, will the Minister commit to this House that the general public will have an opportunity to have input into the review of the surgical procedures at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O390-12(2): Limiting Review Of Surgical Procedures

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O390-12(2): Limiting Review Of Surgical Procedures

MR. NERYSOO: Could I ask the Minister of Health if he could also provide the necessary expertise for those that are going to be appearing or challenging

the remarks or comments of officials, either within his department or at the Yellowknife Stanton Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O390-12(2): Limiting Review Of Surgical Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: It is not clear what the Member is referring to by challenging. I think we are looking here for a fact finding mission to determine certain procedures that are associated with medical abortions here in the hospital. I am not sure how else I can answer this. I do not know what is to be challenged.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O391-12(2): Minister Being Made Aware Of Complaints

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. You said you had knowledge of complaints made by some patients. Where did you learn of that complaint, from the patient or the hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O391-12(2): Minister Being Made Aware Of Complaints

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First from the CBC.

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

Question O392-12(2): Endurance Of Pain And Reviewing The issue Of Abortion

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to try and wrap this issue up. If I do not get a direct answer, I am not going to wrap it up. So do not try to sigh too quick. The point I want to bring, and I have to preamble this issue, is the fact that medical procedures in this Stanton Yellowknife Hospital on abortions are being used where it is allowing women to endure the pain but it is not used in other parts of the country. I quote Dr. Morgentaler this morning on CBC,

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HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi, point of order.

Point Of Order

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Member is making allegations against doctors and medical practitioners at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, that are not substantiated and they are allegations that are not serving the public any good. I do not believe they are serving my constituents and I object to the questioning.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: If I could read the rule that has been quoted by Mr. Kakfwi, "If he... makes allegations against another Member, an official or a witness." As Speaker I am having some difficulty with this particular debate. Yesterday in response to oral questions there were pages and pages and pages of responses. The responses touched on every aspect of this very complex issue. I see that the Members have a right to clarify and to understand better definitive responses. At this point, I do not see how this is a point of order. The rule is not intended to protect every official in the Territories and every official in the country. It seems to me it is very salient to this debate that these facts are discussed opening and fairly. So I do not see it as a point of order.

--- Applause

Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I will try once again without being interrupted to pose my question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, the issue at hand is the fact that a medical procedure used in one of our hospitals to deliver a service to the patients and people of the NWT is basically a procedure that allows for women to endure pain. I am concerned with that particular issue, that unnecessary pain is having to be endured. I would like to ask the Minister, recognizing that this pain is being endured by women, with no anaesthetic being given to alleviate the pain, why does he feel he has to review the issue of how abortions are done at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O392-12(2): Endurance Of Pain And Reviewing The Issue Of Abortion

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am very concerned; and at the first opportunity yesterday, as I said earlier on, I brought this to the attention of the department, and shortly thereafter we

instructed the hospital to look into this matter. I will endeavour, through this review, to ascertain whether these allegations are founded or not. If somebody could bring me more information, I would be able to answer these questions, but I only know as much as the Member, hearing on the CBC all of the contradictions from competent medical people about what is alleged to be happening here in the hospital. But I hope this review will bring this to the front and we will be able to get some answers and be able to know that the standard of treatment in our hospital either is or is not what it should be.

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

Supplementary To Question O392-12(2): Endurance Of Pain And Reviewing The Issue Of Abortion

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Can the Minister indicate to this, House what is the policy for administration of anesthesia in the medical procedure of abortions?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O392-12(2): Endurance Of Pain And Reviewing The Issue Of Abortion

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I can only offer that I would be prepared to have Dr. Kinloch and Ms. Olenek, the executive director of the hospital, explain from a professional point of view what takes place in procedures like this. The offer still stands.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O393-12(2): Invitation To Have Dr. Andre Lalonde Appear As Witness

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I could ask the Minister if he is prepared to invite Dr. Lalonde to appear as well, to provide us with alternative advice and expertise in that particular field. In fact, the individual assessed the procedures at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital; Dr. Kinloch did not.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no authority over Dr. Lalonde. I am not sure he would be prepared to come here, but I can take the question as notice and we can get in touch with Mr. Lalonde.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O394-12(2): Private Sector Participation In NWT Power Corporation

MR. TODD: I will change the subject. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Government Leader in her capacity as Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. In a Minister's statement today the Government Leader stated it was the government's intention to establish the NWT Power Corporation as an ongoing concern and then to offer the corporation for private sector participation. I am not sure what private sector participation means. Does it mean the privatization, the selling off of the NWT Power Corporation as was the intention of the previous government and recommended by the standing committee on finance of the 11th and 12th Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O394-12(2): Private Sector Participation In NWT Power Corporation

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O394-12(2): Private Sector Participation In NWT Power Corporation

MR. TODD: I am wondering if the Government Leader can inform the Legislature and the standing committee on finance when she expects to develop a plan or a strategy. Is there a plan or strategy in place for the privatization of this? Is it phased? Is it put up for sale in the Globe and Mail? Is there some kind of strategy in place?

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MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O394-12(2): Private Sector Participation In NWT Power Corporation

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned today, the Power Corporation will be coming under the auspices of the Public Utilities Board, which brings it into the total public review process. At this time I believe that, from all indications, it would be a phased-in process, but as soon as we have that strategy we will provide it to the standing committees, as the Member indicates. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Mike.

**Question O395-12(2): Regional Superintendent,
Baffin Region**

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Social Services in regard to the regional superintendent vacancy in the Baffin Region. The Baffin Region has not had a regional superintendent for the last six months and there is no acting regional superintendent in place. When is the Minister planning to fill the vacant position?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been taken as notice. Ms. Mike.

**Question O396-12(2): Extension Of Quluaq
School, Clyde River**

MS. MIKE: I have a question to the Minister of Education. Perhaps the Government Leader can relay the question to the Minister. The Quluaq School in Clyde River has been expecting the extension of the school for the last couple of years, and they were informed that the material would arrive last summer. The material did not arrive last sealift, and the community education council has not been informed what happened to the plan that was in place and whether it has been deferred or delayed and whether it got unloaded in one of the communities by mistake. I would appreciate if I could get a reply before the session is over. They are quite anxious to know what is happening.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker, and pass it on to the Minister responsible.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**Question O397-12(2): Departmental Directive To
Eliminate Unnecessary Pain During Abortions**

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose a question to the Minister of Health. Recognizing that medical procedures are used at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital that subject women to unnecessary pain during a procedure, and recognizing that the Minister of Health is initiating a review, will the Minister consider directing his department to develop a directive which will eliminate

unnecessary pain which is posed on women that have abortion procedures taken through the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O397-12(2): Departmental Directive To Eliminate Unnecessary Pain During Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

**Question O398-12(2): Resignation Of Deputy
Minister Of Social Services, Bernie Doyle**

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. During the last four years as a Member, I have worked with Mr. Bernie Doyle and had a good working relationship with the gentleman, and he has responded and has been very supportive in my constituency. However, I understand that Mr. Doyle is going to be leaving us next week. I want the Minister to confirm whether or not this is true.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O398-12(2): Resignation Of Deputy Minister Of Social Services, Bernie Doyle

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, to the honourable Member and other Members of the Legislative Assembly, unfortunately Mr. Bernie Doyle has accepted employment in Saskatchewan a very good offer which he felt he could not refuse. As well, because of some other personal circumstances with his family, he has decided to accept the position.

I would like to say as Government Leader that this individual, as the Member has stated, has been a very valuable asset to this government.

--- Applause.

We have been very fortunate to have had his services for the period of time that he did stay with us. On behalf of all of you and myself, it is with extreme regret that we learn that he will be leaving us. We can only hope that he has a very fine future. He has five more years, and he has taken the opportunity to tell me and to tell the former Minister of Social Services of his dedication to the work we are doing as a Legislature and as a government body of the Northwest Territories, and in no way is he leaving us

because of any concerns that he has, other than for personal reasons.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O399-12(2): Ontario Court Of Appeal Decision On Right Of Prisoners To Vote

MR. NERYSOO: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Justice, if he has become aware of a recent decision in the Ontario Court of Appeal, upholding the right of prisoners to vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O399-12(2): Ontario Court Of Appeal Decision On Right Of Prisoners To Vote

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O400-12(2): Clarification Of Mr. Bernie Doyle's Place Of Employment

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I have a question, a point for clarification, for the Government Leader. She did indicate that Mr. Doyle was taking

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an employment offer in Saskatchewan. Is it in Saskatchewan or Alberta?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O400-12(2): Clarification Of Mr. Bernie Doyle's Place Of Employment

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Sorry, Mr. Speaker; I know he was asked to work in Saskatchewan, but I believe his final choice was in Alberta.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Todd.

