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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Monday, March 30, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 48-12(2): Minister's Absence From The House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. John Ningark will be absent from the House today to attend a regional meeting in Cambridge Bay on the plebiscite.

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

Ministers' Statement 49-12(2): Community Name Changes

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: It is with pleasure that I rise to announce that cabinet has approved requests from two Northwest Territories communities to change their names. On July 1, 1992 Spence Bay will officially become Taloyoak, and Snowdrift will officially become Lutselk'e.

A majority of the residents of Spence Bay signed a petition requesting that the traditional name for their community be officially approved. The name "Taloyoak," which means "caribou blind," was the name for the area before the community was established and has remained in use by the Inuit despite the existence of the name Spence Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the Lutsel K'e Dene Band passed a resolution requesting that the official name of Snowdrift be changed to Lutselk'e, the name which has been used for their area since long before the

community was established. Lutselk'e means the place of the lutsel, which is a small fish common in the waters of the area.

It is our hope that all the people of the Northwest Territories and of Canada will begin to use these traditional names and in doing so help to preserve the history, culture and language of northern people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to recognize Norma Kassie, MLA for Old Crow in the Yukon, who is with us here today.

--Applause

Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Success Of Caribou Carnival 1992

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the literally hundreds of participants, volunteers, sponsors and spectators that made this year's Caribou Carnival an unqualified success. This year's carnival proved so extremely popular, Mr. Speaker, that organizers report that attendance topped 5000 people between noon and 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon, Friday.

Mr. Speaker, although 300 to 400 volunteers were involved to one extent or another, special credit is deserved by Caribou Carnival Association: president, Jackie Coulther-O'Connor; past president, Bill Braden; treasurer, Brenda Donick; secretary, Michelle Andersen; and directors Marty Brown, Rob Roycroft, Jamie Watts, Katherine Robinson and Larry Babiuk, as well as staff members Melissa Daoust and David Radcliffe.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, the stars of the Caribou Carnival are the dog mushers who travel from across Canada and the United States to participate in the Canadian Championship Dog Derby. Members of the Yellowknife Rotary Club also deserve special credit for yet another superb job of managing the races.

I would like to extend special congratulations to Grant Beck of Yellowknife on his defence of his title of Champion in the Canadian Championship Dog Derby. Mr. Beck won this year's three-day championship with an overall time of 11 hours 52 minutes and 28 seconds.

The 12 contestants for Caribou Carnival queen and princess also deserve mention for the approximately \$29,000 they raised from ticket sales. Congratulations to Vi Beck on her win as Carnival Queen, and to Carnival Princess Valerie Fillion who is a lifelong resident of Yellowknife and a grade nine student at St. Patrick's High School.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that Caribou Carnival is getting better and better every year. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Member's statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Member's Statement On Letter Of Reference For Sandy Sanderson

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address a public concern over the recent letter of support I wrote on behalf of Sandy Sanderson, who is a student at our campus in Fort Smith.

The intention of the letter was to describe the character of this individual. It was at no time my intention to influence the justice system in any way, shape or form. Further, it was at no time intended to influence the courts or to indicate that I condone violence against women.

Unfortunately, these letters from political leaders were used to request an absolute discharge for an assault charge encountered by Sandy Sanderson. I know that if I had been asked for such a letter to be used in such a manner, I would not have written it. I also know, from the senior Mr. Sanderson, that if they had known these letters were to be used in this manner, under no uncertain circumstances would they have requested these letters describing the character of their son. It was stated by Mr. Sanderson, and I quote, "We never would have placed any individual in such a position."

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Knowing the honest person that he is, I believe him.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize to my constituents that I do not condone violence against women, nor do I condone violence against men or violence against a family. As a woman, I would not tolerate any type of violent actions against myself, nor any other woman.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to read the letter that I wrote describing Sandy Sanderson and his home environment, dated January 16th:

"To whom it may concern: I am pleased to provide my personal views in support of my constituent, Sandy Sanderson. I have known Sandy Sanderson since he was born, and I know that as a youth growing up, he was always considerate and helpful.

"I recall Sandy working in the Legislative Assembly during sessions and recognize that he was an individual who was always willing to assist Members in their requests. The attitude that he displayed was one of a very courteous, mature and pleasant individual.

"In addition, I know that he has been provided with a very positive and caring family environment during his years of growth. His parents, Bob and Jean Sanderson, are a couple I have known all of my life. They have a very pleasant and positive attitude towards life, and I have always known them to be helpful to the less fortunate and considerate to individuals."

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell, your time has expired.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent from Members to conclude my Member's statement.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. "There is no doubt in my mind that one of their most important goals in life is to ensure their children are brought up with a secure, healthy and spiritual atmosphere.

"I realize Sandy was recently in conflict with the law; however, the situation does not deter me from expressing my opinion."

This is the letter that I submitted on behalf of Sandy Sanderson. Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize, again, that my letter was intended to describe the character of the family and of the individual. It is clear from my letter that this is what I have done.

It is my hope that my constituents take the time to understand and believe that it will not deter me from my stand; that I do not condone violence against women, men or the family; nor will it diminish my

ability to ensure that the issue of violence against women will not be overlooked in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I do want to indicate that I have learned a very valuable lesson from the comments and criticisms about my actions. I will be careful and cautious, and give more consideration to my letters of support in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Members for taking the time to listen, and my constituents, in particular, for taking the time to understand. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Abortions At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the courage of Ms. Ellen Hamilton of Iqaluit. Ms. Hamilton is a woman who was taken into Stanton Yellowknife Hospital for a therapeutic abortion. She was subjected to unreasonable and unacceptable levels of pain and discomfort as a result of hospital surgical procedures. Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely offensive that any woman should have to endure the sort of experience which Ms. Hamilton was subjected to.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a concern that women all across Canada have too often found themselves feeling as though professional people have failed to treat them properly or listen to their wishes. This, I believe, is a reflection both of the arrogance which underlies much of professional community and of the way society undervalues women's ability to make their own choices.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Ms. Hamilton took a bold and courageous step when she came forward to disclose her mistreatment at the hands of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. This is not only something that happened to Ms. Hamilton. The Status of Women has received a large number of comments from other women who have felt abused by the procedures employed by the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital when performing abortions. I applaud these women for coming forward. I think it is important that they should feel supported and understood in raising their concerns.

I may say that I am dismayed by the way the hospital board and its medical professional personnel seem to be more interested in denying the significance of these reports in trying to justify the procedures,

questioning the accuracy of women's statements and hiding behind the veil of their professional jargon and positions. Instead, they would be better advised to listen to their female patients and to put their energies into correcting these problems, rather than being defensive about them. It think it is important that the women of the Northwest Territories should feel comfortable in standing up to southern trained professionals...

MS. MIKE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

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

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important that women of the Northwest Territories should feel comfortable in standing up to southern-trained professionals when we feel as though we have not received the most appropriate treatment, and I would hope that the actions of the women who have come forward can serve as models for each of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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--- Applause

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

Member's Statement On Cutbacks At Victor Sammurtok School, Chesterfield Inlet

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the special CEC meeting held on February 18, Mr. Rob Anderson informed Chesterfield Inlet that Victor Sammurtok School would be reduced from five teacher positions to four, and that the number of classroom assistants would be reduced from 2.0 to 1.5, due to fiscal restraint being imposed on the approved budget.

In reviewing the funding formula as issued by the Department of Education, Chesterfield Inlet discovered that, based on 83 students, the enrolment in Victor Sammurtok School as of September 30, 1991, the community is entitled to 4.37 teachers based on the ratio of one teacher to 19 students. Chesterfield Inlet is further entitled under formula funding to .5 student support teachers. This adds up to a total of 4.87 teachers which should be rounded, according to common department practice, to 5.0 teachers, not the 4.0 that the community were told they would have.

Mr. Speaker, because of the time allotted, I will be pursuing this further with the Department of Education during the question period. Welcome back to the House, Mr. Minister.

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

Member's Statement On Hockey Match Results

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to inform this House of the courageous performance given by the L.A. Senators in an exhibition hockey match with the Yellowknife Media All Stars during Caribou Carnival. Mr. Speaker, the L.A. Senators played the Media All Stars to a nine-nine tie, although the goal in the dying seconds was disallowed which would have given us a glorious victory. Unlike basketball, Mr. Speaker, it appears that in hockey any shots that are made before the final buzzer do not count.

I should point out that the L.A. Senators were leading for most of the game. However, the Media All Stars used its usual tactics of waiting for the perfect opportunity to irritate the politicians. The media waited until we were tired and overconfident, and then they struck.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate our face-off specialist, Ms. Rebecca Mike, for winning almost every face-off she took.

--- Applause

I would also like to congratulate the Hon. Dennis Patterson for restraining himself. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister did not deal out any vicious checks to either his teammates or his opponents.

--- Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention that if an NHL players' strike occurs, the L.A. Senators are ready and willing to fill in.

Finally, I would like to mention that it is agreed by the media and the Members that we would keep this cup here in your office for six months, and the media will then take it for the next six months. I would also like to thank Roy Dahl for organizing this historic event, and I would hope we continue that event again. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: I think we are seeing the beginning of a tradition. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O368-12(2): Government Employees Holding Business Licences

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I have a return to Question O368-12(2) asked by Mr. Gargan on March 25, 1992. We are aware that people working in the public service hold business licences to operate other businesses. These people have permission under the rules in the public service regulations. The rules are that no employee shall carry on any business or employment outside the public service in which a) the employee exploits unduly and for personal gain, acquaintance with other employees or persons with whom the employee has become acquainted in the course of employment in the public service; b) there may be a conflict between the duties the employee is required to perform in that business or employment and the duties the employee is required to perform in the public service; or c) the employee makes unauthorized use of information acquired as a result of employment in the public service or of property or facilities owned by Her Majesty in the right of Canada or the Government of the NWT.

Employees are required to notify their deputy minister if they wish to carry on any outside business or employment. The deputy minister will deny permission if one of these rules is broken.

Return To Question O73-12(2): Housing For Hamlet Staff, Resolute Bay

This in return to Question O73-12(2), asked on February 20th by Mr. Pudluk. The Government of the Northwest Territories made a commitment to the Resolute Bay Hamlet Council in 1987 that a staff house would be turned over to the hamlet when one became available. The Departments of Personnel and Public Works have been attempting to locate a house in Resolute Bay which could be given to the hamlet to allow them to house a mechanic. Unfortunately, there is no vacant staff housing in the community, and this situation is not likely to improve in the next year.

As an alternative, the government is considering the conversion of one of the larger houses into a duplex. This house would then accommodate two employees who now live in separate houses. Unfortunately, the house needs a lot of work and the capital funding is

not available in 1992-93 to do the job. No new staff housing units are being built next year, and this means that it is unlikely that we will be able to help the hamlet until 1993-94 at the earliest.

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

This is in return to Question O334-12(2), asked by Mr. Koe on March 24th. Under the short-term housing sale program, the Department of Personnel, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, has received 35 offers from employees for the purchase of government staff housing. Eleven of these bids were accepted: one in Inuvik; one in Norman Wells; one in Coppermine; three in Rankin Inlet; three in Fort Smith; and two in Fort Simpson. The employees are currently in the process of completing their financing. The long-term strategy sale in Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River has not reached an offer stage.

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

This is a reply to Question O340-12(2), asked by Mr. Koe on March 24th. The short-term sale program allowed employees who responded positively to a 1989 housing survey to bid on government staff houses. Under this program, 69 staff housing units were appraised and offered for sale in the Inuvik Region. Thirteen bids were received from employees: 10 from Inuvik; two from Norman Wells; and one from Tuktoyaktuk. Of these bids, two were accepted by the government: one from Inuvik and one from Norman Wells. At this point no further houses are for sale in Inuvik.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

**Further Return To Question O410-12(2):
Response To Question Re Status Of Community
Hall, Sanikiluaq**

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three responses. The first is a return to Question O410-12(2), asked by Mr. Pudlat March 3, 1992, and raised again Friday. Mr. Speaker, this return was previously made on March 4, 1992, in response to Question O212-12(2) asked by the Member.

