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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

--- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon. Before I start orders of the day, I would like to welcome to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Noel O'Sullivan, chairman; Ms. Debra Simpson, vice-chairperson; and Dr. Loretta Foley, superintendent, of the Catholic school district. The Catholic school district is celebrating 40 years of Catholic education in the city of Yellowknife.

--- Applause

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 31, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 50-12(2): Health Care And Resignation of Minister of Health

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have an emergency statement that I would like to proceed with. Mr. Speaker, I am rising to make an emergency statement to the Assembly on the matter of health care in the Northwest Territories. Over the past two weeks, serious allegations about the quality of hospital service and the treatment of patients have been made publicly and in this Assembly. The result has been an undermining of people's confidence in a medical system which I believe is one of the best in the world.

As a result, the Minister of Health came to me this morning and asked that I relieve him of the responsibility for the Department of Health. I have accepted his decision to step down as Minister of Health, and I will assume responsibility for that department on an interim basis, pending the report of

the independent inquiry into abortion procedures at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, as a former Minister of Health, I am well acquainted with the people throughout the medical system, and I know that all Members of the Legislative Assembly want to ensure the best possible care for people in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 51-12(2): Gender Equality Review

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two statements. Mr. Speaker, the special advisor on gender equality was appointed in early 1991. She has been reviewing gender equality issues relating to the justice system. Her process has included research and extensive consultation with players in the justice system and with communities.

The special advisor was due to report to me today. She has been assisted throughout her review by a full-time project coordinator. Recently, however, a serious medical problem has arisen in the family of the co-ordinator, which has taken him out of the Northwest Territories for an indeterminate time. As a result, the special advisor on gender equality has requested an extension of one month to complete her work, and I have granted the extension. When I receive the report, I intend to distribute it to MLAs at the earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker..

Ministers' Statement 52-12(2): New Municipal And Community Affairs Policies

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce two new policies which will govern the operations and capital funding programs of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs for municipalities in the Northwest Territories.

The municipal capital and municipal operating assistance policies are comprehensive in scope and significant to Northwest Territories' municipalities. We have held lengthy discussions and consulted widely with municipal leaders in developing these policies.

In 1989, a discussion paper on financing municipal governments was tabled in this Legislative Assembly, outlining options for funding municipalities for capital, operations and maintenance. This paper represented

the culmination of work initiated in 1986 to consolidate the many programs of assistance and was intended as a starting point for discussions with municipal leaders.

Early in 1990, at the request of the NWT Association of Municipalities, the department agreed to form a joint committee to review the various proposals in the discussion paper and to make recommendations on preferred funding approaches. The committee's recommendations were submitted to my predecessor, the Hon. Tom Butters, in early 1991. Building on the original discussion paper and the joint committee's recommendations, the department drafted two policies: one for capital and one for operations funding, which were, then, further reviewed by municipal leaders at a series of regional conferences and discussed by the membership at the last two annual meetings of the NWT Association of Municipalities. Final policy proposals were improved and brought to cabinet for approval.

Mr. Speaker, our municipal leaders were unanimous that current programs of assistance were confusing, with a number of different standards, criteria and rules; lacked the certainty of funding communities sought; did not promote the degree of local authority and autonomy that communities desired; and were often unfair in the distribution of funds.

The new policies are built on principles that address these problems. These policies are sensitive to the fiscal constraints of both this government and the municipal level of governments. They promote efficiency and effectiveness, encourage local revenue generation, and recognize varying costs of doing business in communities and varying abilities of communities to contribute to programs or projects. Above all, these new policies are equitable and equal in their application between the largest and the smallest municipalities.

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Municipal Capital Assistance Policy

Mr. Speaker, I wish to highlight the central features of these two important policies. The municipal capital assistance policy governs all department capital programs and builds on and expands the policy approved in principle by cabinet in 1987.

M-CAP, as we call it, provides for communities to assume greater authority over capital projects. Consistent with many of the recommendations of the

standing committee on finance, municipalities can enter contribution agreements with the department for full or partial control of capital projects and programs, or, when implemented, a degree of capital block funding. All communities are treated equally with this provision and may exercise varying degrees of control over a project, dependent on their willingness and ability.

Mr. Speaker, not all communities are equal in the costs they face and their ability to contribute to projects. A northern cost index in the policy recognizes varying costs, and fair and reasonable criteria have been developed to determine the relative ability of communities to contribute. Dependent on a municipality's ability to contribute, different contribution requirements for projects are set.

The department also recognizes that it cannot meet all the needs of all the communities. Facilities and other capital infrastructure have been classified as basic, meeting the core needs of municipalities, or additional, meeting other needs. Priority will be given to meeting basic needs, consistent with the recently passed motion of this Assembly during the review of the department's 1992-93 capital budget.

Municipal Operating Assistance Policy

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, the department will implement the municipal operating assistance policy on April 1, 1992. This policy governs equalization payments for the seven tax-based municipalities and operations funds for 39 other communities, including all hamlets and several designated incorporated settlements.

Equalization payments will be distributed according to a new formula. This formula includes a northern cost index that recognizes the varying cost of providing government services among the seven tax-based municipalities. As well, the formula no longer includes a factor for municipal expenditures, which tended to favour, in the distribution of funds, those municipalities that spent more. While the total amount of funds for the tax-based municipalities does not change, the new formula will redistribute on a basis that fairly equalizes the resources for communities. Other provisions of the new policy will allow block operations and maintenance contribution funding to these tax-based municipalities.

Credit Units Formula

Mr. Speaker, the previous funding distribution formula had a number of serious shortcomings and was not equitable. As a result, a much improved credit units formula has been developed. The formula also includes a northern cost index that recognizes that the costs of government services vary from municipality to municipality. The formula is also sensitive to population and the extra demands increased population places on municipal government.