Question O401-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Abortion Patient's Concerns

MR. TODD: I went for a walk and calmed down and I would like to try my question one more time. A question to the Minister of Health. Earlier today the Minister indicated that he had received a letter dated March 25th from a former patient that had endured pain when she had an abortion at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. This patient had written to the hospital administration about this in September. That

letter had been ignored. Was this the first time the Minister of Health had heard of this patient's concern?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O401-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Abortion Patient's Concerns

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure which patient we are referring to, but if it is the patient that was described in the news item on CBC on Tuesday morning, I believe at about 7:30, that was the first indication that I had of the concerns expressed by that patient.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O401-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Abortion Patient's Concerns

MR. TODD: Given that is the first time he heard it, based on the CBC report, does the Minister know of any other letters of complaints hidden away from his view over at the Stanton Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford,

Further Return To Question O401-12(2): Minister's Awareness Of Abortion Patient's Concerns

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know of any letters hidden away. I indicated to the House yesterday that Stanton Hospital did receive one written concern, but I am not privy to what was in that letter, and I also indicated that there were two concerns that were expressed orally at Stanton Hospital. Again I was not privy to that information. About the letter that my honourable friend is referring to with a particular date on it, I think this is the first that I have heard of this letter of that particular date.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O402-12(2): Procedure For Accepting Patient Complaints

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. What is the department's procedure to ensure that the complaints are not filed away without the Minister's knowledge?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O402-12(:2): Procedure For Accepting Patient Complaints

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope that we have people working for the department that are competent and trustworthy people, and I am sure that any concerns that would be expressed officially and formally through the process would be conveyed through the system and come to rest wherever the concern is dealt with best. I think that any patient that has a problem with a medical service and is concerned with what is happening certainly must deal with their physician first and directly, and then there is a step that follows from there that goes to the health board in the respective region. If it is done on a formal basis, then I think the hospital board in that area will undertake a formal investigation. Certainly they will undertake a formal investigation upon any written complaints and then from there on, because of the confidentiality and stuff like that, one must be very careful and cognizant of privacy and the disclosure of information that should not be made public. This is why I say that initially the physician must be the first point of contact and then from there on, if there is no satisfaction, I believe the hospital board should be contacted, and this should be done as formally as possible in writing so it leaves tracks and these tracks can then be followed up in time, after a formal investigation; and if there is no satisfaction there, I believe there are other methods that may be undertaken. Any complaint to my office would be the last resort. But I hope that answers the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The time for oral questions has expired.

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

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.
Mr. Todd.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance On
The Review Of Bills 5, 12, 22 And 23

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the standing committee on finance has reviewed Bills 5, 12, 22 and 23 and wishes to report that Bills 5, 12, 22 and 23 are now ready for

committee of the whole and requests that these bills be ordered into committee of the whole for today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Todd. Pursuant to Rule 66(3) and on the order of the Assembly, Bills 5, 12, 22 and 23 are ordered into committee of the whole for today.

Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 33-12(2), Government Accountability, A Legislative Action Paper on Access to Government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Mr. Whitford.

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HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 34-12(2), Alcohol and Drug Services, 1991, Annual Report. I also wish to table Tabled Document 35-12(2), NWT Health and Health Services -- the NWT Way.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motions. Ms. Mike.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice Of Motion 10-12(2): Canada's Participation On The International Whaling Commission

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 30, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Legislative Assembly is not in favour of Canada rejoining the International Whaling Commission; and further that the Government of the Northwest Territories communicate this resolution to the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Mike. Notices of motions.

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

Item 15, Motions

Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 17: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 26: Liquor Act

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, that Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this would amend the Liquor Act to allow for the establishment of facilities for manufacturing beer in the NWT. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Who is the seconder, Mr. Lewis?

MR. LEWIS: The seconder is the Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Bill 26 has had second reading, and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Ningark.

Second Reading Of Bill 27: Wildlife Conservation Act

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 27, Wildlife Conservation Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would repeal and replace the Wildlife Act to ensure the protection and preservation of wildlife. Part I applies to persons in the Territories, other than the Inuvialuit in the Western Arctic region and any other aboriginal persons, if any, to whom the same rights have been extended under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, and sets out the licensing system, the rules for hunting wildlife and related activities and provisions for wildlife management. Part II applies to the Inuvialuit and to other aboriginal persons to whom the same rights have been extended under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and incorporates into the bill the provisions of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement respecting wildlife harvesting and provides for rules for hunting wildlife that are for the purpose of public safety or conservation. Part III sets out administrative provisions and Part IV sets out offences and penalties that apply to all persons in the Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Bill 27 has had second reading, and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels; Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction; Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93; Committee Report 3-12(2), SCOF Review of the 1992-93 Capital Estimates; Motion 6-12(2), Discussion on Sobriety Clause in Contribution Agreements; Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1990-91; Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1991-92; Bills 5, 12, 22 and 23, with Mr. Nerysoo in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I would like to call the committee to order. We were dealing with Bill 14 and Committee Report 3-12(2). Members will recall that we had one department to deal with and that is the Department of Health. What is the wish of the committee? Do you wish to continue with Bill 14 and Committee Report 3-12(2)? Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. With that decision we will take a 15 minute break.

--- SHORT RECESS

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

Department Of Health

I would like to call the House back to order. We were dealing with the Department of Health. Mr. Minister, would you like to bring in your witnesses?

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, do you want me to go through my opening remarks again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I do not believe there is a need for you to introduce those remarks again. Do you want your witnesses in the House?

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, I would.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

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HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have on my right the deputy minister, Mr. Bob Cowcill and on my left is Ed Norwich, director of capital planning.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I will go now to the chairman of the standing committee on finance for remarks.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance had a few specific concerns about the 1992-93 capital budget for the Department of Health. In general the committee is concerned, as is the cabinet, about the spiralling costs of delivering health care services throughout the NWT. Innovative ways and creative ways have to be looked at to see where we can control these costs. However, we would like to make it clear that this should not occur by cutting the level or quality of service available to any of our citizens.

Clearly we must look inward when we look for savings. For example, when I speak about this issue I am reminded that the Department of Health has four boardrooms in the same building and, frankly, the committee wonders if they are all really necessary. Mr. Chairman, the committee will be looking at this issue in much more detail when we examine the operations and maintenance budget for this department in the summer.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, there has been much talk about the NWT Way that the department is proposing for the delivery of health care. The standing committee on finance would like to make it clear that approval of this department's capital budget should not be seen as an endorsement of this proposed policy. Much more debate remains before this policy

gains the acceptance of the committee, or for that matter, of this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Any other general comments? Is it the wish of the committee that we go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Detail of capital, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, buildings and works, headquarters. Total region, \$1,783,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Fort Smith, total region, \$103,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Inuvik, total region, \$3000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Baffin, total region, \$1,848,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Keewatin, total region, \$175,000. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: This needs study for the health centre in Rankin Inlet, is that part of the impact assessment we were going to do in relationship to the concerns I have raised on a number of occasions with the Minister with respect to the hospital in Churchill? Are we going to do this impact assessment to determine the net effect of moving health facilities out of Manitoba and into the Keewatin, as we recently did with dental care?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask Mr. Cowcill to respond.

MR. COWCILL: Mr. Chairman, the Keewatin Regional Health Board, with the assistance of the Department of Health, will complete a strategic planning exercise in the coming year. It will consist of three phases. One is a needs role study, second, a master program and master plan. We believe that the impact analysis could be done as an element of the master program. In other words, an economic impact study can be incorporated into the master planning phase of the project, after the health programs and services needed are identified.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Are we saying that the needs study program is being done this year for \$150,000, and the master plan and impact assessment is projected to be done within this budget of \$150,000 or is there going to be additional dollars assigned to it? When do we get to the impact assessment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I will ask Mr. Cowcill to respond to that.

MR. COWCILL: The department hopes to use the resources that we have identified for strategic planning in the coming year to complete the first aspects of this particular study in the Keewatin. The dollars allocated for the Keewatin are set out for what is called the functional program and that will be conducted late in the year after the aforementioned planning exercises have been completed. As I said, we believe the economic impact study can be incorporated into the first aspect of the planning.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: When would the master plan and the impact assessment study be done? In the fall of 1992 or 1993?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By the end of November.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does this mean that there is a possibility of a hospital being built in the Keewatin after you have done the needs study?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not necessarily. I do not want to say no, but I also do not want to say yes. The needs study will determine needs of the region and based on those needs something will happen, but I cannot say it will result in a hospital at this point, until the study has been undertaken and completed.