A community hall for Sanikiluaq is not currently in the department's capital forecasting plan. A number of years ago the community was asked whether they

wanted a new arena or community hall, and they chose an arena as their priority. The Department of Education had plans at that time for the construction of a gymnasium. The new gymnasium was completed in 1988. The new arena is currently scheduled for completion in 1994-95. With the community receiving these two facilities, it is unlikely the department will be able to include construction of a community hall in our budget in the foreseeable future. However, the design and siting of the new arena will allow for the future addition of a community hall when it becomes feasible.

**Return To Question O296-12(2): GNWT
Contributions To Workers' Compensation Board**

This is a return to Question O296-12(2), asked by Mrs. Marie Jewell on March 9th. Mr. Speaker, the following breakdown of assessment revenue is based on the 1990 audited financial statements and not 1991, as that audit has not been completed and approved by the Auditor General's office. The order of breakdown is from highest to lowest by industry class, and perhaps I will just recite the percentage:

Construction, 26.30 per cent; mining, 20.70 per cent; transportation and communication utilities, 14.13 per cent; public administration, GNWT, 10.03 per cent; services, which includes business and professional services, hotels, motels, camp caterers, security, janitorial services, et cetera, 9.70 per cent; public administration, other, 6.97 per cent; oil and gas, 6.29 per cent; trades, 5.35 per cent; renewable resources, .53 per cent. Total revenue, \$19,714,000, at 100 per cent. So the GNWT assessment for 1990 comprised 10.03 per cent of the total revenue for that year.

**Further Return To Question O51-12(2): Retraining
Injured Workers Through Workers'
Compensation Board**

This is a return to Question O51-12(2), asked by Mr. Todd on February 17th. The Workers' Compensation Board is unable to provide actual dollars spent on rehabilitation in the South as the accounting system does not track the distribution of moneys spent on rehabilitation by worker's residency. Based on the assumption that 65 per cent of workers reside in the South after injury, it is estimated that they consume up to 65 per cent of moneys spent on rehabilitation. Rehabilitation includes retraining.

Using this estimate, of the \$2.5 million spent on rehabilitation in 1991, up to \$1.9 million was expended in the South. Of this amount, 66 per cent

was paid out in rehabilitation benefits such as home modification, independence aids, tools, vehicle modification, special financial assistance, residential aid, relocation allowance, excluding compensation payments and medical aid costs.

The remaining costs represent expenditures such as payment of academic training, provision of vocational assessment, work conditioning and counselling services, to name but a few. For northern workers, unfortunately these services are non-existent in the North and for the most part have to be purchased in the South. It is estimated that the rehabilitation division had to spend up to \$200,000 last year in sending northern residents south for rehabilitation programs. Whenever possible, they have tried to import the expertise on a case by case basis to minimize cost to family disruption. These rehabilitation costs exclude the cost of early medical treatment and expense of travelling south for surgery and specialized medical opinions. The board's goal is to have the injured worker return to the workplace as quickly as possible as it will reduce long-term claim and compensation costs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

**Further Return To Question O280-12(2): Status Of
The NWT Business Loans Board**

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I have three returns. The first was asked by Mr. Koe on March 6th, 1992, regarding the status of the NWT Business Loans Board, Mr. Speaker. On October 1, 1991, when the new Business Credit Corporation Act was proclaimed and the Business Loans and Guarantees Act was rescinded, the directors of the Business Loans Fund Board resigned, and a new slate of directors was appointed.

Since the size of the new board was reduced from 12 to nine, and since several of the directors held positions on other boards, some changes were made.

The new board of directors consists of: Mary King of Hay River; Anthony Chang and Stephen Hurst of Yellowknife; Allan Woodhouse and Thomas Webster of Iqaluit; Mark Kalluak of Arviat; Gordon Peters of Holman Island; Wilfred Wilcox of Cambridge Bay; and Rod Hardy of Fort Norman.

**Further Return To Question O174-12(2): Deferral
Of Large Capital Contracts**

The second one, Mr. Chairman, was asked by Mr. Zoe on February 27th concerning the deferral of large capital contracts. Although no formal policy exists on informing communities and Members of the Legislative Assembly of deferrals or delays to large capital projects, it is the practice of Ministers and departments to inform communities when such deferrals or delays occur.

To increase the involvement of communities and MLAs in the capital planning process, the government has implemented process changes that formally provide for community and MLA input at set points in the process. These points are at the outset of the planning process and at the time when draft department capital plans are completed.

**Return To Question O293-12(2): Number Of Trees
Required To Make One Million Board Feet**

The third one, Mr. Speaker, was asked by Mr. Antoine on March 9, 1992, regarding the number of trees required to make one million board feet. On average,

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Mr. Speaker, 10,000 to 12,000 trees are required to produce one million board feet of lumber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question O189-12(2): Highway
Patrol Operations**

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O189-12(2), asked by Mr. Gargan on February 27, 1992, regarding highway patrol operations. On Thursday, February 27, 1992, the Member for Deh Cho asked me on what day of the week motor transport officers conduct mobile patrols on the highways.

The day that motor transport officers are out on mobile patrol results from their rotating shift schedule. Their first responsibility is to keep the weigh scale open for truck inspections. The shift schedule for each officer is six shifts on duty and two days off, followed by another six shifts on and three days off. The six and two, six and three shift schedule does not match the seven day calendar week. In this way, the one day in six an officer is assigned to patrol duty always changes as the officer keeps repeating the shift cycle.

With the department's present staff of six highway transport officers stations in Hay River, the Member should expect that on most days of the seven-day week, there is one officer out on an eight-hour shift of patrol duty. As I explained, because of the rotating shift schedule, the day when there is no patrol is always changing.

Return To Question O254-12(2): Status Of Management Board At Akaitcho Hall

I have another return, to Question O254-12(2), asked by Mr. Gargan on March 4, 1992, concerning the status of the management board at Akaitcho Hall. While it is true that there have been a number of different people supervising Akaitcho Hall during the past few years, the advisory board has always had the support of the Department of Education. Recently, due to a change in staffing assignments, responsibility for Akaitcho Hall has been assigned to the operations, training and development division. The former director of board development, who had been working with the Akaitcho Hall board, has taken on the position of director of curriculum services.

The director of operations, training and development is presently working with Akaitcho Hall administration and the advisory board to improve procedures and staff guidelines for the supervision and care of students. Staff job descriptions will be carefully examined to ensure that their responsibilities are stated clearly. The department will also conduct a full operational review of the Akaitcho Hall residence in May 1992. The review will focus on all aspects of operation including the goals and objectives of the residence, training of staff, recreation and weekend activity programs for students, student leave procedures and student support and participation in the operation of the residence.

The Akaitcho Hall Advisory Board will be fully involved in this review. The preliminary planning with board members will take place during the next few weeks. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O409-12(2): Salary Increase For NWT Power Corporation Employees

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Question O409-12(2), asked by Mr. Dent on March 27th, on whether or not the senior employees of the NWT Power Corporation had just received a 10 per cent salary increase. The employees of the NWT

Power Corporation have received no salary increase since April 1, 1991, at which time the increase was 5.02 per cent. The salaries of the chairman, president and vice-presidents decreased January 1, 1992. The corporation is presently preparing for bargaining with the Union of Northern Workers for the fiscal year 1992-93. The current contract expires March 31, 1992.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O209-12(2): Directive Regarding Abstinence Clause

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I have three returns. The first was asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on February 26, 1992. The sobriety clause was intended to apply to alcohol and drug workers who are responsible for counselling and treating people with alcohol and drug problems. These workers are expected to abstain from the consumption of alcohol because of the very important role modelling that they must maintain in order to be effective counsellors.

The department officials do not provide counselling services. They have other responsibilities and therefore function with other expectations. Nevertheless, as public servants they are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with their positions and in keeping with the collective agreement. The matter of a directive for department officials is not being considered, as it is not viewed as necessary.

Further Return To Question O323-12(2): Liability Insurance For Young Offenders' Group Home, Inuvik

This is a return to Question O323-12(2), asked by Mr. Koe on March 12th, on whether or not the Department of Social Services could extend the closing date for proposals that had already been submitted. Mr. Speaker, I gave this return the same day the question was asked, just before the House adjourned. However, I wish to repeat it for the Member's benefit. As well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arvaluk asked Question O412-12(2) on Friday as to when this reply would be coming.

The closing date for proposals was March 13th. In light of concerns expressed by the honourable Member, I checked into it, and I would like to inform the Member that the department was instructed to extend the closing date by seven days. This will give plenty of time to inform the persons who already

submitted proposals and have that concern of the method of obtaining the necessary insurance coverage.

As I explained, it had been delivered that very day, and I checked into it and everything had been taken care of satisfactorily.

Further Return To Question O214-12(2): Mistakes In Beatty Report Re Health Service In Fort Simpson

This is a return to Question O214-12(2), asked by Mr. Antoine. On March 2, 1992 the Honourable Member for Nahendeh quoted mistakes in the Strength at Two Levels report regarding health services in Fort Simpson and asked me to assure the House that funding for the physician in Fort Simpson would not be eliminated.

Consideration of the Strength at Two Levels recommendations regarding health services will be based on current and accurate information. Plans for medical and other services and for facilities in Fort Simpson are the subject of the review process currently under way. I do not want to prejudge the outcome of any assessment at this stage, but I can assure the honourable Member that additional consultation will take place prior to any decisions being made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O438-12(2): Implementation Of Departmental Directive Re Eliminating Unnecessary Pain During Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. Last Thursday, I asked the Minister of Health, recognizing that medical procedures used at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital subject women to unnecessary pain during a procedure, and recognizing that the Minister of Health is initiating a review, if he would consider directing his department to develop a directive which would eliminate unnecessary pain which is imposed upon women who have abortion procedures taken through the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. The Minister at that point had indicated, "Yes." I would like to know whether or not the Minister can assure this House that the directive has been implemented.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health, Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O438-12(2): Implementation Of Departmental Directive Re Eliminating Unnecessary Pain During Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I replied that I do not think I could tell the doctors what to do. I think the physicians have met and agreed to deal with the matter of pain control. Mr. Speaker, I have been advised by the hospital that abortion patients will now be provided with control over the amount of additional pain control medication they receive through the use of a self-administered rapidacting, inhalant analgesic.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O439-12(2): Request For Public Inquiry Into General Procedures For Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask the Minister of Health if, after reviewing much of the media reports that have been available to him and some of the comments made to him by medical practitioners who provide services in the area of proper procedures for abortions, whether or not the Minister is prepared to allow for a public hearing or inquiry into general procedures for this medical procedure in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O439-12(2): Request For Public Inquiry Into General Procedures For Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not think a public review would serve any purpose. I believe I have asked for an independent review of the procedures that are taking place here at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital with respect to the performing of abortions. I believe that will provide the public with the information that is currently being sought.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O439-12(2): Request For Public Inquiry Into General Procedures For Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Health. In light of all the complaints that have come forward within the last week, why is the Minister not prepared to allow a general inquiry to hear the concerns of the women of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O439-12(2): Request For Public Inquiry Into General Procedures For Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned with this matter, as is the public. I want this issue resolved, as well. I immediately took steps to have the Stanton board of management initiate the review. I think this will bring out all of the concerns that are out there about the issue at hand.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O439-12(2): Request For Public Inquiry Into General Procedures For Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, how does the Minister of Health see that an independent, private review is going to hear from the women of the Northwest Territories and the concerns they have about this particular procedure?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O439-12(2): Request For Public Inquiry Into General Procedures For Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the intention is to get the independent review undertaken as soon as possible. Mr. Speaker, I think that all the concerns will be heard by the independent review group. Their recommendations will be made public.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary Question O439-12(2): Request For Public Inquiry Into General Procedures For Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health how he is going have input from medical practitioners about the particular process or procedure, now that it is to be considered by the independent, private review.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O439-12(2): Request For Public Inquiry Into General Procedures For Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the independent review will be undertaken by

qualified people that will be able to ascertain how best to get this information from the public.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O440-12(2): Percentage Of Abortion Patients Given Anesthetic

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. In the Edmonton Journal of Saturday, March 28th, there was an article headlined, "Anesthetic Essential -Morgentaler." This is a fellow who has been a very strong advocate of proper medical procedures with regard to abortions. Yet, at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, Dr. Suzanne Perkins stated that almost all of their abortion patients are sedated with some kind of pain killer. What does 'almost all of their patients' mean? Does it mean 99 per cent, or 50 per cent? We do not have the figure in here. I would like the Minister to inform me of the percentage.