Perhaps the single, most significant feature of the credit units formula is that it recognizes all the major functions of a government and applies a number of indices to each functional area to determine the relative cost of these services. The old formula fell far short in this regard, using only a select few functional areas of municipal government and a series of standard factors which had questionable value in determining a community's fair share of the available funds. Functional areas such as recreation, community planning and land administration are now included in this new formula.

The old formula used estimates to determine the funding a community would receive for operating its buildings. Actual fuel and power costs for these buildings, averaged over three years, will be used in the new formula, ensuring the fairest and most accurate recognition of costs.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted at the outset, these new policies do not mean new money, but a fairer distribution of that funding the department has. Redistribution means some communities will receive a greater share of the funds available, other communities a lesser share. To ensure that communities can adjust to these new levels of funding with minimal disruption, both the redistribution of equalization and credit units formula funding will be phased in over four years, thereby minimizing actual increases or decreases in any one year. As well, the department will work closely with those communities where funding is lessened to provide any support or assistance required. Later this session, Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling both the municipal capital and municipal operating assistance policies.

In conclusion, the new policies are a significant improvement in how the department finances municipal government. We now have a single comprehensive and consistent approach built soundly on fundamental principles, with formulae that accurately reflect the relative costs of municipal governments and fairly distribute available funds. Municipal leaders have waited many years and

contributed significantly to these new financing policies. Qujannamiik.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Celebrating 40 Years Of Catholic Education

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know you would like to join myself and other Yellowknife MLAs, Mr. Speaker, in congratulating the Separate School Board on 40 years of Catholic education. The board of education for the Yellowknife Catholic schools had its first regular board meeting on July 13, 1951. At this time, there were no schools built and no students. Mr. Norman Byrne was the first chairman of the board, and he worked very hard, with the guidance of Bishop Trocellier, to start this district and to build its schools.

The first school, St. Pat's, was built in 1953. This school was from kindergarten to grade seven. All students from grades eight to 12 went to the public school until St. Pat's High School was built in 1961. In 1964, the original St. Pat's High School burned down and was replaced by the present main building. This building has endured many additions and improvements over the years, consisting of the trailers and portables you now see on the sight.

The original St. Joseph School was built in 1977 and has also had improvements and additions since then. This is a dual track school with grades kindergarten to grade 9 in French immersion and grades K to eight in English.

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The staff and students can be very proud of their schools in this district, but they are not stopping with these achievements, Mr. Speaker. In the next few years they are hoping to build a state-of-the-art technology high school that will again be a top-notch school in our district and the Northwest Territories.

The last 40 years for Yellowknife Catholic schools have been very positive and forward-looking, and there is a continued vision of success and educational excellence for the future. At the moment, Mr. Speaker, the current enrolments in the district are as follows: St. Pat's Elementary School has 192 students; St. Pat's High School has 373 students; St. Joe's has 191 in the French program and 283 in the

English program, for a total of 1039 students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

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

Member's Statement On Changes In Health Care

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to respond to some of the comments that were made by the Government Leader with regard to the changes in health care. I want to indicate to the House here that the facts prove that there were no allegations about the quality of hospital service in the NWT; they were facts, facts and experiences of women who underwent surgery as a result of practices in our hospital.

The facts also prove that this same particular process or procedure was not the result of a decision by Mr. Whitford; this practice was an inherent practice and a result of practices before he became Minister. I think that the facts will prove that many women suffered the same problems before he became Minister.

I think there has to be a policy change and direction to change that situation. I just want you to understand that there were no allegations in this House, but the facts.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Member's Statement On Ordinary Members' Dissatisfaction With Government

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise today to express concern shared by the Members of the ordinary Members' caucus toward this entire government, and in particular the Government Leader. We all recognize, as ordinary Members, that it is the Government Leader's ultimate responsibility to ensure her Ministers understand their statutory roles and obligations to the people of the Northwest Territories.

The ordinary Members still want to express, in their strongest terms, their dissatisfaction, for example, with the way the medical procedures for abortions were being handled by the Minister of Health and by senior departmental officials.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Government Leader that if this government does not address our

concerns, with respect to the issue of the overall government, the ordinary Members, unfortunately, will be forced to make necessary permanent changes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Upcoming Boundary Plebiscite

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I am going to speak in my own language. A while ago I received a paper -- regarding the upcoming plebiscite. The paper that I received, I would like to say something regarding that. I would like to think about what I am going to say before I say it.

Next month, on May 4, here in the NWT, we are going to be talking about the upcoming boundary. The question on this plebiscite will be whether you agree to the boundary or not. The people that are 18 years old and over will be able to vote. Tomorrow and the during the next eight days there are going to be people going around enumerating, an enumeration to determine who can vote. I feel that this is very important and that is why I am saying this.

Last week, while I was in Simpson, some people asked me about this. What they were concerned about was that something this important that is coming up - we are not being given much information on it. "I guess this is going to happen, but we would like to know more about it," is what the people said. I thought about it. The people in my constituency voted for me, so I would like to speak on their behalf. I feel there is something important that is being worked on in this government, and they should be talking to the government in this regard. I thought about that very hard.

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

MR. ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought about this very hard. If there is going to be work done on it, we only have about a month to prepare for it. The Ministers that are working in regard to money -- I feel they should be giving the communities more information.

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O90-12(2): Reduction In Student Allowances; And Further Return To Question O421-12(2): Response To Question Re Decrease In Student's Financial Assistance

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: On February 19, 1992, the Member for Baffin Centre questioned why the funding one student received had been reduced from \$531.43 to \$522.86. This question was answered in this House a week later, on February 26, 1992.