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

MR. TODD: Sometimes this department talks in riddles, so I want to make sure I get it clear. They certainly have been talking in riddles earlier today. The needs study, which I understand has to be identified and I understand you are doing a whole bunch across the Territories and you have budgeted in some cases \$25,000 and \$50,000. I just want to hear you say it again. After the needs study has occurred, then the master plan and the impact assessment to determine the net effect of relocating the hospital out of Churchill into Rankin Inlet will occur for the Keewatin. Is that correct? Yes or no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes.

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total region, \$175,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Kitikmeot, total region, \$717,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total buildings and works, \$4,629,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$1,070,000. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the headquarters acquisition there are computer systems and bio medical/general equipment. In the Fort Simpson hospital they still do not even have a computer in the whole hospital, everything -is done manually in keeping the records. I raised that in the House a couple of weeks ago and I want to know if there is going to be a computer put into Fort Simpson in this budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, I can assure the Member that the computer has been ordered, on my instructions earlier on, after learning of this necessary piece of equipment not being there. I tried to find a spare one in the department to address that situation immediately, but the technology does change fairly quickly and I thought there was no point sending junk there. We ordered one, it should be there by the end of next week. If it is not, I will want to know why.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to acknowledge that from the department. In areas of bio medical/general equipment, the Fort Simpson hospital has a very old x-ray machine and it is broken down. They have a smaller portable one. I was in the hospital on Monday and I am told it does

not take very good x-rays and yet it is still used as equipment. I was wondering if there is anything in this budget for the Fort Simpson hospital for a newer x-ray machine.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: The answer is yes. I would like to have Mr. Norwich answer that in more detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Norwich.

MR. NORWICH: Mr. Chairman, the x-ray unit at Simpson hospital was repaired at a cost of \$8600. It is operable. However, the quality of the pictures that are being taken at the present time are not as good, although they are acceptable and as readable by a radiologist as they could be, because of bubbles in the tube which takes the photograph. This was found by the Picker repair people when they did the work. Rather than leave the unit unserviceable, they put it back into action and the replacement part is on order and will be put into place as soon as it arrives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$1,070,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total acquisition of equipment, \$1,070,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Territorial Hospital Insurance Services,
Total Capital**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total activity, \$5,699,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: About four years ago the new hospital was put in place and on March 8th there was an interview on the radio with regard to some renovations. About one million dollars worth of renovations are going to be done to the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. It says the existing hospital is about 15 years behind the times, according to the interview, and does not accommodate the way medicine is practised in the 1990s. This hospital is only four years old. I do not know why, when the

hospital was built, those 1990s visions were not reflected at that time. I do not understand. Certainly that should have been addressed. These costs should have been addressed in the first place.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: The Member's concerns are quite valid. Times have really changed, and change happens so rapidly; in the last few years, technology has seemed to outdistance itself before too long. I think perhaps the facility was subject to this technological and program acquisition. The necessity for making some of the renovations now is to keep pace and attract certain programs to the North, certain medical procedures that can be done here in the NWT rather than have patients go south. The ear, nose and throat specialists, for example, can operate out of this hospital. An orthopedic surgeon is now living here in the city and we now do not refer people south for the needs that we used to. These are slight design changes to accommodate the new services, minor changes to make things a little more streamlined.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: The requirements are in areas of orthopedic surgeon, general surgeon and optometrist and radiologist. Are the renovations for offices or areas where equipment can be put?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: They will encompass both offices for the specialists and examining rooms; in addition to that, offices and rooms to accommodate testing -- for example the audio testing room is a specialized area that, of course, when you test the ears you want to make sure that the sound that is there is as pure as can be and uncontaminated by the outside. So it has to be designed in such a way to allow for that kind of treatment to take place. There is also a waiting area/reception area associated with the specialists that are there. In order to do examinations, they need a place to operate out of. That is what these renovations are for.

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

MR. GARGAN: Do you have to do a bit of demolition or tear down walls or stuff like that in order to redesign certain portions of the building? Are the

capital estimates on that also for the required equipment necessary in those specialized areas?

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

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask Mr. Norwich to respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Norwich.

MR. NORWICH: Mr. Chairman, for the renovations and upgrade of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, the project costs include the work to be done, architectural fees, and the design. The construction portion is around \$820,000. The equipment relative to this project was approved prior, in the summer, and I believe it costs about \$340,000 for capital equipment. So the equipment required is on site and ready to go for the spaces that are being renovated. Thank you

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

MR. GARGAN: Is this all in one area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I would like Mr. Norwich to respond to that.

MR. NORWICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The renovations are as per the list that was provided, I believe, by the Minister to the standing committee on finance. We are in three floors of the hospital. The first floor is office space, electronics, and so forth; the second floor is primarily the day surgery area; and the third floor is business offices and medical day-care. So it affects all three floors of the hospital. Thank you.

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Total activity, \$5,699,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Health, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Program summary. Capital expenditures, total capital expenditures, \$5,699,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. That concludes that department. If I could excuse the witnesses. That concludes the detail of Bill 14. I do want to indicate to the committee that normally we would go clause by clause with Bill 14. However, we are going to defer that until the amendments are received. I believe the standing committee on finance wants to conclude their report and recommendations of that particular report. Chairman of standing committee on finance, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: To conclude the capital exercise we have three final resolutions we would like to bring to the House and approve this afternoon if we could, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Todd, do you have general comments to make prior to proceeding with the motions?

Closing Remarks From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: No, I think we have said our piece. The standing committee on finance appreciates the co-operation that was extended during the somewhat difficult times in the earlier part of the budget, particularly as it related to the Department of Education, which was an extremely sensitive and controversial issue at the time. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard, and his staff, Mr. Voytilla, were extremely cooperative. Changes were made in a spirit of compromise, and I am certainly encouraged by that. If we can continue in that light and recognize that capital and O and M budgets are a reflection of all of us, rather than a reflection of cabinet, then I am confident that in the future we will be able to proceed in a timely and orderly manner.

In general, we are a bit concerned, and I did speak to it yesterday, about where we are going overall; that we have got to use the budget -- and I have said it on a number of occasions -- as an economic instrument for Northerners, and I repeat, for all Northerners. We have got to give the public at large, particularly right now, renewed confidence in the North; renewed confidence from an investment and from a job point of view. I think that is the task ahead of us for all of us, whether it is cabinet or whether it is the standing committee on finance.

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I think I can speak for the committee by saying once again we do appreciate the spirit of co-operation,

even although on occasions it got a little heated. However, we did reach what we think is a reasonable compromise. It will hold us in good stead for the next round, which will be in June. We are encouraged by the fact that cabinet, and in particular Mr. Pollard and the Government Leader, are bringing forward the new capital budget in September for review and debate and approval in October. This will give all of us, and in particular the bureaucracy, more time to ensure that the budget as an economic instrument does benefit Northerners.

I think we are particularly encouraged by the Minister of Public Works in his long statement yesterday, but it was encouraging in the kinds of things he said. As I said to him then, and I will say to him now, action speaks louder than words, and he has certainly got my confidence that he can move forward in ensuring that Northerners do get the opportunity to build, to employ and to benefit from the moneys that we have.

So in closing, I would like to extend, on behalf of the standing committee on finance, our appreciation to the cabinet and to Mr. Voytilla, who is their right-hand man, for all their cooperation in getting this budget through. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Todd. Do you have specific motions that you want to proceed with at this time?

MR. TODD: I do, Mr. Chairman, if I may. May I? Thank you.

Motion For Report On Feasibility And Merits Of Privatizing NWT Power Corporation, Carried

Mr. Chairman, we have a motion as it relates to the NWT Power Corporation. It is in keeping with the Government Leader's earlier speech. I move that the committee recommends that the Power Corporation fast track development of a corporate strategy and a report on the feasibility and merits of privatizing the corporation for presentation to the Legislative Assembly by the fall of 1992.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Todd. The motion is in order; however, the motion is being distributed to Members. Mr. Todd, to the motion.

MR. TODD: As I said, we were not aware at the time that the Government Leader was going to come forward with the comments she made today. We are encouraged them. This just reinforces, adds to and complements the policy decision by cabinet. It is

straightforward. There is clearly a need to take a look at privatization of the Power Corporation. We need to get a handle on the ramifications of it. This is the intent of the motion, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--- Carried

Mr. Todd.