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O440-12(2): Percentage Of Abortion Patients Given Anesthetic

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not wish to be a referee between one media or another and what they say about whatever. I cannot speak for the procedural differences between the medical professionals. Obviously, there are some differences. That is why the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board is undertaking this review of abortion procedures in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question O440-12(2): Percentage Of Abortion Patients Given Anesthetic

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try it this way. On the same page it says that the hospital staff always use a local anesthetic on abortion patients. Which one is correct? All of the time, or some of the time?

MR. SPEAKER: I think it would be difficult for the Minister to interpret what is in a media report. Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O440-12(2): Percentage Of Abortion Patients Given Anesthetic

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to be a referee between what is proper and what is not. I have assured the House that an independent review is going to be undertaken. The terms of reference that will be made in this review will allow that the recommendations be made public. As for the procedure itself, I have no comment on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Mike.

Question O441-12(2): Abortion Cases Referred To Southern Canada

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Northerners are concerned about the procedures being used to perform abortions at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Recognizing that there have been reports that women are having to endure unreasonable levels of pain when they receive an abortion at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, and recognizing that there are facilities in southern Canada to which female patients could be referred for this surgical procedure, has the Minister taken any action to advise the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital to stop performing abortions until after the completion of the review?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O441-12(2): Abortion Cases Referred To Southern Canada

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

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question O441-12(2): Abortion Cases Referred To Southern Canada

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Have there been any abortions or D and C procedures at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital since March 24th?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O441-12(2): Abortion Cases Referred To Southern Canada

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell,

Question O442-12(2): Directive From Minister For Doctors To Relieve Pain

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am really appalled and astounded that a Minister of this government, when we question, basically states that they do not have the authority to tell the doctors what to do, in their response. I cannot indicate how disappointed I am in hearing that type of remark, The Minister of this government has a statutory obligation to ensure that medical procedures that are maintained or are used in the Territories are acceptable to people of the North.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister of Health, since he indicated in this House that a directive to relieve pain would be given to women that abortions are performed on, has he produced this directive?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O442-12(2): Directive From Minister For Doctors To Relieve Pain

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I brought this matter to the attention of the department as soon as I heard about it. The department then began looking into it so I would have some answers on Tuesday, and I did. I responded as soon as I was informed of this matter through the media. The department then ascertained certain information for me and because, as I said earlier on, I cannot tell a doctor what to do and how to perform a particular type of procedure, I wanted the Stanton board to assure the public that their safety would be protected. That is why a few moments ago I advised the House that the doctors themselves have taken on the responsibility to ensure that patients now, any patient who goes in for an abortion or a procedure similar to that, a D and C, would have control over the amount of additional pain medication that they would receive through a self-administered, rapid-acting inhalant. I have been informed that this is fast-acting, and it will produce a pain suppressing reaction. I think this is all I can assure the House; that women seeking procedures of this nature will themselves be in control of fast acting medication that will relieve a certain amount of discomfort.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O442-12(2): Directive From Minister For Doctors To Relieve Pain

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the Minister has understood my point. I would like to let the Minister know that as a Minister, the authority to ensure that adequate standards are

maintained in the hospital, is his responsibility. I would like to ask the Minister if he can advise the House whether his failure to prepare a directive is a refusal on his part to exercise his statutory authority.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O442-12(2): Directive From Minister For Doctors To Relieve Pain

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how to answer the question, but I think physicians must make every effort to achieve adequate pain control and they must make every effort to be sensitive and responsive to indication that their

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patients are uncomfortable. I believe that my previous reply speaks for itself; that the medical profession has taken these steps without a directive, I do not think I can answer the Member's question that I have issued a directive. I cannot issue directives like that, as to what a doctor should or should not do. I think the review that will be taking place will determine whether or not procedures here are in keeping with certain standards and are up to date. Those are what the issues here are.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O442-12(2): Directive From Minister For Doctors To Relieve Pain

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: If the Minister had just stated now that he will not issue a directive, then why did he state, "Yes," on Thursday when I questioned him in this House, asking him if he will 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.

Further Return To Question O442-12(2): Directive From Minister For Doctors To Relieve Pain

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I thought I answered the Member's question. The process that I took is I got the department to become aware of this as I became aware of this on the news. We wanted to make the Stanton board aware of my concerns, and that was done and passed on to the medical profession, and the medical profession then took it upon themselves to ensure that pain medication would be administered; and how it is done -- again, I

have no control over telling a physician what to do. I think a Minister's powers are limited to some things. I said that we would bring it to their attention, and we have. I am sure that the review board will determine the process.

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

Supplementary To Question O442-12(2): Directive From Minister For Doctors To Relieve Pain

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I believe this is my final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister again, why did he state in this House, "Yes," he will issue a directive, develop a directive, that will eliminate unnecessary pain imposed on women, and today states to us that he cannot do that? Why did he say "Yes" in this House last Thursday?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O442-12(2): Directive From Minister For Doctors To Relieve Pain

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the words I used were that I would consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O443-12(2): Abortions In Relation To THIS Act

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pursue the matter of authority of the Minister of Health. I have before me the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act, and 5(e) says: "Subject to this act, the board may..." -- the board in this particular case is the THIS Board, that was replaced to be the Minister -- "...may license, supervise and inspect hospitals in the Territories and ensure that adequate standards are maintained in the hospitals." Would the Minister indicate to me what this means in terms of services that are being provided for abortion procedures in hospitals?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O443-12(2): Abortions In Relation To THIS Act

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Minister does have overall authority over hospitals...

MR. NERYSOO: Exactly.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: ... but I am not sure whether or not he has the authority to direct doctors to practise medicine in a certain fashion.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O443-12(2): Abortions In Relation To THIS Act

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister of Health not think that he has the power and authority to procedures?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O443-12(2): Abortions In Relation To THIS Act

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think licensing a doctor and telling a doctor what kind of anesthetics to apply are two different matters. The Minister may have the authority to license medical practitioners, but I do not think he has the authority to dictate what types of medication to apply. Mr. Speaker, I think I have answered the question to assuage any fears that Members may have that abortions are going to continue to be administered without any pain control or controlling medication. The directive has been given by Stanton to the medical people as to what the concerns are, and the medical profession agreed to that and has come up with a form of medication that would allow patients to undergo such procedures as D and Cs and abortions without the feeling of unnecessary pain. That pain medication would be controlled by themselves. They have self-administered, inhalant devices that will allow them to take as much or as little as they feel is necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O443-12(2): Abortions In Relation To THIS Act

MR. NERYSOO: Does the Minister of Health not think that he has the power, the authority, and the legislative responsibility, or the responsibility, to set standards and direct boards of health to maintain certain types of medical standards and medical practices in their hospitals?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O443-12(2): Abortions In Relation To THIS Act

HON. TONY WHITFORD: While this may be true, I am not sure what, and I do not think anyone is sure what, the "proper" procedure is. We have heard experts on all sides of this issue suggest which way is better, one way or the other; and again, I am going to point out that because of the confusion surrounding what is right and what is not right, or better or not better, I think this is what this independent review will bring forward to the public to let them know what procedures are being used.

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MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O443-12(2): Abortions In Relation To THIS Act

MR. NERYSOO: Final supplementary on this matter of authority. Does the Minister, in listening to his response, not feel that he has the legislative authority to instruct hospitals to maintain certain standards?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O443-12(2): Abortions In Relation To THIS Act

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not entirely sure of my total authority, but I see the Member has a reference book, which I have not got in front of me, to determine my total authority in this matter. I understand that I do have it, so I will have to say "Yes."

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Question O444-12(2): Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Spokesperson Re Abortion Procedures

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. Could the Minister please inform the House, who has the responsibility to act as spokesman for the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital in responding to reports that women are subjected to painful surgical procedures when undergoing abortion?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think that if any person is experiencing some concern with the medical procedure that is taking place, in any medical facility, the first person they should address that to is the attending physician. I think subsequent to that...

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not asking who women should direct their complaints to; I am asking who has the responsibility to act as spokesman for the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, concerning abortions.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, Ms. Mike. Mr. Whitford. Return To Question O444-12(2): Stanton Yellowknife Procedures Hospital Spokesperson Re Abortion Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lynn Olenek.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question O444-12(2): Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Spokesperson Re: Abortion Procedures

MS. MIKE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Perry Caplan, of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, has made public statements that the hospital's policy of not routinely giving anesthetic to women having abortions is in the patients' best interests. Can the Minister confirm whether this is the formal position of either the hospital board or the territorial Department of Health?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O444-12(2): Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Spokesperson Re: Abortion Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question O444-12(2): Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Spokesperson Re: Abortion Procedures

MS. MIKE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Caplan has made comments that patients are not strapped down or held down during surgical procedures. These comments contradict earlier disclosures made by many women from across the NWT. Is the Minister aware whether or not Dr. Caplan completed a full review of procedures used by all surgeons and physicians at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital before making these comments to the press?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O444-12(2): Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Spokesperson Re: Abortion Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of what Dr. Caplan has spoken to. Mr. Speaker, as I have said many times, the review that will be undertaken will look into the hospital procedures and how they reply, and they will make recommendations that will be made public and brought forward to the House at a later date.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question O444-12(2): Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Spokesperson Re: Abortion Procedures

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing the actions of medical personnel at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital are likely to influence the reputation of the health care delivery system in the NWT, what action is the Minister willing to undertake in order to ensure that public statements by hospital personnel are carefully co-ordinated and factually accurate?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O444-12(2): Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Spokesperson Re Abortion

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps they would best co-ordinate that through Ms. Olenek.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O445-12(2): Abortion Pain Elimination Directive For Doctors

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. I am very concerned. Last Thursday I asked the Minister of Health if he would develop a directive to eliminate unnecessary pain which is posed on women that have abortion procedures taken through the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. The Minister indicated to this House, "Yes." Today he basically indicates in this House that he said he thought he would consider it. Is the Minister of Health willing to develop a directive to his department which will eliminate unnecessary pain posed on women that have abortion procedures taken through the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O445-12(2): Abortion Pain Elimination Directive For Doctors

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, yes.

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

Supplementary To Question O445-12(2): Abortion Pain Elimination Directive For Doctors

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister has committed to ensuring that a directive will be developed to eliminate unnecessary pain pose on women, will he request in this directive, when it is developed, that in order to eliminate unnecessary pain that it be in the form of local anesthesia or local anesthetic or general anesthesia?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O445-12(2): Abortion Pain Elimination Directive For Doctors

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer that question because it suggests that the Minister of Health would know something about medical procedures and which type of medication to apply, which kind of anesthetics to apply within specific instances. I think I said that the Stanton board had already assured that the medical profession were aware of the concerns of women and that they have taken these steps to provide this additional pain control medication through the inhalant method. I was assured that this stuff is fast-acting and the requirements could be administered by the individual to the level that they would require.