I then indicated to the Member that there has been no reduction in the total allowance paid to students. However, in the 1991-92 school year, the Department of Education changed the monthly allowances payment from an amount which fluctuated somewhat from month to month to an average amount.

In previous years the monthly cheque paid to students fluctuated depending upon whether a month had 30 days or 31 days. For example, a single student received \$514.29 for 30-day months and \$531.43 for 31-day months. Students raised concerns over the fluctuating rates as they caused budgeting problems. As a result, the department implemented a new schedule to provide students with a consistent monthly cheque rate of \$522.86, based on the average of the two previous monthly rates.

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Further Return To Question O48-12(2): Community Support Regarding Schools In Inuvik; And Return To Question O403-12(2): Response To Question Re Community Support Regarding Schools In Inuvik

The Member for Inuvik and the Member for Aivilik questioned the changes to the school year in relation to in-service days. Over the last two years the Department of Education found that many schools were open for less than the required 190 sessional days. Research in learning has shown that an increase in school days has a positive impact on the academic achievement of students. The department is making every effort to consistently maintain 190 sessional days as the standard. Under the Education Act, the Minister must authorize any change in the length of the school year.

In-service days are ordinarily held without closing a school, and therefore approval to change the school

year is not required. However, should a school request a full or half day, the board must request the necessary approval from the Minister.

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

Return To Question O425-12(2): Plans For DPW Housing Units

HON. DON MORIN: I have a return to Question O425-12(2), asked by Mr. Pudlat on March 30, 1992. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation will be constructing 11 public housing units in Cape Dorset, three in Lake Harbour and 10 in Sanikiluaq in 1992-93. Also, Lake Harbour will receive one home-ownership assistance program, HAP, package as well. These allocations were based on the results of the 1990 housing needs survey.

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

Further Return To Question O370-12(2): Average Pay Increase Of Senior Managers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, this is in response to Question O370-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on March 25th. Salary increases for senior management employees took effect on April 1, 1991. Managers received 5.03 per cent as a cost of living increase, which is the amount provided to Union of Northern Workers members for the same period. Senior managers also received performance pay averaging 3.8 per cent. This is identical to the salary increments paid to unionized employees once per year if their performance is satisfactory. Mr. Speaker, this government took action on January 1, 1992 to reduce salaries for deputy ministers by \$2500 per year, in line with overall restraint measures. No decision has yet been made about the possibility of salary increases for senior managers for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

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

Return To Question O363-12(2): Complimentary Bingo Passes

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: This is a return to Question O363-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike on March 25th. Section 206 of the Criminal Code of Canada prohibits gambling activity in Canada. Section 207, however, grants provinces and territories the right to legalize gambling provided it is conducted and

managed by charitable organizations and the funds raised are used for a charitable purpose.

Charitable organizations are distinct from other organizations, such as businesses, by the fact that they are wholly run by volunteers. Volunteers are those who choose to give freely of their time to assist others. When payment is made, whether in cash or, in this case, by free cards, these people cease to be volunteers and become paid employees.

A legal opinion was recently sought on the question of volunteers receiving compensation for conducting managing, planning or assisting with any lottery scheme." Compensation is defined in the lotteries regulations as "any direct or indirect gain or reward." It is the opinion of legal counsel that payment of any compensation breaches the provisions of section 10(1)(h) of the lotteries regulations.

The lotteries regulations apply to all licensee groups across the Territories. There is no provision for licensees to opt in or out of a particular rule. Any change to the regulation referred to above would have to be looked at in conjunction with the authority contained in the Criminal Code which permits licensed gambling to take place in Canada.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O453-12(2): Municipalities Being Made Aware Of New Municipal And Community Affairs Policies

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, in his statement earlier today the Minister noted that a new policy for funding municipalities will allow block operations and maintenance contribution funding to tax-based municipalities. Can the Minister advise if municipalities have been made aware of this option?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O453-12(2): Municipalities Being Made Aware Of New Municipal And Community Affairs Policies

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, there has been extensive consultation with municipalities through the Association of Municipalities and otherwise on the new funding policies. I think it is

quite well known to those who have been involved in the consultations that the block funding option is part of the new policy. So I think generally I would answer "Yes" to the Member's question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O453-12(2): Municipalities Being Made Aware Of New Municipal And Community Affairs Policies

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister inform the House if the department has entered discussions with any municipalities with the goal of concluding a block funding agreement?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O453-12(2): Municipalities Being Made Aware Of New Municipal And Community Affairs Policies

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

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

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Supplementary To Question O453-12(2): Municipalities Being Made Aware Of New Municipal And Community Affairs Policies

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise if it is the intent of the department to proceed with any block funding agreements this year?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O453-12(2): Municipalities Being Made Aware Of New Municipal And Community Affairs Policies

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, we had been approached and responded to requests from the City of Yellowknife to develop a block funding arrangement in anticipation of the new policy's coming into effect. I should inform the Member that it has not been possible to conclude a block funding agreement with Yellowknife at this time. But I can assure him that the department, and indeed the government, is certainly open to continuing those discussions with the City of Yellowknife and with other municipalities who may be interested in pursuing block funding arrangements. The new policy would certainly permit arrangements to be concluded in the coming year for

implementation as early as next fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Last supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O453-12(2):
Municipalities Being Made Aware Of New Municipal
And Community Affairs Policies

MR. DENT: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I am encouraged by the Minister's sounding as through he is going to continue the process to conclude block funding agreements, but I would like, for further certainty, to get a commitment. Will the Minister commit to negotiating suitable block funding agreements with Yellowknife and other taxbased municipalities to start April 1, 1993?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O453-12(2):
Municipalities Being Made Aware Of New Municipal
And Community Affairs Policies

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will make it a priority to continue and attempt to conclude block funding arrangements with Yellowknife and other municipalities that may choose to exercise this option now available under the new policy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