Motion For Fair Market Value Leases For Workers' Compensation Board Office Premises, Carried

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second motion we have is on the Workers' Compensation Board. I move that the committee recommends that the Workers' Compensation Board ensures that the capital lease for office premises is carried at no more than fair market value, and that action is taken to minimize the cost to employers while not disrupting local markets.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. The motion is in order and is being distributed. To the motion, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Mr. Chairman, there was some concern that there was some excess office space at the Workers' Compensation Board, We want to ensure that when they are looking at putting it on the market place that it does not create market, disruption.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--- Carried

Mr. Todd.

Motion For Cabinet's Response To Report On 1992 Capital Review And Development Of Action Plan, Carried

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last, but not least, I move that this committee recommends to cabinet that they provide their response to the Report on the Review of the 1992/93 Capital Estimates within 120 days; and that they develop an action plan with specific tasks and deadlines in order to address the committee's recommendations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: This is in keeping with previous standing committees. It is important that we get a plan. One of the concerns we had, with all due respect, was that when the departments were coming forward, a number of them did not have any long-term plan. We want to ensure that our recommendations, if cabinet concurs, and a plan is put in place with specific tasks; in particular, a schedule of deadlines as to when we can accomplish certain things. We simply have to get a blueprint, if you want, Mr. Chairman, or an action plan that we can all follow so that we can all hold ourselves accountable along with cabinet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--- Carried

I believe this concludes the committee report. Does the committee agree that Committee Report 3-12(2) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe next on the agenda is Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation, Act No. 3, 1990-91.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you.

Is it the wish of the committee that we deal with Bill 21-12(2), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1990-91?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1990-91

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. We are dealing with Bill 21-12(2), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1990-91. For all Members, I just want to indicate to you that the document is in our legislation book. We also have a document that was provided to all Members as well; in particular, the standing committee on finance. The document is in our legislation binder. Opening remarks, Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move to the witness table and have the witness brought in before I begin the opening remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Is it the wish of the committee that we invite the witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you invite the witness, please? Madam Government Leader, please introduce your witness and proceed with your opening remarks.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the witness is Mr Lew Voytilla, Secretary to the Financial Management Board.

Mr. Chairman, in 1990-91, two departments exceeded their appropriations in total; these are the Legislative Assembly and the Department of Personnel. Section 36 of the Financial Administration Act requires that a supplementary appropriation bill be submitted to the Legislative Assembly. The 1990-91 supplementary appropriation No. 3 is submitted as required by legislation. Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to answer any questions on the supplementary appropriation; namely, Legislative Assembly, \$436,900, and Personnel, \$3,768,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Chairman of the standing committee on finance, do you have any opening remarks?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Are there any general comments? Is it the wish of the committee that we go into the detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Legislative Assembly, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Detail of Legislative Assembly, operations and maintenance, Legislative Assembly, not previously authorized, \$436,900. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$436,900. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Personnel, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Personnel, O and M, employee benefits, not previously authorized, \$3,768,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$3,768,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I just wanted to know what the benefits were. This is for employees' vacation and also for termination; are we talking about the payouts?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. I will read them according to the financial language. The accumulated annual leave and lieu-time credits amounted to \$844,000; resignation and retirement benefits amounted to \$1,524,000; the ultimate removal benefits amounted to \$1,490,000; for a total of \$3,858,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$3,768,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Will we now go into clause by clause of Bill 21?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 1, application. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 2, supplementary appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): expenditures. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Clause 3, purpose of

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Schedule, Vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$4,204,900. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total supplementary appropriation, \$4,204,900. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we recommend this for third reading, I would like to express a concern that we have a situation that we are going to be in a deficit this year and we cannot go on into further deficit, especially with regard to benefits, holiday benefits, retirement benefits, payout benefits. I would like to ask if the government is somehow looking at this whole business of benefits

for civil servants, because it is an exorbitant amount and we cannot afford it at this time of restraint. We cannot be supporting the public service at the expense of the communities. I think this government is going to have to take a bold step in this area and say we cannot afford these benefits any longer. At one time it used to be an incentive to attract people up here, but that is no longer the case. If people are dedicated enough and wish to work up here, they should do it for whatever the offer is and not because of the benefits. Perhaps the Government Leader may want to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for his comments. Those particular issues right now are on the table with the collective bargaining units that are presently in negotiations and yes, we fully agree that we have to catch up to the 1990s and move into the future with some confidence, and we hope that in these negotiations there is a recognition by the employees of the GNWT that we need their co-operation as well. So certainly, if we are not able to conclude, we will be keeping the Members informed of what is going on with those collective agreements which are being negotiated at the present time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total supplementary appropriation, \$4,204,900. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Does the committee agree that Bill 21 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): What is the wish of the committee? Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: The Member says we are ready for Bill 25.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Is it the wish of the committee that we deal with Bill 25?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1991-92. General comments. Madam Government Leader. Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1991-92

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary Appropriation, No. 3, requests authority for net additional appropriation of \$6,296,500. This consists of appropriations for operation and maintenance in the amount of \$21,165,500, mainly in Health, Justice and Education, and net reductions in capital appropriations in the amount of \$14,869,000. This is mainly due to projects which were delayed this year and which will be carried forward into the 1992-93 capital estimates. The forced expenditures growth in Health, Justice and Education add to our budgetary problems. Although the 1991-92 supplementary funding reserves are exhausted, we have now no alternative but to meet these essential expenditures. The revised 1991-92 deficit estimate is approximately \$49 million.

Mr. Chairman, we are prepared to go through the detail of the supplementary funding request and either answer questions or undertake to obtain answers from the responsible Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Chairman of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Todd.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance reviewed the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1991-92 at its meetings in Yellowknife on March 4th and March 9th, the committee was pleased that the Minister of Finance and his staff were available to answer the questions at that time. During our meeting on March 9th the committee agreed to recommend this bill to the House for consideration. However, the committee did have several concerns with this bill and, as has been our past practice, I will speak to the major issues. Members of the committee may have comments on the details of this bill while we go through it in committee of the whole.

Mr. Chairman, in total this bill represents a further appropriation of \$6,296,500 for the current year. However, this figure is somewhat deceiving. In reality, the total supplementary appropriation of O and M is \$21,165,500. This is offset, as the Government Leader said, by a reduction in the capital of \$14,869,000. The reduction in the capital appropriation occurred primarily because of the expenditure management plan implemented by this government, which put a halt to virtually all capital construction.

As we noted during the last session, the committee remains concerned about the size of the supplementary appropriations that are coming forward. It is a serious issue. If this bill is passed, the total supplementary appropriations for the current fiscal year will be close to \$90 million.

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The committee recognizes that a large sum of the money is still under dispute as to where the federal government would look after the health services. The committee would like to give its full support to cabinet in their efforts to get a satisfactory resolution to this dispute. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Are there any general comments? Is it the wish of the committee that we go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Legislative Assembly, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Page 5. Legislative Assembly, O and M, Legislative Assembly, special warrants, \$250,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Total department, \$250,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Executive

**Executive Council Secretarial, Total
O And M, Agreed**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Executive, O and M, Executive Council Secretariat, special warrants, \$300,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Not previously authorized, \$134,500. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, if I could just go back to the \$300,000 and ask a question to the Minister. With respect to the 3.5 person years to develop recommendations and implement approved components of the Strength at Two Levels report, are those person years indeterminate person years?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, they are term position years for 24 months.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Executive Council Secretariat, not previously authorized, \$134,500. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Regional Operations, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Regional operations, surplus, \$9000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I had expressed some concern at the committee level with respect to this particular component. I do not want my chairman on the standing committee on finance feeling like I am bringing some more issues into the House, but I think it is critical to note for the record, some of the concerns that I want to bring up with regard to this supplementary estimate; that I am just not going to concur with it as a Member.

In respect to this transfer of funding and .14 PYs to the Department of Personnel, in respect to the field services officer position, can the Minister advise me that this position will now be taking some responsibility on, through the field services officer, that was initially performed in the regional office in Fort Smith? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that the question to that is part of the .14 person years. Some of the work was done in Fort Smith and that proportion would be an affirmative answer to her question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I would like to know if some of the responsibilities are taken away from the regional office in Fort Smith and requested of the field services officer in Hay River to conduct them. I did want to indicate a concern with respect to this. I would like to know if the department has any further intentions to take away funding to accommodate person years and performance of work that is being done in the regional office currently, to other communities surrounding the region.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would refer that question to the Minister of Personnel. At this point in time we are not far enough along, to my understanding, in dealing with the roles the various regions have and the person years there. At this point in time I can say that the plans are not there to do that, but perhaps the Minister of Personnel would have more immediate knowledge to answer that question more explicitly, because I do not know the answer to the question.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, if the question is, are we planning to do any more transfers of person years or partial person years, the answer is, no, not at this time.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I have one further question, Mr. Chairman; .14 of a PY is not a significant amount

of time, but what I would like to do -- recognizing the amount of work the regional office currently has with respect to the delivery of services in the community -- is find out from the Minister or the Government Leader as to how this will affect the operations of that particular office by taking away the .14 PY and transferring it to another community.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like Mr. Voytilla to undertake to address this particular question.