As far as writing a directive to the doctors to tell them what kind of medication to apply, I think that is best left to the medical profession rather than the Minister. But I will issue the directive to do something, which has already been done.

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

Supplementary To Question O445-12(2): Abortion Pain Elimination Directive For Doctors

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister has committed to this House to request that a directive be developed to eliminate unnecessary pain, and since he indicated that he does not know whether he should tell the doctor whether it should be local anesthetic or whatever type of pain reliever, I would

like to ask the Minister why can he not commit to this House that local anesthetic or general anesthetic should be used when abortion procedures are done through the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O445-12(2): Abortion Pain Elimination Directive For Doctors

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know how many times I can say it. I am not a doctor so I do not know what is best for one situation over another. I cannot instruct doctors as to what to do. I can only assure the Members that the medical profession has already taken steps to ensure there is a minimum amount of pain caused to patients that are receiving these delicate procedures. I have explained this to the Member, I do not know how many times.

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

Supplementary To Question O445-12(2): Abortion Pain Elimination Directive For Doctors

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: A few minutes ago my colleague, Mr. Nerysoo, asked the Minister if he felt that he had the authority to instruct doctors or for directives to be developed accordingly, which would require medical procedures used. The Minister indicated - I believe after some time he recognized his authority and he now is indicating that he cannot tell a doctor what to do. The Minister is responsible for the doctors' actions, and unfortunately the doctors' actions are causing unnecessary pain to women. When the Minister of Health issues a directive to his department that eliminates unnecessary pain for women, will he request that local or general anesthetic be administered to women who have abortions performed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

Question O446-12(2): Type Of Pain Relievers Used In Abortions

MR. GARGAN: I want to ask the Minister of Health a question. During a press conference last week with the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board, a statement was made to the effect that every procedure for abortion gets some form of pain reliever. I guess the

form of pain relief is what I am interested in, What kind of pain relief are we talking about?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O447-12(2): Advice Of Legislature In Review Of Stanton Hospital

MR. NERYSOO: I would like to ask the Minister of Health if he is going to take the commitment that he made to the Members of this House to seek our advice as to the procedure that is going to be followed by the independent private review.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O447-12(2): Advice Of Legislature In Review Of Stanton Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O447-12(2): Advice Of Legislature In Review Of Stanton Hospital

MR. NERYSOO: Is the Minister prepared to consider a review that is not only associated to the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, but generally to the medical procedures for abortions throughout the NWT?

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O447-12(2): Advice Of Legislature In Review Of Stanton Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O447-12(2): Advice Of Legislature In Review Of Stanton Hospital

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, I would like to ask the Minister of Health if he is also prepared to seek the chairmanship of an independent medical practitioner who is not from the Northwest Territories, but with experience in this particular field.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O447-12(2): Advice Of Legislature In Review Of Stanton Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to assure the House -- and I have said this before -- that it would be somebody that would be independent of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O447-12(2): Advice Of Legislature In Review Of Stanton Hospital

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health, or any of his advisors across the way there, whether or not they could consider a public review rather than an independent review of the medical practices in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O447-12(2): Advice Of Legislature In Review Of Stanton Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo, your last Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O447-12(2): Advice Of Legislature In Review Of Stanton Hospital

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health how he intends to seek the advice and hear the complaints of women in the Northwest Territories with regard to medical procedures if the intention is for an independent review?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O447-12(2): Advice Of Legislature In Review Of Stanton Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, we are working out the details of the review process. I will make that known to the House later on.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O448-12(2): Intention To Seek Advice Of Medical Professionals In Other Hospitals

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health if it is his intention to have or seek the advice of other medical professionals that work in some of the hospitals?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O448-12(2): Intention To Seek Advice Of Medical Professionals In Other Hospitals

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am certain that all the methods that are currently being used for performing abortions and other procedures of a similar nature will be considered as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O448-12(2): Intention To Seek Advice Of Medical Professionals In Other Hospitals

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health, again, if he has had any advice on how the general public is going to be involved in this independent review.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O448-12(2): Intention To Seek Advice Of Medical Professionals In Other Hospitals

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have had plenty of advice lately. The method that is going to involve the public will be included in the terms of reference for the review. The terms of reference will be made known to the House as soon as this is possible.

There are ways in which people are expressing their concerns regarding the procedures that have taken place in the past. People have been notifying the Status of Women Council, who are putting together, confidentially, the concerns. This information will be entered into the review. Meetings have taken place already with the Status of Women Council in order to get some input into the development of the terms of reference of the review.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O448-12(2): Intention To Seek Advice Of Medical Professionals In Other Hospitals

MR. NERYSOO: I would like to ask the Minister of Health if he has considered, in any of his discussions with his cabinet colleagues, the idea of a public inquiry or review. If so, why did they rule out this particular process?

MR. SPEAKER: It is really two questions, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O448-12(2): Intention To Seek Advice Of Medical Professionals In Other Hospitals

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we discussed that matter. I think time is of the essence. I am not sure how far to broaden this review. I want to assure the Member that an independent review will be taking place to deal with this particular issue, the issue being the way the abortions are performed as well as the way in which procedures of a similar nature are being dealt with at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. I think this is the issue.

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MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O449-12(2): Number Of Abortions Performed In NWT

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, in the media or news this morning, there was an increase in complaints by women with regard to abortion procedures being used. By raising my concern, I am not suggesting I support abortions, but I would like to ask the Minister exactly how many abortions are performed in one year in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O449-12(2): Number Of Abortions Performed In NWT

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the total number is around 320 abortions in the past year. That is not necessarily to say they have all been performed here in the Northwest Territories, but about two thirds of the abortions are performed in territorial facilities.

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

Supplementary To Question O449-12(2): Number Of Abortions Performed In NWT

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. Three hundred and twenty abortions is a high number. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not, when compared to the national average, we are the highest in Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have this information available at the moment, but I will take the question as notice.

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

Question O450-12(2): Patients Who Do Not Want Pain Relief

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I asked the Minister of Health, and in reviewing Hansard I confirmed that he did not answer my question, nor did he take it on notice, so therefore I will pose my question again. My concern to the Minister of Health was that last Wednesday when we questioned him he indicated that they do get pain relief if they ask for it, in respect to medical procedures on abortions. I asked the Minister if there have been any patients who do not want to have pain relief during the medical procedures when abortions are performed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O450-12(2): Patients Who Do Not Want Pain Relief

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know that.

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

Supplementary To Question O450-12(2): Patients Who Do Not Want Pain Relief

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Generally when a Minister does not know something they take something as notice. However, since the Minister of Health has not taken my question as notice, will the Minister provide to this House an example of a patient, or an example of a woman who does not want to have pain relief administered during the medical procedures when abortions are being performed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O450-12(2): Patients Who Do Not Want Pain Relief

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think that I have no way of getting that information because of patient confidentiality and no one has come forward to me, and I assume that when the review is undertaken that this information will be brought forward.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O450-12(2): Patients Who Do Not Want Pain Relief

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, it appears that the Minister does not want to answer my question. The concern I have is that there has been some indication by medical practitioners that pain relievers are not given, or anesthetics are not given, because of hemorrhaging or whatever excuse. I am concerned that women are subjected to unnecessary pain in the medical procedure performed. The Minister indicated they can get pain relief if they want it. Can the Minister give this House an example as to any patients who do not want to have pain relief administered? Why is his department telling him that pain relief administered during this procedure does not necessarily have to be given? I would like to ask the Minister why.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O451-12(2): Quick Solutions Derived From Independent Review On Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health, as a result of his comments, firstly in order for us to resolve this particular matter and concern that has been raised with regard to medical procedures for abortions at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, he mentioned that time is of the essence. I am not certain if the independent review is going to come to immediate conclusions, particularly if there are differing opinions within the medical profession or differing from the views that have been expressed by the complainants, the women who have been effected by this traumatic procedure. So why does the Minister think that such an independent review is going to come up with quick solutions to what might be a longer process, particularly if the public is involved?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O451-12(2): Quick Solutions Derived From Independent Review On Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have never used words like "quick solutions," but I think what I was referring to is that this issue is of concern to myself and to the Members, and I think it is important that we have a look at this issue as soon as possible. This is what I was referring to. Striking the independent review as quickly as we can and reviewing the procedures that are taking place and reviewing procedures as they compare with other areas and other fields of medicine and getting the recommendations to the public as soon as we can is a desirable thing for everybody.

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O451-12(2): Quick Solutions Derived From Independent Review On Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Why does the Minister feel it is not in his interest to issue instructions to the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital immediately to improve the medical procedures until the independent review is completed and reported to this House?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O451-12(2): Quick Solutions Derived From Independent Review On Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I thought I answered the Member's question about that already; that I would have a directive issued to advise the medical profession of the concerns. As I said earlier, the medical profession has already taken steps to ensure the patients that they can receive a form of pain control medication through their own administration as required. I am not sure how much faster than that we can go.

MR. SPEAKER: Can I caution Members that in some places we are going over the same ground, and Ministers do not have to respond to questions, and questions might not always be responded to to the satisfaction of Members. Our rules try to prevent asking the same questions again. I have been quite open in listening to the debate, but if I could just caution Members to try not to cover the same ground again. Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O451-12(2): Quick Solutions Derived From Independent Review On Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, there are differing opinions between the medical profession, the doctors, about this matter. The words of the Minister are "pain control medication," very different from anesthetic services. I want to know why the Minister pursues or is supporting the idea of only pain control medication and not anesthetic procedures.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis.

Question O452-12(2): Purpose Of Meeting With Mr. Siddon

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance a question. I know that last week he met with Mr. Siddon. Could he indicate to the House the purpose of the meeting?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O452-12(2): Purpose Of Meeting With Mr. Siddon

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Siddon and I were discussing the health billing dispute. Mr. Siddon also raised the Northern Accord. I raised, on behalf of the municipalities, the fact that the grant in lieu from Canada had not been completely paid. We were discussing also, to some extent, the formula funding agreement that is in place between the Government of Canada and the Government of the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O452-12(2): Purpose Of Meeting With Mr. Siddon

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, it is always interesting to know what has been discussed. I would like to ask the Minister, as a result of these discussions, was he successful in convincing the Minister that whatever position he is presenting him should be a position that he should not accept on each one of the issues that the Minister has raised.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O452-12(2): Purpose Of Meeting With Mr. Siddon

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I did not come away with a certified cheque, if that is what the Member is asking. I think with regard to the formula funding, there is a recognition at Finance, and I would stress that I was not talking to the Department of Finance, but there is a recognition at the Department of Finance that perhaps the bite that was put on a couple of years ago has really seriously hurt the funding agreement with Canada.

With regard to the health billing issue, Mr. Siddon and I were at odds, and there seems to be some discrepancy between our position and the federal government position with regard to the billing process. Mr. Siddon's officials advise him that the GNWT is double billing and we maintain that we are not double billing. So there was a meeting this morning between the Government Leader, myself and Mr. Whitford and officials in regard to what to do now; and we have placed, at noon, a new position before the Department of Indian Affairs, and. I would hope we would receive a response tomorrow.

In the area of the grants in lieu, again the federal government's position is that they would certainly pay grants in lieu on land set aside for aboriginal people as long as they were in control of those lands and we had not placed any buildings upon them. But their position on lands that we have allowed people to build HAP houses on or build their own houses, is that the federal government believes it is now our responsibility. So we are still at loggerheads on that one, although Mr. Siddon was told, in no uncertain terms, that unless we were able to resolve these differences, we would pursue a course of action.

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

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W27-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on March 9, 1992.