**Question O454-12(2): Administrative Changes For
NWT Power Corporation To Assume
Responsibility For Petroleum, Oil And
Lubricants Section**

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Ms. Cournoyea. In a response to a written question that I asked on March 25, 1992, the Minister indicated that the Power Corporation had not been instructed to restructure its administration. Could the Minister confirm, then, that there has been no administrative changes within the Power Corporation at this particular time, for the Power Corporation to assume responsibility for the POL section?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O454-12(2): Administrative
Changes For NWT Power Corporation To Assume
Responsibility For Petroleum, And Lubricants Section

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Member that there has been no change.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O454-12(2):
Administrative Changes For NWT Power Corporation
To Assume Responsibility For Petroleum, And
Lubricants Section

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation if she has received this confirmation from the chairman of the board of the Power Corporation or any of its staff?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O454-12(2):
Administrative Changes For NWT Power Corporation
To Assume Responsibility For Petroleum, And
Lubricants Section

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Speaker. When the question was posed, I did check with the chairman of the board and the people in the office in Hay River, and this was confirmed.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Dent.

**Question O455-12(2): Installation Of Satellite
Receivers In Schools**

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. On March 12, in response to a question I asked the Minister regarding the installation of satellite receivers in schools, the Minister advised that he would inform this House what steps his department was taking to co-ordinate the planning for such installations with this project. Can we expect this information to be provided this week?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question O455-12(2): Installation Of
Satellite Receivers In Schools

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past three years the Department of Education has conducted extensive research into a distance education delivery. Several pilot projects have been successfully conducted through the Baffin Divisional Board and Yellowknife Education District No. 2. The Department of Education has also sponsored demonstration sessions for boards and Arctic College personnel. The department is

co-ordinating all activities. in the field of distance education. So to some degree we have started a distance education program in some locations, and Yellowknife Education District No. 2 is involved.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O455-12(2): Installation Of Satellite Receivers In Schools

MR. DENT: My question on March 12th was in line with schools who want to pick up the Knowledge Network and access educational programming provided by provinces in the South. I am sure the Minister will know it costs a fair bit of money for each school district or school board to look into the suitability of satellite receivers and satellite equipment. So I am wondering if the Minister will agree to reduce costs and the duplication of efforts by undertaking a co-ordinated, Territories-wide needs assessment of schools' telecommunication requirements.

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O455-12(2): Installation Of Satellite Receivers In Schools

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will do everything we can to assist the educational boards throughout the NWT, so the overall cost to our government and to the school board will be minimized. As the Member suggested, we will have a co-ordinated approach, so we will be working with the divisional boards or the school districts.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O455-12(2): Installation Of Satellite Receivers In Schools

MR. DENT: Given that each regional board works independently, in order to help them save money, can the Minister advise this House that his department will consider tendering for the acquisition of satellite receivers and equipment on a Territories-wide basis if it is found that their use is suitable for schools?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O455-12(2): Installation Of Satellite Receivers In Schools.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the options the department will be looking at. Our interest is first to educate the students who may not otherwise have access in their own communities to programs that can be provided in bigger centres. Our interest will be to keep the cost down so that this program will not be something that the government or school boards cannot afford. So I will keep the Member as informed as possible as to what we are doing in terms of tendering that kind of project.

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

Question O456-12(2): School Bus Contract, Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. Apparently the school bus contract in Fort Smith has been awarded for three years. However, since this contract has been in place, there was a provision that handicapped bus service had to be provided. To date this handicapped bus service has not been provided. Will the Minister of Education review to determine whether the contractor is in compliance with the contract for providing school bus services?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O456-12(2): School Bus Contract, Fort Smith

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes, I will review what the Member is requesting.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O457-12(2): Review Of Akaitcho Hall Advisory Board

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. It is with regard to a letter written in January about the Akaitcho Hall board which operates in an advisory capacity. There was a movement for it to become a management board, and board development officers from the Department of Education were assigned to it. But that has been eliminated now. In the Minister's response to me he indicated that the advisory board now is going to be involved with preliminary planning and with the operation and maintenance of the student hostel -- everything other than addressing whether or not the advisory board could become more autonomous and serve as a management board. Is there any direction in that area?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O457-12(2): Review Of Akaitcho Hall Advisory Board

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, the board has been helpful to my department in advising how to approach Akaitcho Hall. Because of the recent reviews of the agencies and the boards of this government, I will be working very closely with the agencies and boards and commissions committee to deal with that board as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O457-12(2): Review Of Akaitcho Hall Advisory Board

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister advising me that there is going to be a review of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions to review the Akaitcho Hall advisory board?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O457-12(2): Review Of Akaitcho Hall Advisory Board

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that all the boards that are connected to this government will be reviewed by the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions. The Akaitcho Hall board is one of the boards that is advisory to the government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Antoine.

Question O458-12(2): Payment For Cost Of Division Of The NWT

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs. On May 4th, the residents of the NWT will be voting on a proposed boundary line for division of the NWT. There has been little discussion of who will pay the bill if the boundary line is accepted. The GNWT commissioned a study last year, called "Financial Impact of Division," that showed a one time transition cost of \$600 million for division. We all know that the Government of the NWT is not in a financial position to pay this bill. Has the Minister had any discussion with the federal government about paying the large transitional cost for division of the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O458-12(2): Payment For Cost Of Division Of The NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, it has been the position of different Members of this Legislature, and it is the position of the present government as it was the position of the previous government, that all new and additional costs incurred in division and in the setting up of the territory called Nunavut, that the federal government is the principal

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O458-12(2): Payment For Cost Of Division Of The NWT

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell the House if there has been discussion on this matter with the federal government?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O458-12(2): Payment For Cost Of Division Of The NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, in the TFN final agreement, article 4 requires that this government, with the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut and the federal government, should negotiate a political accord by April 1, 1992. The political accord is intended to provide a framework for the creation of Nunavut by setting the timing for the Nunavut act to be introduced into federal parliament, to try to outline the powers of the Nunavut government and when those powers will come into effect, and commitments to financial principles.