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

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$9000 and .14 PY are only a partial year adjustment. The entire position of the Hay River field service officer is being transferred from the Department of the Executive to the Department of Personnel in Hay River. The full year adjustment will be the full person year and the dollars associated. It comes out to about .8 of a person year for the full year.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, for clarification purposes, is it saying that that particular position is going to be transferred from the Executive to the Department of Personnel?

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

MR. VOYTILLA: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, for further clarification, are there going to be performances of personnel responsibilities being conducted in Hay River which were not performed before by this position?

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

MR. VOYTILLA: Mr. Chairman, a lot of the functions of this position that will be performing in Hay River have been performed in Hay River before, but they have been done on an ad hoc arrangement. The consolidation of responsibility for carrying out these functions in the Hay River office does not take away

from the responsibility or any of the staffing requirements in Fort Smith. It just formalizes some ad hoc arrangements that, frankly, have been in place for a number of years.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, for example, a personnel function such as hiring correctional workers for SMCC, South Mackenzie Correctional Centre, is being done and is generally done with a personnel officer from the Fort Smith office. It appears that the individual will now have the responsibility of either doing the responsibilities of a personnel officer. I am wondering whether this would be the case with respect to the responsibilities of this individual in fulfilling that particular person year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA: Mr. Chairman, the individual involved actually has a personnel background. The department has advised us that they feel that with some re-orientation and bringing this individual up to date with current practices, and with some direct supervision from the personnel out of Fort Smith, this individual could start to perform the range of personnel functions required in the Hay River office.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: That is the point I wanted to get to, Mr. Chairman. I expressed that grave concern at the standing committee on finance. First of all, there is no opportunity given to any individuals that may be eligible under the affirmative action policy to be granted an opportunity to be considered for this position. You are taking a person that had background and knowledge of personnel, and are giving him this responsibility. You are retraining him and bringing him into a personnel field. I am concerned that there has been an oversight or lack of concerted effort by the department to want to look at, possibly, a native individual that may have the capabilities of performing in that position.

In respect to this particular individual, if I recall at the community level as the native leader, we played a fairly key function in trying to get that individual out of personnel because of the inconsistencies in the way policies were applied. I find that there has not been a concerted effort by anyone in the Department of Personnel to make sure that opportunity is given to

native people to take on the responsibilities of the role and function of the personnel officer. I want the Minister and the Government Leader to be aware of this. By doing the transfer of this person and this position, they are making a totally wrong move. I am very concerned about it. I expressed this at the committee level, and I did indicate that I would express it in the House again today.

I would like to know what measures will be taken to try to avoid this type of situation. Here we are being asked to approve dollars of a PY that was never brought into the budget. Then, we are being asked to approve a procedure that does not even respect the policies that we have in place.

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

NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the Member's comments are duly noted. I will assure the Member that we will discuss the position. We will discuss the incumbent, and see where we can look to some measure of providing some security to the Member that this person will conduct the responsibilities, or the added responsibilities, in a manner that is consistent with our policies. I can assure the Member that we will try our utmost to track and monitor this particular position and person.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$9000 surplus. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, can I go back to the Executive Council Secretariat?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): What is the wish of the committee. Do you agree that we return to the Executive Council Secretariat? I would, if I could, get the concurrence of the Member to conclude regional operations, and then we could return to that particular item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Regional Operations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Regional operations, \$9000 surplus, not previously authorized. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Revert To Executive Council Secretariat, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Executive Council Secretariat. Mr. Gargan, you had a question with regard to this particular matter.

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MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My concern is with regard to the funding being provided to the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut. This is in the amount of \$134,500 which is being given to them for a campaign on a "yes" vote on the plebiscite. I have no problem with that. What I have a problem with, Mr. Chairman, is that we do not have any moneys allocated for organizations that wanted to lobby on behalf of the "no" vote situation. So what you have here is a situation where some people are going to be at a disadvantage in regard to the process in which it has been applied.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that the Member was lodging a comment on a situation he feels exists. If the Minister of Aboriginal Rights wants to comment on it, I feel the comment would be more appropriately placed with him.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, if I could, without aggravating anyone, the reason there is no money sifting out there for western aboriginal or public bodies to use to get involved in preparing for a plebiscite is because up until now no one has asked for it. I bring Members back to July, which was when we made this sort of political agreement. I think Jeannie might remember that far back. It was clear, the deal was it was the western groups, the Dene Nation, the Metis Association, Gwich'in, the Sahtu, that said, "What we want if the plebiscite is going to go ahead is we need so much money." I forget the exact amount, it is over one million dollars, so that we can set up a commission that would begin work on drafting principles for a future constitution so that those of us in the West might be able to put ourselves in a position where we can be given assurance that we can support a plebiscite. This is what we require if we are going to be even able to consider taking a positive view of the plebiscite. That was the full extent of the request at that time.

The Members of the Nunavut caucus had said at that time that they want some sort of public moneys made available for TFN to carry out an awareness campaign. That is why we are at the stage where we are. I cannot say much more than that. If Members are suggesting that groups are going to come back for additional money, revisit the trough, so to speak, I do not have any comments on it, except to say, if the question is, "Why is there not a pot of money for the West and the East?" There e was. A very unequal pot, you might say. That has been the way it has been through our history. The West does certain things that the East is not particularly interested in. The East does things that the West does not consider timely. That is the way the deal settled in July. You are looking at the figures now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Would the Executive Council Secretariat consider, if a request is being made, regardless of whether there is a campaign for a "yes" vote or "no" vote by other organizations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I guess I am not even quite sure that the funding for the TFN is all going toward a "yes" vote. I know it is a promotional campaign just to make people aware of what is happening, that something will be taking place very soon, Whether it is totally to a "yes" vote alone -- I think there are other issues. They are informing people and communicating for them to come out and do something. The government receives requests all the time from various groups of people, and they are all looked at according to the merit and according to what the expenditures are and what was requested. But as the Minister responsible has stated, that there has been no request and as we are aware the vote is scheduled for May 4th and even at this late date it is very difficult, I would believe, for TFN to just barely get out to inform people that on May 4th you have to show up to some place, let alone promoting a "yes" or "no" vote.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I realize the difficulty that TFN is in and the short time we have before the plebiscite. The Minister did not answer my question. If the request was made by other organizations, is there a possibility that they may be able to support them?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the political agreement that was reached again last year was that -- and the understanding that I have been operating with, both in the last government and this one is that any funding proposals regarding plebiscites or political or constitutional development issues made by aboriginal groups or public groups, particularly in the western part of the NWT, would be done through this committee called the committee of western political leaders. This is sort of an ad hoc informal group that made the proposal together to request the Legislature to fund a western commission. I think it was agreed in our meetings last summer and this fall that the Legislature would not be expected to respond to individual groups. All the funding requests made by these groups would properly be done through this committee. There has been no mention, in the last meeting I was at, of any suggestion by the Dene Nation or the Gwich'in or the Metis, that they would be requesting additional funds for any activities leading up to the plebiscite vote.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I still have not heard whether they are willing to consider a request.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I guess I am saying that if the Dene Nation said they want \$70,000 to get ready for a plebiscite vote, I would say, no, it would not be considered, because it goes against the political understanding I had with the other aboriginal groups that formed that political group. I am saying, if the committee of western political leaders met and said, "Look, we want to request so many dollars to get involved in an active way on the plebiscite vote." Yes, we would consider it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Who is this ad hoc group you are referring to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the group was set up last spring and it follows, basically, the membership that made up the Western Constitutional Forum that collapsed in October 1989 or 1990, I cannot remember, in Norman Wells. It is the Dene Nation, the Metis Nation, and it also includes the Gwich'in Tribal Council which had asked for separate status, the Sahtu Tribal Council which had asked for

special status, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and there are Members of the Legislature, Charles Dent is currently sitting on it and as Minister in cabinet, I am still sitting on it. Those are groups that

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comprise this formal group. I say ad hoc -it is not a good word -- informal, because we are not incorporated in any way. We just sit together and work together through consensus through a political agreement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: It is this group that actually determines if there will be funding made to certain organizations. So since it has not happened, basically your position now is that that funding would not be made available, not through this organization anyway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: It requires a little political assessment. I am kind of reluctant to do it, but as I recall, there was some reluctance to provide the amount of money that the Western Constitutional Commission required, particularly from eastern Members. So there was some allocation made for the East to get some money, That was done last July. We have yet to receive the results for the allocation made to the West. We provided a certain amount of money for the Western Constitutional Commission to do its work. So far, we have an interim report, we have yet to see a final report in which we have to find some satisfaction as a Legislature that the money we expended through them, not only the report, but the commission, and the money we gave to the different groups was well spent. I think Members are going to be, I hope, just as jaundiced in their view about where all this money was used and how well spent it was by the different groups that were funded by the commission over the course of the last year.