W27-12(2): Community Employment Officers

Hon. Titus Alloo'loo's return to Question W27-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on March 9, 1992: In 1991-92, advanced education, Inuvik Region, had a budget of

\$67,000 in grants and contributions, which was divided between seven communities in the Inuvik Region, The funds were used to subsidize the salary of community employment officers. In November 1991, Canada Employment and Immigration made a \$15,000 contribution to each of the employment offices. However, the program will be turned over to the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Pathways Group for 1992-93.

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The Department of Education will review its essential program priorities under a functional review in 1992-93. At this time no changes have been undertaken regarding funding for 1992-93. Ongoing discussions between the Department of Education and the hamlet of Aklavik are occurring. I am informed that at present the main problem is the inability of the hamlet to support the salary for a full-time employment officer. Should there be changes to the existing funding levels, the standing committee on finance and this Legislature will be consulted through the main estimates approval process.

MR. SPEAKER: 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.

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to section 32(3) of the Financial Administration Act, I wish to table Tabled Document 37-12(2), a list of all interactivity transfers exceeding \$250,000 within departments for the period December 10, 1991 to March 23, 1992.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motions.

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

Item 15, motions. Motion 10-12(2) will remain on the order paper

Item 16, first reading of bills.

Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels; Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction; Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93; Motion 6-12(2), Discussion on Sobriety Clause in Contribution Agreements; Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1991-92; Bill 5, An Act to Repeal the Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act; Bill 12, Tobacco Tax Act; Bill 22, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1992; Bill 23, Loan Authorization Act, 1992-93; Bill 7, Interim Appropriations for the GNWT for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1993, with Mr. Nerysoo in the chair.

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

Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1991-92

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I will call the committee to order. We were dealing with Bill 25, page 10, Justice, O and M. What is the wish of the committee? that we proceed with the details?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Does the Minister wish to have witnesses appear? Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: If I could ask the committee to allow Mr. Voytilla to appear.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Is the House agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Justice

Police Services, Total O and M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Page 10, police services, not previously authorized, \$1,153,000. Mr. Gargan.

Kitty Nowdluk-Reynolds Case Complaint

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, one of the things that has come up over the weekend is that they do not have any policy with regard to when they make an

arrest or when the courts issue a warrant for arrest of victims to appear as witnesses. This is one area in which the RCMP have indicated they do not have any policy, and I believe they do not intend to have a policy on that. So we have a situation where a repeat of what has been happening during the last several years with regard to witnesses could very well happen again. Is this government going to be advising or directing the police force to review those situations and see whether or not a process could be developed with regard to when victims are arrested as witnesses?

There were a number of recommendations that came out of the inquiry that is happening in Iqaluit. Is anything going to be done as a result of the inquiry?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly do agree with the Member that this is a matter that needs to be looked into. I am sure that it will be given a thorough review by the RCMP Public Complaints Commission, which did just complete its deliberations this past Friday. The complaint commission heard from 19 witnesses, including five members of the RCMP from British Columbia who would have been involved in the arrest of that particular witness. The commission had its own legal counsel, and so did the particular complainant. I am told that we can expect a detailed report from the commission, but that it will take approximately two months.

The report from the complaint heard over the past eight days in Iqaluit is expected within two months. There was a person from the NWT sitting on that complaints commission, Mr. Lazarus Arreak, and I believe the matter will be thoroughly addressed by that report, and it will undoubtedly influence the way these matters are dealt with in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Again, with regard to this topic, the Minister did indicate that there were 19 witnesses, including five RCMP members. Presumably then there was 24 witnesses that appeared. Did this government take any role as a witness in the inquiry?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the short answer to that is no, our government did not have a formal role. This commission was appointed

under the authority of the Solicitor General for Canada, who covered all the expenses. So our government did not have a formal role as such.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I would see it as not playing a role -- maybe it was the government that was doing that. But it is the federal government that has issued the inquiry, and I would think that we would have a role to play, since it is a citizen of the Territories that was victimized by the legal system. I would think that after two years the government would have established a position on the treatment that was given to this individual. I am surprised that the government did not make a presentation on behalf of the residents of the NWT, since most of the witnesses were not for the victim but for the legal system itself.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I do know that Ms. Nowdluk-Reynolds' own lawyer, who had been involved in the case and has been involved in her complaint, who was employed by legal aid, has been involved as a witness in the commission. I would like to point out to Mr. Gargan, in answer to this question about the GNWT involvement, that members of the RCMP Public Complaints Commission, although they are appointed by the federal Cabinet, are appointed following consultation with the territorial Minister responsible for policing, in that case the Minister of Justice. So we do have Mr. John Bayly, Q.C., as a member of the complaints commission for the NWT, who would hear complaints of this kind in the NWT and be part of the panel. We have, as well, an alternate member for the NWT, Mr. Lazarus Arreak, and I think, Mr. Chairman, these people are really representative of the people of the NWT and therefore are expected to be guardians of the public interests, if you like, in these matters.

In this case, since it occurred in the Eastern Arctic, Mr. Arreak, who is a lifetime Inuk resident of the Baffin Region, participated and was a member of the complaints commission; therefore, it is through these northern residents on the commission that public input from the people of the NWT is expressed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Just prior to proceeding, I just want to remind honourable Members that -- and I indicated this last week -- the matter before you is the

Police Services Agreement. Your own rules indicate that speeches in committee of the whole must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration. I do not want to be restrictive of debate, but the matter of the inquiry itself, while it is referred to as an important item, is not necessarily relevant to the vote of the \$1,153,000. It is up to the Ministers and committee Members to be aware of the particular rule. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the Police Services Agreement, are we, this government, the employers of the lawyers, of the RCMP, or are we not? I would think that as employing the RCMP that we would have a say in their conduct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Government of the NWT is not the employer of the RCMP in the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Then what does the Police Services Agreement mean?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I guess, in broad terms, the Police Services Agreement means that our government, along with the federal government, purchases the services of the RCMP to provide general policing in the NWT under certain conditions. We buy the service. We are the customer and we pay most of the bill, as a government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: What is the end result of that purchase for the government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: 'I think what the Member is getting at is what control do we have over police services. I can tell the Member that, first of all, the policing agreement does allow the Minister of Justice to determine and approve priorities and goals for territorial policing. We set the goals and priorities and we also, through our daily working relationship with the RCMP, communicate with them about concerns that are expressed to us as a government about policing in the NWT and try to ensure that they are aware of and respond to public concerns.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has I believe under the a 30-70 ratio funding then ask the federal cent of it will be stated that we pay most of the bills. formula funding agreement there is arrangement. Would the Minister government, of \$1,153,000, that 30 per requested from the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, this amount requested in the supplementary estimate represents our 70 per cent share of these costs. The other 30 per cent will be provided by the Government of Canada through the Treasury Board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: Has the GNWT already submitted a request for 30 per cent?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the federal government is advancing these additional moneys in recognition of the increased costs that have been experienced with policing in the NWT in the past year. They have committed to come up with their share.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: What would happen in the event that \$1,153,000 is not approved by this House?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Minister of Justice.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I should explain that about half of this money is for a salary increase that was approved by the federal Treasury Board. So these are moneys we have had to pay. The other costs have to do with increased costs for such things as the cost of having members of the police attend court. That is because crime and prosecutions are up significantly over the previous year. If the amount was denied by the Assembly, I would have to take advice from the Minister of Finance, but I think it would put additional pressure on the RCMP budget and it could, and I am not trying to be threatening in any way, but it could force us to take action such as reducing costs in other areas. In fact, it would be a matter that would have to be dealt with by the Financial Management Board, but it would put

serious pressures on an already strained policing system in the NWT,

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a concern that the territorial government is footing a very large part of the expenses and the RCMP, similar to NCPC, is one of the most money-wasting things that the government spends money on. For example, anything that may be required, even if it is not necessary -- it used to be even more, but I think they have cut down quite a bit, that they must have skidoos and all-terrain vehicles, suburbans and canoes; they have to have everything, including their own garage and their own warehouse for personnel, even in the small communities. They are still operating under traditional government, colonial administration, for the development of the 1960s northern vision.

Will the Minister of Justice renegotiate a more affordable policing program in the North? Because a lot of the expenses are fringe benefits to make the officer as comfortable as possible, the most luxurious living style that is possible in the small communities. I think everyone knows that they have all the services required to make life as comfortable as possible. Yet, as was complained to us before, there are no evening services. Are there any plans by the Minister or the government to have a better use of that scarce dollar by eliminating some of these fringe benefits?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

Growth Of NWT Police Costs Effectively Held Down

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, in doing an analysis of the expenses in all areas of the justice system for the period since 1984, which I have just asked my department to do, I have noted that the corrections budget, because of volume and case increases, has grown by 163 per cent; the legal aid budget has grown by 140 per cent; court services budget has grown by almost 200 per cent; offenses cleared by charge have grown by 42 per cent, and yet the police budget, since 1984-85, has grown only 30 per cent.

As I say, I am open to advice, but all the policemen I talk to, including those in my own constituency, say that they are really starting to hurt and that they are

short of the necessary funds to do a difficult job properly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the response by the Minister about the growth being only 30 per cent. The cases of crimes have not kept up with the percentage rate to the RCMP. Is there an increase in crime rates that has caused the RCMP to be overworked?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that this supplementary estimate request can be certainly tied to the growth of charges and cases over the last number of years. For example, in the period 1990-91 the growth of offenses cleared by charge over the previous years was 21 per cent. So there were some 7527 cases cleared by charge in 1989-90, and that number was over 9000 in 1990-91. So yes, the volume of cases, charges and trials has risen; and that is why I am here before you today requesting supplementary estimates for policing and, as well, for legal aid, which is the next item on this list. Both of these are driven by the number of charges and the number of trials.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Could the other contributing factor be the lack of response from the police force? I know a lot of communities who do phone their local detachment get referred to Yellowknife. So you have a situation where the immediate problem is not addressed until after the fact.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I would acknowledge that is a problem as well. I would agree.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to give approval to this Police Services Agreement, but I would like to find out about this situation. The total appropriation would be \$23,980,000 for 1991-92. Is this 70 per cent of the total Police Services Agreement?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Is that correct, that we are paying \$23,987,000 for police services, and we are not the employer of the RCMP?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, that is correct, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it, the RCMP in essence is similar to a military organization. There is a chain of command, and there is an independence that would work against a Minister of this government, at any rate, providing day to day direction to the RCMP. But we do have some considerable influence; we set overall goals and priorities, and through my departmental officials and occasional meetings I have with the chief superintendent, we do have a good working relationship. But they do operate in a quasi independent way as a military organization, the same as we might do in an emergency if we called in the army to deal with a situation. They would not take kindly to being told how to do their job. They do it as a military organization with their own reporting relationships within the force.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you for that information. I am concerned now because you said they are independent from this government, even though we pay them a lot of money to operate. They are supposed to be providing services to everybody in the communities, hopefully to the poorest, unfortunate people in the communities, some of whom may have social problems. I represent, them too, and I hear complaints. We have heard complaints raised in this house regarding the level of service that the RCMP are providing with regard to responding after hours to emergency situations. If they are operating independently, how can people in leadership positions that represent people raise the issues that are coming from the people for which RCMP are supposed to be providing services? Thank you.

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Handling Of Policing Complaints

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think I said they were quasi independent. I do not mean they are completely at arm's length, but the relationship of our government

is not the same as the relationship we have with employees within one of our departments.

We are not the employer, so we cannot give directions the same as if these people were employees of another government department. Thank you.