On our part, we stated very clearly to the federal government, and TFN is aware, that this political accord must provide necessary comfort in respect to the financial levels in regard to the creation of Nunavut, along with the transitional provisions for the creation of Nunavut, if we get to that stage. Thank you,

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O458-12(2): Payment For Cost Of Division Of The NWT

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell the House if the federal government has

indicated that they will be willing to pay the one-time transition costs of division?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O458-12(2): Payment For Cost Of Division Of The NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, as a party with no money, they are not jumping up and down demanding to pay the bill. In fact, there has been no great deal of enthusiasm to do so. But on the other hand, I think all of us should recognize the tremendous steps taken by the federal government in recent years to show how seriously they take the question of division and the proposal by the TFN and residents of the Eastern Arctic to work toward the creation of Nunavut. I draw attention to the fact that the Prime Minister has made some mention of it. We have written letters to the Prime Minister; he has written back. The Minister of the federal government has signed the TFN agreement. That makes it really clear that we are all committed to negotiating and working out a process whereby Nunavut will be created. And to have a federal government make commitments like that, with largely unforeseen costs, I think is a significant achievement for those people who have been working all these years to work toward the realization of Nunavut. I believe it is a very serious proposal taken by the federal government, that they are willing to engage in this process even though they do not know exactly what the costs will be. But I would expect that as much as possible they will try to minimize the costs by looking at our own budget once the negotiations start. Especially if the plebiscite results in an affirmative vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Antoine, your last supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O458-12(2): Payment For Cost Of Division Of The NWT

MR. ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, if the federal government is unable or unwilling to pay this bill, then who will pay for this transitional cost of division?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O458-12(2): Payment For Cost Of Division Of The NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I believe that if the federal government is unable or unwilling to provide the necessary additional costs to pay for the transitional costs plus the costs of setting up a

separate territory in the East, I do not believe it would be realistic to suggest that somehow somebody else from somewhere will pay the cost.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to recognize His Worship, Mr. Dan Marion, Mayor of Rae-Edzo.

--- Applause

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker. Return to Question W23-12(2) asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister of Finance concerning the Government of the NWT 1991-92 financial situation; return to Question W24-12(2) asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister of Finance on the Government of the NWT deficit.

W23-12(2): Government Of The NWT 1991-92 Financial Situation

Hon. John Pollard's return to Question W23-12(2), asked by Mr. Gargan on March 9, 1992: The government's latest interim unaudited financial report for the 1991-92 fiscal year is the "Summary of Projected Revenues and Expenditures" that is presented on page one of the information document accompanying the Supplementary Appropriation, No. 3, 1991-92 Act. This summary presents the most current forecast of the 1991-92 financial results. The forecast is for a 1991-92 deficit of approximately \$49 million.

The spending forecasts by the department are also presented in the Supplementary Appropriation, No. 3, 1991-92 document on pages three and four. There

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spending forecasts are in the form of the revised appropriation requirements. Although from past experience it is known that some of the requested appropriation authority will not be used, it is difficult to be specific at the department level until all expenditure and year end accrual information is available. As a result, an estimate of the appropriation authority lapse for the total government, based on historic experience, is included in the Summary of Project Revenues and Expenditures, page one of the Supplementary Appropriation, No. 3, 1991-92

document. The estimated appropriation authority lapse for 1991-92 is \$37 million.

Expenditures by department to the end of February 1992 are presented in the attached schedule. These amounts do not include: late expenditure information from financial subsystems; expenditures for March 1992; or year-end expenditure accruals and audit adjustments.

The Supplementary Appropriation, No. 3, 1992-92 document includes explanations for the additional appropriation authority being requested. Without the additional appropriation authority included in the supplementary appropriations, a number of departments would be overspent. However, if the appropriation authority requested is approved by the Legislative Assembly, the government does not expect any departments to be overspent at year end.

Return To Question W24-12(2): Government Of the Northwest Territories' Deficit

Hon. John Pollard's return to Question W24-12(2), asked by Mr. Gargan on March 9, 1992: The government's plans to bring the deficit under control were presented to the Legislative Assembly in my February 12, 1992 Minister's statement on the fiscal situation and the capital estimates. At that time I identified that the government would strive to balance the budget over the next two years and that our fiscal target was to reduce the deficit to approximately \$25 million in 1992-93 and balance the budget in 1993-94. The range of deficit reduction measures that would have to be considered was also identified in my February 12, 1992 statement.

Subsequently, the Government Leader presented to the Legislative Assembly the outline of a plan to reshape northern government. This outline encompassed a suggested work plan and consultative process which would lead to the necessary decisions to live within our means yet still accomplish our major social and economic objectives.

Based on the guidelines provided in my February 12, 1992 statement and the work plan outlined in the Reshaping Northern Government document, the government is developing more specific action plans and measures to deal with the deficit. These will be discussed with the appropriate standing and special committees of this Legislative Assembly over the coming months as the 1992-93 O and M budget is developed for presentation to the standing committee on finance in June 1992.

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

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills.

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motions. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice Of Motion 11-12(2): Legislative Action Paper Referred To The Standing Committee On Legislation

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 2nd, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Tabled Document 33-12(2), Legislative Action Paper On Access to Government, be referred to the standing committee on legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motions.

Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Ms. Mike.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

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

MS. MIKE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the International Whaling Commission, IWC, has the responsibility to manage the world's whale stocks;

AND WHEREAS the IWC has not yet decided whether its management role includes the competence to manage small cetaceans;

AND WHEREAS it appears inevitable that the IWC will assume the responsibility to manage small cetaceans within the next two years;

AND WHEREAS the present IWC is dominated by member nations that pursue a goal of irrational protectionism rather than management of whale stocks;

AND WHEREAS those same member nations of IWC appear to be influenced by the same animal rights groups that have caused the demise of the fur and

sealing industries and have thereby created a negative impact on northern native traditional pursuits and lifestyle;

AND WHEREAS those same member nations will make unreasonable requests of subsistence harvesters in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS subsistence harvesters within the NWT fulfill their needs following the principles of conservation and sustainability according to management plans;

AND WHEREAS there is no need for external agencies such as the IWC to interfere with Canada's sovereign right to manage its whale resources on behalf of its aboriginal population;

AND WHEREAS Canada's aboriginal peoples have inalienable rights to harvest whale species for subsistence;

AND WHEREAS these rights may be compromised by Canada being subject to the IWC by virtue of membership;

AND WHEREAS such a situation would lead to prolonged conflict between Canada and its aboriginal peoples with respect to harvesting rights and subsistence needs;

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AND WHEREAS Canada must pay as much attention to its internal affairs as it does to its image in the eyes of the rest of the world;

AND WHEREAS Canada can be proud of its record of the wise use of renewable resources in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS the Inuvialuit, by virtue of their experiences with the IWC, have resolved that the IWC does not, and will not, serve a useful purpose with respect to the national utilization and management of whale resources;

AND WHEREAS all subsistence users within the NWT share the same view of the national utilization of wildlife;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Legislative Assembly is not in favour of Canada rejoining the International Whaling Commission;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories communicate this resolution to the Government of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order, Ms. Mike. To the motion. Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me considerable pleasure to bring this motion before the House today. I believe that it is an important resolution and one that deserves the full support of this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Canada is not presently a member of the International Whaling Commission. The motion before this House would state clearly and unmistakably that the government and the people of the NWT do not favour any changes in this status. We should not join the International Whaling Commission, Mr. Speaker, There should be no mistake about this. As elected Members of the Legislative Assembly of the NWT, we should convey this message to the Government of Canada.

History And Importance Of Subsistence Whaling

Honourable Members will be aware of the long history we have, as Inuit people, of subsisting on resources from the land and sea. Our relationship with the animals of the sea is based on more than just subsistence; in many ways, it is part of who we are. The aboriginal peoples of Canada have been described as "the world's best conservationists." This is true. For centuries we have cared for the resources of the land and sea, and they have sustained us. Throughout the NWT we have had an historic relationship with all species of whales. We have relied on them for food, fuel and bone. But we have also been mindful of the need to balance our needs with a sense of respect for the species and a commitment to their survival.

I believe that our traditional relationship with the resources of our natural world is part of the character of aboriginal peoples. That character is continually protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The International Whaling Commission

The International Whaling Commission is not an idea that was ever supported by aboriginal organizations. It was founded on December 2, 1946, with the signing of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. As an organization, it is supposed to provide

for the proper conservation of whale stocks and orderly development of the whaling industry. It has established a scientific committee and a technical committee. Generally, the scientific committee provides information which forms the basis on which the technical committee develops regulations through which the IWC then attempts to control whaling.

The International Whaling Commission is presently made up of fewer than 40 member nations and is headquartered in Cambridge, England. Although Canada was originally a signatory to the convention, we withdrew as a voting member of the commission in 1981 because of IWC policy directions. Increasingly, the International Whaling Commission has become subjected to the influence of the same animal rights groups that caused the demise of the fur and sealing industries. These organizations have demonstrated that they have little interest in, or respect for, the traditional lifestyle pursuits of the aboriginal people of Canada.

This is reflected in the activities of the International Whaling Commission. Although the commission recognizes "aboriginal subsistence hunting" as a management category, it has been closed to accepting the right of the circumpolar groups to self-govern their own harvesting practices. In fact, as aboriginal people, we have been dismayed to see the humiliating and degrading way in which the reasonable requests of the last surviving Beccuan of the West Indies, the Greenlandic Inuit and Japanese small-type coastal whalers have been dealt with by the other nations in the commission.

Over and over, decisions of the commission have been influenced by radical environmentalists and animal rights activists whose positions have been based on emotion rather than on any understanding of sustainable development or of the aboriginal way of life.

The decisions of the commission are supposed to be based on scientific evidence, Mr. Speaker, but the credibility of the commission's scientific committee is very questionable. In fact, at a January, 1990 conference at Aarhus University in Denmark, the commission and its so-called scientific approach to whaling management were roundly criticized by members of the Society for North Atlantic Studies. One well-known anthropologist, Dr. Milton Freeman, dismissed the recent history of the IWC as one that has been based on politics and sentimentality. He described it as "the end of an era of attempted scientific rationality," and he argued that the resulting

management decisions have caused serious and pervasive damage to a number of human communities. As Canadians we must ask ourselves why we want to be involved with an international organization that is responsible for that.

A politician from Greenland, Finn Lynge, attended the same conference as Dr. Freeman and pointed out that at the IWC, science is simply a costume that one puts over the attitudes one already has. He argued that the emotions stirred up by the animal rights lobbyists are then cloaked in statistics or other scientific garb in order to sell them to the member countries of the IWC.

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When one regards the low esteem in which the scientific community regards the International Whaling Commission, it becomes clear that the organization is now dominated by member nations whose long-term goal appears to be the pursuit of a policy of arbitrary protectionism to ultimately prevent the killing of any whale species for any purpose.