So there is a reluctance on my part, I guess, to suggest we start providing additional moneys at this time. I wanted to express it. I am concerned about it. When we do something I want it to be well thought out and well considered before we do it. I think that was the sentiment that was expressed as well by the committee of western leaders and that is why they sort of said they would not support individual proposals and actions taking place, because it does

jeopardize the activities of other groups. It has to be well co-ordinated. That is the point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the subject of the TFN public consultation process for division, the boundary plebiscite, for \$134,500, when I was in my constituency at the beginning of this week I had a meeting with some people there that are very concerned about the vote that is coming up on May 4th. They wanted to know if there was going to be any public consultation with them, They realize they are far away from the boundary but they still want to be consulted. Is the Minister responsible saying that the funding that was given to the West to look at division, to look at the constitutional development, was that money also supposed to be for public consultation? If so, then are these different political ad hoc groups that he is referring to, responsible for the public consultation process that was supposed to happen in the West?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I cannot speak for the Metis or Dene leadership or the different aboriginal organizations or anyone else. I just know that when this understanding was reached, it was felt last year that one way or another the boundary issue is going to be resolved and people may or may not like that. But that is not going to be the only basis on which people are going to vote. The consensus was that the way that people want to approach it is to support division if they can get sufficient development of the constitution in the West that, for instance, a commission was set up and it talked to all the people in the communities and it came up with sufficient outline of what a future constitution might look like in the West, that would be sufficient for people to vote. It would give you enough substance to say, "Well, based on where I see the boundary is, based on what I know about the possible western future constitution, and based on what I think I know about the cost of division, that sort of thing, I am in a position to make an informed vote."

There was no provision requested by the groups to say, "We want this much money for a commission and yes, we also want this much money set aside for a campaign in the West to get ready for the vote on the plebiscite." That was not in the discussions at all. It was for the East but it was not for the West. The question can only go back to the committee of

western leaders to say, "Now that we are at this stage, are they going to reconsider?" The question might go back.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Something that is this large -- it is a very important issue and what the Minister is saying is the first time I am hearing about it. Because I received the literature for constitutional development like everybody else and in there what it states is that there is going to be a vote in the fall, but this constitutional development is not to decide whether it is going to be yes or no, but if there is going to be division then how the West is going to look, that is the impression that I got. That was my understanding of the literature that I received. There was nothing in there that says some money should be set aside to do a public consultation. That is my understanding of it. The people I discussed this with have the impression that there is going to be a vote, but the discussion on constitutional development is not to decide whether you are going to vote yes or no, but to see how it does look if it does happen, it is late in this stage of the game to discuss the consultation process in the West. I am asking this question because I am curious.

I know you do not have any kind of authority over different political groups, but it seems to me that if a group were to decide to request some additional funding, I think the funding they may have received to date may have expired. If a group were to request additional funding to do some public consultation, for example, in my region, the people I talked to at the beginning of the week had no impression. The only information they received was the little bit they read in the newspaper.

If there is going to be a public consultation process -- and I think it should happen in the West as well -- and if there are requests from groups in the West to do that, then I think it is only fair that funding be made available to them. I would like the Executive Council to take this into consideration. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. Technically, the plebiscite vote is on whether that particular boundary is acceptable or not to be used for the purpose of dividing the Territories. Technically, that is the question. It has always been the common view that people, particularly in the West, will not vote or will vote

massively against any boundary regardless of how viable it may be as long as they do not have some constitutional assurance of what they will be faced with. That has been consistently reflected over the last 10 years. If we are going to divide as Inuvialuit, as Dene/Metis, if we are going to be in the West, then we have to have some assurances before division takes place that there is a constitution -- a future government that we will be comfortable with before

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division goes ahead. This has been one of the conditions. This is why I raised it. The Member is right. It is not really explicit, but the fact is that is what needed to be done before we felt people would take a vote. We felt it would be a useless exercise to set up a plebiscite vote if we did not do anything here in the West. That is what the Legislature had agreed to make moneys available for last year in preparation. There have been instances in the committee where at least one group asked for additional money. It has been rejected or vetoed by other Members because they felt it was not well thought out, and they did not feel it was proper to come forward at this time. I know that if there is a request by political leaders to ask this Legislature for additional money, as lead Minister for this, I would bring it to the House to be considered. How well I would be able to defend is another point. That is what I would do if I was so directed by that group. Thank you.

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

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, it is the same issue, but it relates to how this is going to be perceived by the public that is going to be asked to vote. The government will not be seen as being fair and even-handed if money is going to be given to one group to promote -- although it is called consultation, the public sees it as a promotional campaign rather than just a simple matter of giving people information -- a vote. It would not seem to be even-handed if the government is obviously putting itself in the position of supporting a group of people to do something which is denied to another group of people.

I understand the Minister's response when he says in the West there could be as much as five million dollars spent over the next three years in developing a constitution for what is left over when division takes place. I would have thought that with division, the priority -- because things are so much further advanced than in the East, people have their act together and they know where they are going -- would

be for the constitutional development of the East. They may get division. They will have a claim, and so on, but the actual constitution itself -- if that is the issue -- would seem to be a greater priority in the East than it is in the West because they are the ones that have the claim and it is very, very clear cut. Everybody understands it.

My major concern is that, as somebody who has followed this debate since 1965 -- and I am talking about the old-timers that have been around for so long and watched this and are probably sick and tired of it by now -- when they see the map on May 4th -- the people who have not watched every little move that has taken place -- a lot of the old-timers will say that in 1965, when we wanted to divide and the West wanted to go its own way to become a territory and eventually a province, the line which was in the federal act in Ottawa was a line that went straight up, a line of longitude. This line that they have worked out makes the West just tiny compared to what it would have been had that act passed in 1965. That is the response you are going to get from a lot of the oldtimers. Really, what we thought would be a territory that could eventually become self-sustaining, is really much reduced. I have not worked out the exact difference in the size it would be now compared to what it would have been then, but there is a substantial difference in the way the land will be divided.

Since the government is putting itself in the position of being seen to promote a particular line -- this is the way it will be perceived -- without the people in the West having a similar kind of privilege, my guess is that it will have a negative impact in the West if you are seen to be not even-handed and being fair and so on in the way you deal with it. This is being perceived as a promotional campaign by this

government rather than the simple question that the people are being asked to vote on. That is the perception that this government is going to have to live with after May 4th if it is still perceived that our government is putting itself in the position of promoting a yes vote on this line.

I would like to follow up on a question I asked yesterday about the actual position of the government and whether Ministers are going to have to take a particular position on this. I am not drifting too far away from the item, Mr. Chairman, because I think it is relevant to the whole business of how we deal with this question. There is only one item in the budget

that deals with the cost of this plebiscite in addition to the amount that is in the Legislative Assembly budget.

I would like to ask the Government Leader the code of behaviour. How is the government going to be perceived as being even-handed? Are you going to have a unified position as a cabinet on how this is going to be approached? Are Ministers going to be allowed to promote a yes or no vote if they feel so inclined? Is there going to be a position of the government that you are going to try to carry forward? It is very important for us to know exactly how this is going to be handled by each of the Members of this Assembly because it is very, very close. This is the kind of item that affects public opinion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the government or the cabinet has not taken a position as a cabinet representing this government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I presume then that each individual Executive Council Member will be free to pursue a free vote, at least some kind of understanding then that each Minister, as an MLA representing a particular area in the NWT, can go about either promoting or not promoting this issue as he or she sees fit. Is that the case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, that is correct at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I asked the Minister of Aboriginal Rights if there was a request from a group in the West, I think he said that if the ad hoc political group from the West had vetoed a prior request by one group for additional funding, it seemed to indicate to me that this is the position the government has and I do not think it is really fair. Because, if there is any group in the West that is going to be leaning toward a "no" vote and if the position is going to be based on the veto, then it is not fair because publicly in the newspapers the Inuvialuit have already indicated they are going to support the "yes" and the president of the Metis Nation, Gary Bohnet, has also indicated that he is going to advocate a "yes" vote. So if it is going to be based on

a veto for a request for additional money, then already the answer is no. Is that what you are saying?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, that is not what am advocating at all. For instance, if the group said, "We feel there is sufficient work being done in the commission and there is a need and we all agree we want to go out there and want to be involved in the campaign, whether we support it or not, all of us

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agree we want money." Then it would come forward. I do not want to have it misconstrued. One of the concerns that a request for additional moneys came forward, was not because of the political position of a certain organization, but the fact that some money had been given to all the different groups and some of the groups could not initially provide any kind of justification for having spent the money that they did and then coming back and asking for more.