Removal Of RCMP From Communities

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

MR. ANTOINE: Wrigley is one of the communities in my constituency. An RCMP member of the station was removed, and there is no member there now. This situation was publicly on television in January on News World. It went right around the country. A person from Wrigley was interviewed. She had just moved there and indicated that it was not safe to walk the streets at night in Wrigley. A long-time resident of Wrigley took that comment very negatively. He felt insulted about that issue. The main point here is that the reason for the story is because of the removal of the RCMP from that community. Is there anything going to be done about puffing an RCMP member in the community of Wrigley? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, this particular supplementary estimate before this committee does not address that issue. It is designed to deal with inflation and volume cost increases under the Police Services Agreement. But, as I believe I mentioned when we discussed this matter previously in this Assembly, Mr. Chairman, I am well aware of the concerns of communities that have been temporarily deprived of police members due to the financial pressures that are on our government as well as on the federal government. I want to assure the honourable Member that I will be mindful of these concerns as we develop the budget for the forthcoming fiscal year. I hope that we can restaff those particular communities such as Wrigley once the budget, is settled for the coming year. It will depend on the O and M budget so I am not in a position today to state how that situation can be addressed, Mr. Chairman, but I will give him my commitment that it is certainly our object to work with the police to try to make sure that those vacant positions in the so-called satellite detachments are restored once the budget is settled. Thank you.

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

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. I think there are a lot of communities that are currently without a local RCMP. After listening to the discussion this afternoon, it seems as if crime is increasing in these communities where there are no more local RCMP. It is cheaper for the RCMP right now to visit these communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, that is a difficult question. The communities that are presently without members are the smaller communities. I have an analysis of cases per member across the Northwest Territories. It analyzes the number of reported cases per police officer in the detachment. Yellowknife has one of the highest numbers, but there are five or six communities which surpass Yellowknife, using this criteria.

We also look at the ratio of police to the population. I have an analysis, as well, of the breakdown across the Northwest Territories. Generally, Mr. Chairman, I believe that although we have pressures in communities that are understaffed or not staffed, the allocation of policemen has been as fair as possible in the circumstances. We do not have, at the moment, thank God, any serious policing problems in our communities where there is a situation of concern about law and order despite the funding shortfalls. Thank you.

Police Services, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Police services, \$1,153,000 not previously authorized. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Legal Aid, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Legal aid, \$300,000 not previously authorized. Agreed?

--- Agreed

Registries And Court Services, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Registries and court services, not previously authorized, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1,653,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed,

--- Agreed

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Registries And Court Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Justice, capital, registries and court services, not previously authorized, \$538,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, not previously authorized, \$538,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Public Works

Accommodation Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Public Works, capital, accommodation services, not previously authorized, \$409,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$409,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed,

--Agreed

Department Of Transportation

Transportation Planning, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Transportation, capital, transportation planning, special warrants, \$1,300,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Not previously authorized, \$688,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Arctic Airports, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Arctic airports, \$75,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, special warrants, \$1,300,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Not previously authorized, \$763,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Renewable Resources

Forest Fire Management, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Page 14, Renewable Resources, capital, forest fire management, not previously authorized, \$25,000 surplus. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Could the Minister of Finance provide to us the status of the privatization policy with respect to Renewable Resources?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: It is currently being reviewed.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I would like to ask the Minister if he would ask the Minister of Renewable Resources, once it is completed, if it ever is completed, to provide it to this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would think it would be completed this year and perhaps by the fall.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Forest fire management, not previously authorized, \$25,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$25,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs

Community Works And Capital Planning, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Municipal and Community Affairs, capital, community works and capital planning, not previously authorized, \$2,744,000 surplus. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: With respect to \$50,000 for the Chesterfield Inlet water supply improvements, can the Minister tell me if that will still go ahead this summer?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Patterson.

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HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, what happened was that the repair of the reservoir intake, which this fund represents, was not able to proceed because of the weather. It got too cold to do the work last year. The project will be carried out this summer. I

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Community works and capital planning, \$2,744,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Sport And Recreation, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Municipal and Community Affairs, capital, sport and recreation, not previously authorized, \$210,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$2,954,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Health

Supplementary Health Benefits, Total O and M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Health, O and M, supplementary health benefits, not previously authorized, \$2,869,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: When are you going to recover this from the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: It is billed monthly. We anticipate getting it this fiscal year.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Will the federal government reimburse the territorial government for funds expended for health benefits?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: The agreement is with Health and Welfare Canada, and there is no dispute on that, so we anticipate to get paid.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Part of our reason for a deficit budget was because formula financing and

transfer of funds to the territorial government were cut back, and also the outstanding amount in dispute from the federal government to the territorial government for health benefits paid. So does the Minister indicate that this funding will be finally given to the territorial government from Health and Welfare Canada?

And how will it affect our deficit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no dispute on this particular aspect of funding from Ottawa. The dispute arises from hospital services as it relates to the health transfer in 1988. The dispute is with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, and this billing for the \$2,869,000 is to the Department of Health and Welfare Canada. If we do not get the disputed amount with Canada, it will probably increase our deficit by some \$41 million. That is a rough number, but it will be in excess of \$40 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Supplementary health benefits, not previously authorized, \$2,869,000. Agreed? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I would like to ask either the Minister of Finance or of Health if they could indicate to this House the purpose for such an increase for non-insured health services. One of the concerns of Members of the committee was the fact that this budget activity had initially budgeted in excess of \$12 million, and this is three million dollars over its anticipated budget. Why has such an increase had to be absorbed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, it is those noninsured services that are provided to Indians and Inuit people. It starts out as an estimate but it actually becomes the amount of services that was used in a particular year, Mr. Chairman. So the \$2,869,000 is the difference between the estimate and what was actually used by the recipients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Supplementary Health Benefits, Total O and M,
Agreed**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Supplementary health benefits, not previously authorized, \$2,869,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

**Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total
O and M, Agreed**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Territorial hospital insurance services, not previously authorized, \$3,616,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: With regard to the details on that one, the first one: "To provide funding for insured inpatient and outpatient hospital costs outside the NWT." The Minister of Finance indicated on several occasions the need to have one of those scanners or machines that look at you -- ultrasound. The Minister went through that process, and he thought it was pretty useful. Have you thought of getting something like this up here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Minister of Health.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It had been talked about even last year. I think it was a CT scan, the reference that was made. Apparently it is fairly expensive -- not only expensive to purchase the necessary equipment, but it is also very expensive to maintain, and it has to have a certain volume of application to make it cost effective. There are some procedures that they are looking at to see if we could put them into the Territories, but that was one of them that I did inquire about. The nature of its operation is relatively expensive for the number of applications, and it would be far cheaper to send patients south to do it.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Territorial hospital insurance services, \$3,616,000. Agreed? Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the THIS Board there is a note on the last paragraph that says, "To provide funding for increased requirements for the operations of regional health and hospital boards, \$1,575,000. This request is partially offset by a negotiated cost sharing arrangements with the federal government. The offset is estimated to be \$740,000. However, there is an unresolved dispute with respect to this cost sharing arrangement with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada." So is this saying that the \$740,000 is for cost sharing -- there is a possibility it could be offset but there is a

dispute over it, so we might not get it? Is that what it means?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is correct. We may not get all of it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Territorial hospital insurance services, \$3,616,000. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: What is the nature of this dispute? Why is there a dispute there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, it goes back to the actual health transfer. The health transfer included three documents, and Mr. Chairman, as you are well aware, the government of the day was warned that this thing could get out of hand. It seems that it has. The federal government maintains that when there was a block transfer into our base from Health and Welfare Canada, that that should have taken care of part of the health costs for aboriginal people in the NWT. The Government of the NWT maintains that, yes -- and that was in those 1988 dollars, the reason for that transfer of funds -- but we maintain that as the cost of delivering those services increases, then the federal government should be responsible for those increases. So I guess the difference between the federal government and ourselves, mostly, is the fact that there has been no escalator, other than the escalator in the formula funding agreement, placed upon the amount that was transferred from Health and Welfare Canada. That is the dispute at the present time.

As you well know, there have been arrangements back and forth and offers made back and forth, and we just do not seem to be able to put something on the table that the federal government is attracted to, and vice versa. But again, it shows up in the supp, and yes, we may not get all that money. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Minister is talking about aboriginal people, who are you talking about?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Status Indians and Inuit people, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: This territorial government took responsibility for administration of health services for status Indians and Inuit in the health transfer program. If there is a dispute over the funding arrangement for the status people and the Inuit people, and if you are unable to recover the full amount, is there a possibility that the level of services provided to status Indians and Inuit would decrease?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Territorial hospital insurance services, \$3,616,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Medical Care Plan, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Medical care plan, not previously authorized, \$3,425,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Medical Travel, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Medical travel, not previously authorized, \$3,144,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total O and M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$13,054,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: With regard to medical travel, it is for additional costs for patients travelling from their homes to the nearest treatment centre. Is this treatment centre referring to the hospitals? This \$3,144,000 is additional costs with regard to travelling from the community to a treatment centre. I guess the treatment centre is where I am a bit confused; as to whether it meant a hospital or an alcohol and drug treatment centre.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: It is to a hospital, a medical treatment centre, Mr. Chairman.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I would like to know whether the Minister of Health or the Minister of Finance can let this House know with regard to the travel costs -- there has been an additional cost here, that we are being asked to authorize, of \$3.1 million. When will they provide travel costs for Metis people?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister. Just prior to the Minister's response, I will take a 15 minute break.

--SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, could the Member repeat the question?

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I indicated that this additional funding for \$3.1 million is for cost of air fare for patients travelling from their home community to the nearest treatment centre, and I wanted to know when they will provide travel costs for Metis people.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a question I do not have a definite answer for. The issue of Metis health care is still unresolved. The answer to that question is attached to resolving that Metis health care issue. I cannot give a definite time.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Since the Minister has indicated he cannot give a definite time, does he know the status of this issue?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Whitford.

Issue Of Metis Health Care

HON. TONY WHITFORD: The current status of this is that nationally the Metis are attempting to obtain a certain amount of recognition by the federal

government, to place them on par with status Indians and Inuit people when it comes to certain benefits. I think it is something that is being worked on at the federal level, and territorially, of course, the request for full recognition of Metis health benefits is an issue that has yet to be resolved. We are attempting to address certain issues before we can make any decisions. One of them is financial; how will we pay for additional health costs associated with providing medical treatment at the same level as status Indian and Inuit people? I do not think we have resolved a number of issues, including a definition of "NWT Metis." Those issues are still being worked on with the Metis Nation and ourselves.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, recognizing the fact that this \$3.144 million entails the funding for many people in the North, of the cost from their home community to the nearest health centre, and within this cost -- I recognize that we absorb the cost for Metis elders if they have to do medical travel, but I am trying to get some estimation, and I recognize the Minister's concern on financial aspects, but when does he anticipate to make a decision in respect to Metis benefits? When will Metis people be considered for health benefits? Not even taking into consideration the cost, first of all, because of the fact he does not know how much it is going to cost.

If it is costing us \$21 million now to provide air fares for patients to travel to their home communities, and if we are planning to review hospitals so that they will not enhance their responsibilities on providing medical services, maybe we should consider giving more funding to hospitals to enhance their medical services that they provide. Not cut back. I am concerned that the medical facilities do not provide adequate services and, as a result, Metis people who utilize other services have to absorb that cost. I would like to get some indication from the Minister as to when he intends to address this issue -- this year, next year, never? Because we are always asked to approve an increase in funding that was initially not forecasted, and there is never an explanation given us that it is satisfactory to be able to state, "Yes, I agree this additional funding is required."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: As I explained, there are a number of factors that have to be determined, and certainly one is on a federal level, that the federal government recognize Metis as a distinct group and

put them in the same category as status Indians and Inuit people, and they would ultimately become responsible for the services that both other groups currently enjoy. I think the federal government is reluctant to do this. I am not sure of all their reasons, but it is something we are keeping close watch on.

I wish it were a simple answer that I could resolve by saying, "Yes, we will provide that." I think it has gone before previous governments, and the decision was just as difficult then as it is now. We are working with the Metis Nation to identify the numbers of people involved in a decision like this, in order to see what the costs will be. That is one of the problems. From a more political standpoint, if we do something in the NWT here and eventually the federal government does recognize Metis people in the same sense they do status Indians and Inuit, and here already we are providing, from our internal resources, health care and other benefits, there is no guarantee they are going to say they are going to take over those responsibilities and free the territorial government from those financial responsibilities.