This should not be the goal of Canadians. As Northerners we have learned to be a little suspicious of claims that scientists have made about the animals and resources of our land. We should be especially suspicious of "bad scientists," and I believe this is what the Government of Canada would be buying if it paid for a membership in IWC.

The situation at the IWC, charged with international politics, has recently led Iceland to withdraw from the commission, and Norway has threatened to do the same. I think that Canada's Ministers of External Affairs and Fisheries and Oceans should be mindful of the comments made by Iceland's Minister of Fisheries when he stated, "The IWC is, and will remain, an outdated and ineffective organization."

Management Of Bowhead Population

I would like to talk for a moment about the most recent instance in which IWC has demonstrated its disregard for Canada's aboriginal Northerners. That has to do with the subsistence harvest of bowhead whales. Honourable Members will know that there has been a strong interest across different areas of the NWT in resuming the harvest of small numbers of bowhead whales. These populations have been well studied, both in the Eastern Arctic and in the Western Arctic. Today I will table two scientific articles that

report on the status of the bowhead population in the Beaufort Sea and in Isabella Bay off Baffin Island.

Notwithstanding this scientific data, member nations in the IWC has opposed the rightful interest of aboriginal people in resuming the bowhead whale harvest. Since the late 1970s, the commission has been driven by a policy that has placed a priority on reducing numbers of bowheads taken. That policy, Mr. Speaker, has been based on the so-called Brenham-Breiwick Report. Let me read you a description of this report by David Boeri's book entitled "People of the Ice Whale":

"Their report was based not on data actually collected out on the ice, but on results derived from a computer model they had designed to resemble the population of bowheads. After entering hypothetical data into the model and running the program, scientists had concluded that if their assumptions were correct, the population was declining and would probably continue to decline even if the hunt was stopped."

Based on this sort of shoddy analysis, the IWC embarked on a program which has been aimed at opposing even the subsistence harvest of bowhead that our elders remember clearly.

Mr. Speaker, during the 11th Assembly, Mr. Arlooktoo and Mr. Kilabuk both called on the GNWT to support bowhead hunting. Mr. Allooloo did his best, I believe, in bringing this issue to the federal government. The House passed a motion on March 13, 1989, supporting Inuit hunting of bowhead whales, but the truth was that the Government of Canada was placed under significant pressure from environmental lobbyists and seemed to resist our interest in exercising this inalienable right to harvest the bowhead. When approval was finally given for Inuvialuit to take a single whale, the International Whaling Commission had the audacity to raise objections to it. Mr. Speaker, we do not need, and we do not want, to belong to such an organization.

Management Of Small Cetaceans

Currently the International Whaling Commission does not have responsibility for the management of small whale species like beluga and narwhal, but some members of the commission have shown no hesitation to make poorly advised comments about the harvest of these species. And current pressures from the international animal rights community have raised the notion that the commission should assume this responsibility.

At its annual meeting in 1989, the commission adopted a resolution that the scientific community should begin to draw together available information on these species. It was agreed that a report on this work should be forwarded to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

It would seem as though it is almost inevitable that the commission will attempt to assume management responsibility for small whale species in the near future. It is also likely that this action will be catalyzed by resolutions that are expected to come from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development later this year.

Mr. Speaker, the IWC has not been sensitive to the cultural aspects of the traditional harvest of large whale species, and we can only assume that its approach to the management of small cetaceans will be equally insensitive. I believe that it is important that the Government of Canada not participate in any process that will be interpreted as supporting IWC involvement in the management of small cetaceans. Clearly, the commission lacks the competence, either in terms of scientific background or in terms of aboriginal knowledge, and it is listening to the wrong people in terms of the input it is receiving.

Economic Reasons

Mr. Speaker, there is another reason why Canada should not become a member of the International Whaling Commission. With the prevailing fiscal climate, Canada simply cannot afford to rejoin the IWC. Membership fees are substantial, and there would almost certainly be substantial unseen costs.

Further, one only has to take a quick look at the recent financial history of IWC to realize that this is not a well run organization. At almost every meeting a substantial amount of time is devoted to discussions of the commission's serious financial problems. In 1989, it was announced that the organization had a cash shortfall of over \$245,000, and almost no progress has been made in correcting that since then. Certain member nations are allowed to overlook membership payments and carry serious debts from one year to the next. Yet the commission continues to require increasing amounts of money from those member nations that do pay. Between 1988-89 and 1989-90 the budget of the organization grew by more than 35 per cent, while the budget for research funding was reduced by about 15 per cent. In fact, the chairman of the commission's scientific committee has even suggested that members should consider

making direct voluntary contributions to fund research activities of the committee and seek funding sources within their own countries. If that is the case, what, then, is the benefit of joining the commission?

The commission is, in my estimation, a top heavy and ineffective body. I do not agree that Canadian tax dollars should be used to fund the interests of governments in other countries who need to satisfy animal rights lobby groups for their own political purposes.

Conclusion

A decision for Canada to renew its membership in the international Whaling Commission would not make sense from a moral perspective. It would place the

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aboriginal people of this country in constant conflict with the federal government over management issues, and it would make bad financial sense. I am not alone in this view, Mr. Speaker. The Inuvialuit have been able to experience the workings of the IWC first-hand as members of the Canadian observer delegation at the last three annual meetings. They will also be going to the upcoming meeting this year in Glasgow, Scotland. The Inuvialuit are, therefore, probably in the best position to comment on the issue of whether Canada should renew its membership in the IWC. Their stance is very clear on the subject. They have stated, "Our carefully considered position is that it is not in the best interests of the Inuvialuit of Canada to rejoin the IWC."