It put some of the other groups in an awkward situation, and myself as a Minister, because I know if I come back here and ask for additional money, I have to be able to say that all money that was spent out there was well used it here are the results of it. I just feel that I am getting set up to be seen as somebody that is seen as somebody that is against a particular group and not with another, and I do not think I want to end up there. The fact is that if the groups all said, "We think there should be a campaign made, people should be visited, communities should be informed, the "yes" people, the "maybe" people and the "we do not know" people and ..absolutely no" people should all go around and campaign.' I would bring it forward to this Legislature because it is not the government that made the political agreements and the funding allocations in the first place, it was this Legislature.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I just want to make Members aware that while I have allowed the debate to occur, that generally the rules do not allow this kind of debate to occur. I just wanted to have clarification on a number of issues, because Rule 79(2) says, 'Speeches in committee of the whole must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.' Not the principle of the issue but the clause itself and the matters that are being discussed are moving away from that point. But I do want to clarify that with Members here.

The other point I wanted to make is that like other decisions that have been made in the House and comments about government upholding decisions of previous governments, the same principle applies, that this Assembly is not beholden to a decision of the past Assembly the same as this government is not beholden to the past government. The same principle applies. If Members could be cognizant of the rules as they are laid out. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, if the Member for Deh Cho is interested, we can look at convening a meeting of that committee. We do have another meeting scheduled at some time, but because of the session it is difficult to plan. So that can be considered. But again, I cannot even try to schedule a meeting like that without doing extensive consultation first.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Is it the committee's wish we go back to detail? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: The allocation to the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut -- yesterday on the radio TFN said they do not have enough money to carry out all of the campaigns that are required. Is the Minister looking at further funding to TFN?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the TFN is waiting for this Legislature to approve the money so that they can put it in the bank and cover their costs. That is what the difficulty is. As to the comment that may have been made that it is not enough money, it is never enough money, but we expect TFN to carry on other activities at their own cost.

Executive, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, special warrants, \$300,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, not previously authorized, \$125,500. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Finance

Government Accounting, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Finance, O and M, government accounting, not previously authorized, \$500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Debt Financing, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Debt financing, special warrants, \$655,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Special warrants, \$655,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Not previously authorized, \$500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Culture And Communications

Museums/Heritage, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Culture and Communications, capital, museums and heritage, not previously authorized, \$328,000 surplus. Mr. Gargan,

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, the-church in Fort Good Hope, in 1990 there was \$20,000 spent and in 1991 there was \$150,000 and this year there is \$251,000. One of the things I cannot find acceptable is that this government has found -the federal government -- the necessary moneys to address one church in one particular community but to date has ignored that there are needs in other communities, and they are not addressing them at all. I find that Members on this side, who do not have the luxury of having the moneys at hand or are aware of moneys available for certain programs, are left out with really no way of addressing their problem.

We have never addressed this issue. I know the church in Fort Providence is one example, but I am hearing in Fort Resolution there are other examples. This is the 1990s, and buildings that were built in the

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early 1900s are now deteriorating. A lot of the communities have a concern that this government has not got anything to address that situation. I am sure in the years to come Members in this House will address those issues. But I find it difficult when Members of the Executive are given preference over ordinary Members when it comes to historical buildings. Is the Minister addressing the situation?

Culture And Communications, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Total department, \$328,000 surplus, not previously authorized. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Government Leader. Personnel

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I think the Member responsible for this activity has committed to the Member to attempt to see if the church or the site he is interested in gets designated. I believe the appropriation communications have begun. As well, the communications with the relative church at a higher level has also been put forward. I know the Member has gone to a great deal of work to try to get some recognition for the renovations that are required.

I know that Mr. Allooloo will attempt, to the best of his ability, to try to reconcile some support for Fort Providence church.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: In 1990-91 there was \$20,000 spent; last year there was \$150,000; and this year there is \$251,000, a total of \$420,000. I would like to ask how much of that has been spent to date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in 1990-91, \$20,000 on the feasibility study and in

1991-92, \$49,000 has been spent up to this date on restoration plans. So that \$101,000 will be carried forward from the original estimates because they could not complete the work. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Should it be negative then, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): In fact, it is negative. That is how I read it. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I know it is negative, but should it be?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA: Mr. Chairman, it should be negative. It is a carry-over to 1992-93 because the full amount of the work planned for 1991-92 could not be completed.

Museums/Heritage, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Museums/heritage, not previously authorized, \$328,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Staffing, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Personnel, O and M, staffing, not previously authorized, \$9000. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: In Repulse Bay the economic development officer resigned last February or just before Christmas. Because of the government's hiring freeze, that position has not been filled, although there is a new government office in Coral Harbour, with four office spaces for government liaison officer, social worker and economic development officer. My question is, will the government be filling that position in Coral Harbour after April 1, or by April 1?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: On April 1 the freeze is off, so the department can proceed to advertise the position. I cannot say that it will be filled April 1, but it will be filled once the competition is run and once the

competition has been completed and people have applied and been selected. So it probably will not be April 1, but it will be somewhere near that time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: When we had an economic development officer in Coral Harbour, because of the way the community functions, it is very active in business ventures, and that economic development officer was very busy. When the economic development officer was moved to Repulse Bay, for what reason I do not know, then he was apparently was quite bored. Can the government assure me that they will consider where the economic development officer is most needed, rather than having a political relocation? We have great potential in Coral Harbour, but yet without any sort of consultation with that community, the position was moved to Repulse Bay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I will make sure that the Minister of Economic Development is apprised of the concern and takes into consideration to consult with the MLA to determine the area where that position is most needed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Staffing, not previously authorized, \$9000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Personnel, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$9000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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Justice

Police Services, Total O and M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Justice, O and M, police services, not previously authorized, \$1,153,000. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, recognizing there has been an inflationary cost pertaining to the

Police Services Agreement of \$1.1 million, and recognizing that we pay in the NWT at least 70 per cent of the RCMP's cost to deliver the police services, has the Minister ever considered any type of alternatives where other types of police services are provided by people in the NWT?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Member has a very good point; I do believe there is potential for looking at alternatives to the present very expensive arrangement. For example, I expect to meet soon with a community in the Keewatin that wants to talk about better utilizing their community by-law officers to help with police services in the community and help provide those services as an alternative to providing members to the RCMP. So I am very open to ideas like that, but I think they will work best when they are coming from the community level.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: That is good to hear. I am concerned with the type of services that we get after normal working hours, particularly in the late hours of the day. In many communities in the NWT, if there is a need for the services, the phone call is automatically transferred into Yellowknife and then dispatched from Yellowknife to the community. What really bothers me is that we pay 70 per cent of their costs, but the services for that percentage and this \$1.1 million is only a portion that we spend. We spent \$23 million for police services in the NWT and we do not get full 24 hour services in the communities. There are many communities that do not even get services from a police officer. Are they looking at alternatives to ensure that police services will be available to the public after the normal working hours, when they place on these dispatch services where members have to be called in a community on a concern that pertains to that particular community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think this is probably one of the most common frustrations and complaints that has been drawn to my attention about community policing services. I do not have a solution in hand today, but I have drawn this issue to the attention of the police, and I will hope that I can find a way of dealing with this very aggravating situation in the community. I do sympathize with community members who call in an emergency and

end up getting switched to a remote location. I would like to do something about that, Mr. Chairman. I think that we could expect a better service in emergency situations than we appear to be getting right now. I agree with the Member on that, and will work to resolve it. Thank you.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: The other question I would like to ask is for information with respect to this Police Services Agreement. Can the department give us some indication as to how much they pay for police transfers with regard to the benefits that are granted for the police services that we receive in the North?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

Policing Is Biggest Part Of Department Of Justice Budget

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, that is something I do not have at hand, but I will certainly be prepared when the O and M budget is presented, or before, if the Member wishes, to provide that kind of a breakdown. Policing is the biggest part of the Department of Justice budget. It is by far the largest single item, and most of the costs are salaries and wages and related expenses. But I do not have the exact proportions at hand at this moment. Thank you.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Just one further comment, not with respect to the funding that is being requested to be approved, I but basically in respect to the amount -- going back to the previous comment of getting police service for 24 hours. I would like to indicate to the Minister that probably one of the suggestions to consider in local policing is for his department to consider individuals to assist the RCMP in regard to addressing concerns of the community after hours, as opposed to the phone calls going into Yellowknife and then being dispatched back to the community. That takes so much time, and when there is a dire emergency, it is most frustrating for people at the community level. I appreciate the fact that the Minister has brought that concern to the RCMP, but I certainly would appreciate if that concern was addressed, taking into account that we do expend some \$23 million of our budget for police services. The type of services that we need in an emergency I think is critical. Maybe some creative thinking can be done with respect to type of committees.