So I guess we are keeping close watch on what is taking place so that we can make a decision at the appropriate time. As far as the time is concerned, Mr. Chairman, it is not an issue that we have swept under the carpet. It is something that still needs to be resolved from a number of areas. I hope that we will see some resolve to this issue, but as far as a time, I cannot give a time on it. I would like to assure the Member that it is something that we are working on.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, maybe I could ask the Minister if he could clarify at what stage the issue of addressing Metis benefits is.

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

Metis Health Care A Federal Responsibility

HON. TONY WHITFORD: It is at the stage where the Department of Health has been talking to the Metis Nation. We have several options to look at, everything from saying "Yes" right now to just bearing the consequences by saying "No" and leaving it as it is. I do not want to say "No." I cannot say "Yes." So, I think what I am saying is that until we know what the cost implications are going to be down the road, I do not think it would be very prudent for the department to take on that responsibility. If it is a federal

responsibility, as I have heard suggested, then the federal government must take on that financial responsibility and provide for Metis people through our department or whatever funding arrangements that can be made. Right now, to say "Yes" would lock this government into spending money that we do not have appropriated for that category. That is where it is, currently. We are working with the Metis Nation to come up with a definition of Metis to determine what numbers there are to equate to costs.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: The Minister indicated that they are at a stage whether they can say "Yes" or "No," but that they do not know the full cost implications. Can he indicate to Members what the cost implications would be if they decided to address health benefits for Metis people?

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

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I cannot, because, again, there are many factors right now that we have yet to address. Who would be

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eligible for Metis health benefits should they ever come? Is it just territorial Metis, those born in the Territories, or Metis from across Canada? Would it be a universal acceptance of Metis people from other provinces? The 1923, the 1953 recognition? The Metis people themselves have questions about this. As I said, along with the Metis Nation, we are trying to ascertain identification or the recognition of who would qualify as Metis. Until we get these, I cannot attach a cost to it. I do not know that until we determine those factors.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the issue I am concerned about is that I asked the Minister what stage providing Metis people with health benefits is at. He basically indicated it is at the stage where he says "Yes" or "No." It is the fear of the cost implications that determines whether or not he should say "Yes" or "No." This is why I have asked for cost implications. In actuality, from his explanation, I have a hard time to believe that we are at a stage where the government can say "Yes" or "No" to providing Metis health benefits to Metis people.

I want to indicate that, seeing we are spending \$21 million of air fare costs to patients, I would imagine a portion of this is somewhat for Metis people because they do have to pay a portion of their ticket and absorb that cost, whereas Done and Inuit do not have to. It has always been a concern of mine. The concern I want to bring forth is, if you believe in something and if you are the Minister responsible for an issue and you want the issue to be addressed, you should have the ability to bring forth your belief to cabinet level and see if your cabinet colleagues concur. I do not seem to be getting that from the Minister, and I am concerned about it. Yet, we are asked to approve additional costs in a supplementary benefit that were not identified when the initial budget came forth.

Basically, I am stating, as a Member, that if I have to continually address additional costs in a supplementary appropriation, I want to know when we are going to address Metis health benefits, recognizing that that is going to come on as additional costs. But, ensuring that equitable treatment is given to the native people of the North -- the Metis, the Done, the Inuit -- when are we going to address this issue? I am not getting an answer from the Minister. I would like to ask the Minister, again, when does he anticipate addressing this issue?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Minister, prior to proceeding, I cautioned Members earlier about the fact that we should deal with the matter at hand. While I have allowed the question, the question being posed is more of a major policy question, and could have been better asked under insurance services. If the Minister wishes to answer, that is fine.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: In part, I do not think the honourable Member has a monopoly on caring about Metis. I have a responsibility as the Minister of Health to all people of the Territories. Be assured that my own personal opinion is not that we should ignore people. As well, my own feelings are not the issue here. What I try to convey is that we do not have all the answers to the question. In order to be able to tell Members of the House that this is going to cost more money, we have to find those answers and come up with the things I have suggested in my previous comments. I think I can only assure the Member that the matter is not dead. It is not swept under the carpet. I have yet to get all these answers. It will take some time yet, because we are not the only players in this game. It is federal responsibilities that have to be taken into consideration as well. I think it is a very serious consideration. The Member is concerned

about finances, and I am concerned about finances as well. I have not got an answer as to when this will be resolved.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, my final question -- I do not want to belabour this issue and I do not want to go back to territorial hospital insurance services -- but I understand that part of this funding that is expended is no doubt for the cost for patients travelling from their home communities. Some of those patients would be Metis people, no doubt. Can the Minister commit to address this issue to determine whether he is going to give an answer to the Metis by the fall session? Whether he will provide Metis benefits to Metis people and give a commitment to this House, that he can try to address it by the fall session?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Minister of Health.

Issue Of Metis Health Care Will Be Kept Active

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot make a commitment that we will have this resolved by the fall. I can only commit that it will be kept active and we will push ahead as quickly as we can, considering everything that we have to consider. But I cannot give a commitment as to fall or spring next year.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Since the Minister cannot give a commitment, does he anticipate that this issue cannot be addressed for at least a year to 18 months?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I said I cannot give a date as to when this will be resolved. There are a number of other players involved in this. I hope by fall that something will show positive. On the other hand, it may not; but I will keep the matter active, and we will do our best to resolve this Metis health benefit issue as soon as we can.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I want for the record to know that the Minister did not answer my question, and I am concerned about that. However, going to another question on this same topic of medical travel -- and I will keep this in the guidelines of medical travel -- since we are absorbing additional costs for air fare for

patients travelling from their home community to the nearest treatment centre, and since regional hospitals and hospitals across the North are considered for possibly a cutback in funding, so that their services may be diminished in some form or another, will the Minister instead consider increasing the funding to these hospitals so they can avoid sending people out of these hospitals and address some of the medical issues that are now being addressed and as a result absorbing a high increase of patient travelling costs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

Some Medical Procedures Not Available In NWT Because Of Low Volume And High Cost

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think we are looking at it, and in any reviews of dealing with medical facilities in communities, all these things will be taken into consideration, whether it is more cost effective to establish in that hospital the medical procedure or level of treatment that will be more cost effective, doing it in the community, or sending persons on to other facilities that already offer that. I think it is something we are looking at and it is something I instructed the department to do, to

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see what resources are in a community and what can be attracted to a community to utilize facilities in a community that are already existing.

I cannot identify the exact total of the exact costs associated, or what the people went out for, but there will continue to be, for the foreseeable future, a necessity for medical travel. There are things we cannot attract to the Territories, no matter what the population; even Yellowknife is having difficulty in attracting all the medical facilities that we can to operate independently. We still have to use Edmonton, and the Keewatin still has to use Manitoba, and the Baffin still has to use Ontario and Quebec, because there are procedures in medical treatment that cannot be done in the NWT because of the low volume and the high cost. Although we are spending a lot of money on transportation, medical travel, it still would cost more to have facilities here in the Territories unutilized.

As I explained earlier on about the CT scan, to bring that equipment into the Territories and to use that equipment here, we would have to attract people from all over Canada to ever make it profitable. So it is a necessity to use equipment and facilities and

treatment programs that are established in the larger centres, Edmonton and Calgary, university hospitals, where it is more available, where, because of the numbers of people using it, it is more economical. It is cheaper for us to buy that, even if it costs money to send people there.

Some of these costs are associated with costs that are unforeseen. The increase in travel costs over the last year has added to this financial burden we are faced with. So it is not always practical to have all of the treatment available because of the associated costs. The same thing would apply to the smaller communities. But these things are being looked at, and in any reviews that we do, we will have to take that into consideration.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Why I ask is the fact that many of our hospitals -- at times their role seems to be diminished, and I look at the hospital in my constituency, there is a reluctance even to deliver a baby. The amount of referrals for women to have babies, and for such things as tonsillectomies or any minor medical procedure, are not even considered anymore because the hospitals determine they should not perform these types of practices.

When you look at the fact that we spend \$21 million a year, and we do not want to consider added funding for the hospitals to take care of anesthesia and operating procedures that could possibly be done in these centres instead of sending people out of the community all the time, in the long run, you could save a substantial amount of funding. That is my question to the Minister. I would like to ask him if he will consider looking at this particular suggestion, and report to the Assembly by the summer when we are going to discuss the budget in detail on this particular matter?

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

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will consider that.

Medical Travel Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Medical travel, not previously authorized, \$3,144,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$13,054,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Health capital, territorial hospital insurance services, not previously authorized, \$1,591,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Total department, negative \$1,591,000, surplus not previously authorized. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Social Services

Corrections Services, Total O and M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Social Services, operations and maintenance, corrections, not previously authorized, \$433,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I believe at one time I asked a question on the ratio of young offenders to people staying at correctional centres. I mentioned something about a member from my constituency who works in the Baffin Correctional Centre and who is aware that a young offender is in the same facility. The ratio during the Christmas holidays was three young offenders to eight correctional officers. In the other facility, which has about 46 inmates, they have three officers. The ratios are different. What is the ratio between inmates, young offenders and correctional officers?

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

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had that information a while ago, but I do not have it at my fingertips at the moment. In some of the

facilities, while it may appear that the ratio is almost one to one, and in some cases they have beds for so many and they have so many staff, it does vary or fluctuate from month to month because of the length of time and the numbers of inmates in a facility. I think that in some cases where there are a number of staff, simply because there is not a full house, all the beds are not full, you simply cannot just lay off staff until such time as we get 100 per cent occupancy. It is not within our power. However, we are cognizant of what appears at times to be an imbalance between staff and occupancy. We are attempting to address that to ensure that facilities are utilized so we can get maximum usage out of a facility for the staff there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated that the rate of crime does not go with the rate of increase in police services. Are the correction services and inmates increased? If everything is clicking here, then the rates should be increasing with regard to the inmate population. Is it?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, to put it in the Member's own words, there are times when everything is really clicking and the facilities, especially the senior correction facilities, are bursting at the seams from the numbers of people. At times there are as many inmates as there are beds, and in some places there are facilities attached that are used for overflow, and there are times when those are all full as well, and the occupancy is a percentage higher than what is supposed to be designated as the official capacity.

Those are extreme circumstances, and when that happens, as I said earlier, we have no control over the number of inmates that are going to be housed in a year. We can only estimate, based on historical data. But if we get a crime wave and there are a lot of people sentenced in one year to imprisonment, we end up with a full house. But the same thing applies to young offenders and other facilities that we may have for addressing the corrections issue.

I think if we take a look at figures for this past year, with the disturbance at YCC, we had to press into service the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre and we had to send people to the South to house them while the results of the disturbance were corrected. I

understand now that very soon the east wing will be repaired and we will be able to repatriate people. So the bed count may increase a bit and the occupancy percentage will decrease a bit because we can bring people back. But I think, addressing the question, we now have the additional beds. I think that answers the question.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I think there was an article in the newspaper with regard to penitentiaries. Do you have clients for that? Am I out of line here, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I think, Mr. Gargan, the issue is not a matter under discussion at this particular juncture. That does not mean, though, that you cannot ask the question about a policy decision under oral or written questions. But, if the honourable Member wishes to deal with the particular matter of the penitentiary, that is fine. Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would probably enjoy very much talking about the subject because it is something that I have personally wanted to see happen here, but perhaps we could save it for another time. This may not be the appropriate time. I would certainly be willing to answer that question at another time.

Corrections Services, Total O and M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Corrections services, \$433,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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Community And Family Support Services, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Community and family support services, \$1,183,000, not previously authorized. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Total department, \$1,616,000, not previously authorized. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Family And Children's Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Social Services, capital, family and children's services, \$25,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Alcohol, Drugs And Community Mental Health, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Alcohol, drugs and community mental health, \$3,031,000, surplus. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Regarding the Tuvvik treatment centre in Iqaluit, I understand it has now been closed. Does this affect the closure, Mr. Chairman?

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

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. This is for the treatment centre that has yet to be built. I think it would be better called the Iqaluit or the Baffin Treatment Centre rather than Tuvvik. It is similar to the project that is going to occur in Hay River. It will be a live-in facility for inhouse treatment. It is a carry-over to next year and is still going to go ahead. We have a steering committee that is looking after it. There is a new alcohol treatment counselling service being established there. It is going ahead. It is just a matter of next year.

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

MR. GARGAN: Is the Tuvvik centre closed indefinitely?

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

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct. The Tuvvik Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centre program is now closed. That is the group that was delivering the alcohol and drug treatment to the people in Iqaluit. That facility they had rented is not in operation any more, and the other committee is seeking funding and will replace it shortly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Alcohol, drugs and community mental health, \$3,031,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Community And Family Support Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Social Services, capital, community and family support services, not previously authorized, \$735,000 surplus. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: There is a motion to delete that \$15,000. Does that still have to be reflected in here?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan, I do not believe that is necessary. This is 1991-92; you are talking 1992-93 capital. This is a supplementary appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$3,791,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

Business Development, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Economic Development and Tourism, O and M, business development, not previously authorized, \$1,957,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: This NWT Development Corporation, this is a territorial government corporation; is that right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Are we still in a position, when these takeovers occur, of running a deficit because of the change in management? Even if the territorial government took over, it does not mean that we have a profit margin. We are still operating and we are still running a deficit operating that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where we have one of those enterprises that is not making a profit and it has to be subsidized, there are certain criteria, and the Development Corporation has to come to the Financial Management Board for approval.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I suppose this same kind of arrangement has been made with the Patterson sawmill?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I was just trying to recall from memory, and I will wing it. There is a business plan for the Patterson sawmill, and I believe it calls for the operation to break even in three years. So there was a submission to FMB in this regard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Would that be the same kind of arrangement with the Pangnirtung weaving enterprise and the Fort McPherson canvas shop?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Very similar, correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Dent.

Doubtful Account Allowance

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the doubtful account allowance, I wonder if the Minister could advise us if the department has made an assessment of how many of these or what proportion or percentage of these accounts will actually become bad debts.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, are we dealing with the doubtful accounts now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I believe it is all part of that not previously authorized expenditure. There is a point on three that says, to provide funding to increase the doubtful account allowance. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: With regard to the doubtful accounts, the amount that is being set up is not being written off; it is being said as being doubtful. The reason for that is because we were changing the loans from the business loans fund over to the NWT Business Credit Corporation. Of some \$20 million that we were turning over, it was decided that there were some doubtful accounts in the amount of \$2.4 million, and the government will maintain the \$2.4 million, and we will still attempt to collect on that \$2.4 million. I cannot give the Member an estimate of which ones I do not think we will be able to collect. Obviously, Mr. Chairman, we would like to collect all of them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this \$2.4 million all owed by businesses which are still in operation, or does this represent some debts owed by corporations that have gone out of business now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: There are businesses that are still in operation, and also there are businesses that are no longer in operation. There is a mixture.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: If some of these businesses are no longer in operation, is the government hoping to collect on them through making good on personal guarantees, or should some of these, in fact, be written-off debts?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Like any financial institution we will make a reasonable attempt to recover what we believe is our loss; and obviously, if it seems impossible, then we will come back to the House to ask to write the debt off.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Could we get some indication of how old some of these doubtful accounts are? Have some of them not made any payments for longer than five years? longer than three years? Just to try and get a

feel for what sort of potential we have to recover these debts.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: I do not have an aged analysis with me, but I will endeavour to get an aged analysis and give the breakdown by region and by time frame to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Business development, \$1,957,000. Mr. Gargan.

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Northern-Owned Banking Institution

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, what is the government's position with regard to the present situation with chartered banks? Is there a position by this government with regard to whether or not we could establish our own financial institution, or give other groups the opportunity to establish a financial institution? There are a lot of communities that cannot access loans from chartered banks because of their status or financial situation or because of where they live. Has this government looked at an institution that is actually owned and operated by the people of the North?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been discussions with chartered banks with regard to providing financial services in communities and this government subsidizing the bank to provide that service in particular communities. Tomorrow evening, I will be meeting, again, with the co-operatives who are pursuing a financial institution - a credit union network across the Northwest Territories. As Mr. Gargan knows, there is a suggestion from the Dene reserve in Hay River with regard to a trust company in the Northwest Territories. So, we are looking at a number of aspects.

I believe the former government looked at a treasury branch system for the Northwest Territories and ruled it out as being too expensive. But, I will say that we are painfully aware of the lack of banking services available in communities. We are aware of the problem that Mr. Gargan raises, which is the ability to get a loan when you live in a smaller community which does not have any banking services. As late as last week, I was discussing with one of the banks the requirements paperwise when somebody is applying for a loan. I do not know what the answer is going to

be, Mr. Chairman, but we are looking at all avenues to address the critical need for banking services in communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. GARGAN: I appreciate what the government is trying to do. But the fact still remains, Mr. Chairman, that we do have a lot of chartered banks that are owned and operated but do not really benefit the Territories. All of our dollars are still leaking south. What I hope is that if we were to have a trust company or a credit union that the Minister is referring to that is owned 51 per cent or more by the people, I believe the money would stay in the North. It may open a lot of other opportunities for the communities to get loans in order to establish their own businesses.

Business Development, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Business development, not previously authorized, \$1,957,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Total department, \$1,957,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Tourism And Parks, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Department of Economic Development and Tourism capital. Tourism and parks, not previously authorized, \$505,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Total department, \$505,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Education

Schools, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Department of Education, operations and maintenance. Schools, not previously authorized, \$949,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to this, I asked the Minister a question about a month ago with regard to the process in which the Akaitcho Hall board was supposed to develop into a management board. This process has been halted because of a position that was terminated. The board itself still functions as an advisory board. I am wondering if there is going to be the support to actually establish a management board?

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, if you will excuse me, I will take the question as notice and get the answer from the Minister of Education.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Schools, not previously authorized, \$949,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Arctic College, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Arctic College, \$97,000, not previously authorized. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$1,046,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Schools, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Education, capital, schools, not previously authorized, \$4,890,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Arctic College, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Arctic College, not previously authorized, \$375,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total department, \$5,265,000 surplus. Agreed? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, before you conclude this, I would like to ask the Minister a couple of questions. I notice that in supp 3, particularly in capital, the number of surplus figures coming in, there is always a little comment at the bottom where projects are being included in the following year, in 1992-93 capital estimates. I notice that of a number of projects that were approved for 1991-92, there are some projects that did not make it into this supp 3. I am wondering why.

Maybe I will use an example. The Department of Renewable Resources told me in this House that the office/warehouse complex was approved by FMB to be delayed this year. Now I am just wondering why that particular project did not come in as a negative supp under Renewable Resources capital.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, at the time the capital budget was put together, there were a known number of projects that had not been started or had suffered delays through some setback or other. Those were included first of all in the capital budget, Bill 14, and also they were included in the supp. There were some \$14 million, and it may be higher by now because it will not be until the year end that we know other capital projects that did not proceed. One of those projects in that \$14 million was the project that Mr. Zoe is referring to, and the options on that \$14 million worth of projects would be a special warrant or supp or to be included in next year's capital budget. I would venture to suggest that the reason it is not showing in the supp is that we did not know about it at the time we closed off the budget or we closed off the supp. But it is in that \$14 million, that is probably going to be higher than that, that we

know our projects that are destined for this year that were not started or suffered some other delay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I do not quite understand what the government is saying, because they knew in November, before this supp 3 document was put together, that FMB, Financial Management Board, approved to delay this project. That is what the Minister of Renewable Resources indicated to us in this House in early November when they assessed all capital projects, when we knew we were having financial problems. That is four or five months. They had ample time to put it in as a negative supp. Or did they put this supp together -- only the capital projects that are going to be forwarded in 1992-93, are those the only projects they included in this supp? Because if you look at all capital projects, all the negative supps coming in, there is always a note that says these projects have been included in the department's 1992-93 capital estimates. What about the ones that we know have not gone ahead, which were approved by FMB to be delayed? Where do they show up?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, FMB does not approve delays. FMB reacts to departments putting projects forward or making suggestions of a financial nature. So we analyze it through financial information systems and make comments and suggestions to FMB. As I say, when departments came forward, we were asking them for the number of projects that were not started at a particular point in time. Those ones are reflected in a supp and also mostly reflected in the capital budget that you have seen go through the House.

The project that Mr. Zoe is talking about is caught up in the \$14 million that is still incomplete capital projects, and it can come forward as a special warrant; it can come forward as a supp; it could come forward in next year's capital budget. I have no idea what Renewable Resources intends to do with that project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated he has no idea what Renewable Resources is going to do, but the money is going to lapse by tomorrow night, March 31st, \$400,000, pertaining to that particular one. Now it will come in as a negative supp under supp 4, but that does not mean it is going to be

lapsed money. If the Minister decides to go ahead with it or at some point he has to make a decision if he is going to go ahead with it, in 1992-93 or 1993-94, when does the government usually make a decision with regard to capital, ones that are with lapsed money or projects that are going to be carried forward?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Just prior to proceeding, I want to indicate to the honourable Member that the questions you are asking are of general detail and not specific to capital, Education. I have not called the final numbers for the Department of Education yet. We have not agreed yet. I called that and you wanted the floor so I gave you the floor. However, if the Minister wants to answer prior to my calling the total vote for the Department of Education's capital, he may. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I have said in this House on a number of occasions that the government will live up to its commitments. In the call letter that I wrote to all Ministers with regard to next year's capital budget, which now includes multiyear targeting over three years so that departments know what they can spend in each of the next three years, it was pointed out to departments that they should take into consideration those capital projects that were in the \$14 million and probably more that were left over from previous years. I have indicated to departments to pay attention to those projects that are incomplete as of this year. That includes the project that Mr. Zoe is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Total department, \$5,265,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): That concludes the detail. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Before you conclude the detail of supp No. 3, Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Minister answered me. When does the government make decisions with regard to all the capital projects that are carried over and have not gone ahead?

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, as I pointed out in the letter, I said they should pay attention to those capital projects that are incomplete or not started this year for some reason. It includes the project that Mr. Zoe is talking about. We will not know until May, when the capital budget is brought back to us by the departments and we start to assemble the total budget, Mr. Chairman, how many of those projects they have been able to address. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Does the committee wish to go to detail and clause by clause review of Bill 25?

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): Clause 3, purpose of expenditures. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 4, lapse of appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 5, accounting. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo) Clause 6, commencement Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Schedule, vote 1, total operations and maintenance, \$21,165,500. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Vote 2, capital. Total capital, negative \$14,869,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total supplementary appropriation, \$6,296,500. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Is Bill 25 ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I will now rise to report progress. I thank the witness for appearing.

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

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 25 and wishes to report that Bill 25 is ready for third reading. I move that the report of chairman of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder to the motion, Mr. Arvaluk. Your motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Item 20, third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 20: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I would seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking consent to proceed to third reading. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1991-92, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 25 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance immediately after adjournment. Meetings tomorrow morning: at 9:00 a.m. of the special committee on constitutional reform; and at 10:30 of the ordinary Members' caucus.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 31, 1992.

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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: Motion 10-12(2)
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Documents 9-12(2), 10-12(2) and 12-12(2); Bill 14; Motion 6-12(2); Bills 5, 12, 22, 23 and 27
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 31, 1992.

--- ADJOURNMENT