I guess the concern I have is not only when emergencies occur, but I would be safe to say that the majority of break and-enters or any type of vandalism done to many government institutions, whether they be schools or whatever, is probably done during those hours when the police are not policing the community. As a government we would probably save a substantial amount of money if we can provide those services to take preventive action. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Police services, not previously authorized, \$1,153,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you have a situation where an RCMP does not want to act on a complaint or a charge, what are the options an individual has? I know the RCMP are supposed to be equal, but with the ethnic groupings, they certainly are more forceful against certain groups as opposed to other groups. I see that all the time, even in my own community. I had a situation where individuals do make a complaint on certain individuals but, depending on who the individual is, there seems to be a reluctance on their part to act against certain groups in the community. If a concern is ignored, what is the option?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, my department and my predecessors have been cultivating what is quite a good working relationship with the senior management of the RCMP, and I would simply say to the Member that if a situation like that is drawn to my attention as Minister of Justice and as someone who, with the support of the Legislature, is paying a sizeable part of the bill for RCMP operations, we certainly can and do demand accountability for situations of the kind the Member refers to. So one alternative is to approach myself and have the matter dealt with at the senior level.

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There are also procedures for dealing with complaints against the RCMP that individual citizens can take. A letter of complaint about the conduct of a particular Member regarding a particular incident can trigger an internal investigation, and of course there are some complaints that can lead to a fullblown review, such as the one that is going on in Iqaluit at this very moment, in special circumstances.

But I would suggest to MLAs that it is my responsibility to deal with complaints of that kind, and we have a relationship where we can take them to the RCMP at the highest level and have them dealt with and get back to the Member on a case-by-case basis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Would the other option be for the individual to phone to Crown attorney?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I think the Member is quite correct. I hesitated to make that offer because the Crown Attorney does report to the federal Minister of Justice. But with concerns about the laying of charges, which really can be overruled by the Crown prosecutor, I would agree with the Member; if that is the concern, it would be quite appropriate for a Member to contact the chief Crown prosecutor's office, as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

Problems Of People On Probation In Communities

MR. GARGAN: Like Jeannie, we do have a situation where we have three members in Fort Providence, and you could phone the detachment day-to-day and still get Yellowknife. In the evenings, you always get Yellowknife. One of the problems I find is that we have in the communities people that are on probation, and as part of their parole is that they have to report to the RCMP every time they go out of town, whether it is for hunting or go shopping in a different community. It is really difficult for some of those individuals. They do not have vehicles; they do not have the luxury of popping in to the RCMP every time there is a need for them to go out on the land. If the RCMP are not there, then they are put in a situation where they have to delay; and I think it is really an inconvenience to pursue a traditional way of life when you are on probation or parole. I think this should be addressed by the Minister. Maybe just a note to say they are going out on the land would be sufficient, as opposed to having to be there physically to say they are going to visit the nets. If you have nets on the river, you are away from the community. If you go there every day, you have to go to the RCMP and say you are going to visit your nets or snares or trapline or whatever. It is ridiculous.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I agree with the Member's concern, and I will discuss with the RCMP if there is a way of dealing with those reporting requirements that does not interfere, especially with traditional activities as the Member described, especially where we have detachments that are not always open to the public. I think he makes a good point there.

The reality is that there are pressures on the police budget. Some communities do not even have policemen at the moment, and some are not staffed so they can be open at all times. So we should look at alternative reporting requirements in those kinds of situations. I will check into that specifically with reference to Fort Providence, and I will let the Member know what might be worked out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I do not think the problem is only confined to the community of Providence. I assume there are a lot of communities that are experiencing that same difficulty.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, a number of communities that have satellite detachments, three or four communities -- the main detachments pulled them out of these communities in the fall and they were not replaced because of the financial difficulties the RCMP were having. But are they reinstated back into the satellite communities? I believe there were a couple of Inuit communities, and I have one in my riding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Member is quite correct that Wrigley, Lac la Martre and Pelly Bay have been left with no members in their communities at the moment because of, what I consider, the temporary closure of these detachments. The Member is raising an issue that cannot be permanently resolved until the forthcoming year's budget is finalized. I am not in a position today to say what can be done about those detachments. It is going to be dependent on the funds available. But I am well aware of the concern. I have received representations from hamlet and band councils about these matters in Lac la Martre and Wrigley and of course the situation in Pelly Bay has received wide publicity. So I am treating it as a priority to deal with

those problems but it has to be dealt with in the context of the fiscal planning for the coming year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, with this \$1.1 million we are approving for police services, would that not cover that because it was already in the base and now we are adding an additional \$1.1 million into police services? So for the next year's budget I assume that the base would be around \$23 to \$24 million. I do not quite understand what the Minister is saying. Even with this \$1.1 million increase in the cost, the police will not be able to man those satellite communities they were already manning?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the moneys that are before the Assembly today include cost of living increases approved by the federal Treasury Board and salary increases. They include the inflationary costs of volume growth in court cases and member's costs in attending court cases and they include inflation for a fixed cost like leases, utilities, fuel, vehicle maintenance, vacation travel, etcetera.

So in part, 30 per cent of this budget is really out of our hands and that is the part on which there has been a shortfall which has resulted in these particular vacancies. I am hoping that it can be resolved. I want to assure the Member. But until the coming fiscal year is clear, and the budget is finalized, it would be premature to restaff those positions on an interim basis.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, my understanding was that when we manned the satellite detachments, the PYs were already in the main detachments, so there is no increase in PYs. So the salaries for these policemen in the satellite communities were already in their base. So I do not quite understand what the Minister is saying with regard to salaries, because it has already been in the main base of the RCMP budget. I do not think it is a question of salary money. Maybe it is just trying to fulfill those positions. But those communities that are without police are asking that they be reinstated right away. And maybe part of the reason was that they did not have enough in their base and this \$1.1 million is to cover all the inflationary and volume costs. So the way I am

reading this is that they should have been reinstated starting in the new year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the salary shortfall for the current fiscal year is much more serious than the three satellite detachments. In fact, the overall shortfall has resulted in 15 positions being declared vacant. There is a vacant position at G division, headquarters, and deletion of positions from four other detachments. It is a matter of a total of 15 positions for which there are inadequate funds at the moment and something like a \$1.2 million shortfall that we are dealing with in the current fiscal year. That is the dimension of the problem. It is not in the base. The salary moneys are not there to support the full establishment of 225 members and that is where there are presently 15 vacant positions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: How soon does he anticipate that this problem can be solved?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, shortly after this session is over the Financial Management Board will be meeting to discuss the forthcoming year's budget and I certainly will be raising the issue of RCMP staffing at that session. I guess what I am saying is it will be a matter that I will bring to the attention of the FMB as soon as we can meet following the session. I think I will be able to report back to the Assembly at about what is possible to deal with this problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: In Rankin Inlet with the population of about 1600, there are five RCMP officers. My riding, Aivilik, has 1400 people, 200 people less than Rankin Inlet. At the moment there is no RCMP officer because he will be in Iqaluit for three weeks. Every time he leaves for other duties there is no replacement. The whole riding has one RCMP officer and a lot of times he is not there because he is travelling for other duties. What are the criteria of the government in placing RCMP personnel in communities? It does not seem fair that we have only 200 people less and they have five RCMP and we have one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): On that note and the hour being 6:00 o'clock I will rise and report progress. I would like to thank the witnesses.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: I will call the Assembly back to order. Item 19, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 14, Committee Report 3-12(2), Bill 21 and Bill 25 and wishes to report that Committee Report 312(2) is concluded, and that Bill 21 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: 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, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Nunavut caucus immediately after adjournment and a meeting of the ordinary Members' caucus at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, March 27, 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: Bill 7
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; Motion 6-12(2); Bills 25, 5, 12, 22 and 23
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 27, 1992.

--- ADJOURNMENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1992