Based on the history of the commission I would have to go even further, myself. It is not in the best interests of the aboriginal people of Canada to rejoin the IWC. I understand that consideration is now being given in Ottawa to the idea of reconsidering Canada's position on membership in the IWC. This review seems to be happening with little consultation between the ministries involved and the First Nations of Canada. I think that it is important for the Legislative Assembly of the NWT to send a clear message to the Government of Canada that our people do not want to see this country resume its membership in the International Whaling Commission. I would urge all Members to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe Ms. Mike has articulated the arguments quite explicitly as to why it is important for Members of this House to support such a motion. I have had my opportunities to speak to a young man by the name of Billy Archie, who was a participant in the Inuvialuit delegation to the annual meetings, and he has explained to me on many occasions how difficult it is to convince the International Whaling Commission even to address the matter of a bowhead whale for the Inuvialuit community and how difficult it was to even explain to them the aboriginal harvesting rights that existed and how difficult it was for the delegation to try to assure the International Whaling Commission that they would continue to maintain their traditional concern with regard to harvesting of whales in Canada.

I only can say again that Ms. Mike has articulated extremely well why this motion should be supported by Members of this House, and I would ask all Members to rise and support this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had a brief discussion on this motion with my officials two days ago. My department and I support the harvesting of whales as long as the population can be sustained. Secondly, we wish to see Inuit and Inuvialuit, especially, maintain their link with the land. We also support the management of whales by those who use the resources. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. Would the mover like to conclude debate?

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the comments of other Members, and I hope they will support this motion. I want to close this debate by saying again that Canada should not be a member of the International Whaling Commission. There are activities that we can undertake instead. I am aware, for instance, that the Inuvialuit have already jointly developed a beluga management plan for the Mackenzie Delta. They are now actively working toward an international management plan for this stock shared with Alaska.

There is considerable support for the development of a circumpolar whaling commission under the control of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. I believe that this

is one subject that will be discussed further at the forthcoming ICC conference in Inuvik in July.

I am sure the honourable Members will be aware that progress is being made, as well, in the establishment of an international arctic council. The dialogue that will take place in this council will likely facilitate international resource management and aboriginal rights-issues as well. I believe that management and conservation issues can be addressed through these initiatives. Canada does not need to become a member of the International Whaling Commission. It should not renew its membership. I would urge all honourable Members to vote in support of this motion.

Motion 10-12(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: That concludes debate. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried unanimously.

--- Carried

Item 16, first reading of bills.

Item 17, second reading of bills. Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to seek unanimous consent to return to tabling of documents.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 12, tabling of documents. Are there any nays? There are no nays, proceed, Ms. Mike.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 38-12(2), an article entitled "Isabella Bay, Baffin Island: An Important Historical and Present-Day Concentration Area for the Endangered Bowhead Whale of the Eastern Canadian Arctic," authored by K.J. Finley and published in 1990 in the Journal of the Arctic Institute of Canada; and Tabled Document 39-12(2), an article entitled "Estimates of Bowhead Whale Numbers in the Beaufort Sea during Late Summer," authored by Sue Moore and Janet Clarke and published in 1991 in the same periodical. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. 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 and Contribution Agreements; Bill 5, An Act to Repeal the Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act; Committee Report 3-12(2), SCOF Review of the 1992-93 Capital Estimates; 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.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The committee will come to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, if we could handle Bills 7, 14, 23, 22, 12 and 5, in that order, it would suit us just fine.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Bill 7, Interim Appropriation Act, 1992-93

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): We will now deal with the matter of Bill 7, An Act Respecting Interim Appropriations for the GNWT for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1993. Mr. Pollard, do you have introductory remarks with regard to Bill 7?

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully request that I be joined by Mr. Voytilla, the secretary of the Financial Management Board, and that I be able to appear at the witness table.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witness into the committee, please? Mr. Pollard, do you have introductory remarks with regard to Bill 7?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Interim Appropriation Act, 1992-93 provides the authority for the government to continue operations until the main appropriation act for operations and maintenance expenditures is presented and approved by the Legislative Assembly. Once the main appropriation act for 1992-93 operations is approved, the interim authority ceases to have effect.

The Interim Appropriation Act is intended to provide the minimum appropriation authority required to maintain operations until the end of July, 1992. The interim appropriation calculations are based on the revised 1991-92 budget. These calculations include no allowance for inflationary or volume growth beyond what was experienced in the 1991-92 fiscal year. As a result, departments will have to carefully manage expenditures during the period covered by the Interim Appropriation Act.

Mr. Chairman, the Interim Appropriation Act includes no amounts for program or services enhancements, nor does it reflect any significant program or services reduction provisions. Major changes to current operations should not be made before a full budget is developed and debated in the Legislative Assembly. I have previously advised Members that it is the government's intention to present the full O and M budget to the standing committee on finance in June of 1992.

Mr. Chairman, concern has been expressed that the Interim Appropriation Act is based on appropriation levels that are forecasted to generate a significant deficit in the 1991-92 fiscal year. However, until the government has had adequate time to develop well-thought-out plans, consult with affected parties and debate proposals in the Legislative Assembly, it would be premature to attempt to make the significant adjustments that are necessary to deal with the deficit. As a result, the government has asked for this interim time to properly plan and consult. We thank Members for agreeing to this approach. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Chairman of the standing committee on finance, do you have opening remarks?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance would like to remind all Members that there was an agreement to delay our review of the main estimates for 1992-93 until the summer of 1992 to give the cabinet time to make the changes for the better. As a result, the committee does not have a great deal of comment or recommendations to make on this interim appropriation.

The committee is generally supportive of the 1992-93 interim appropriation to start the new year until the main estimates can be debated in the Assembly in the summer. We recognize we will be limited in our ability to affect the budget for this year. Accordingly, here is what we expect and would like to recommend:

Cabinet should note the aggressive and concerned tone that the standing committee on finance has set in the review of the capital estimates. Extra vigilance should be shown in the review of the main estimates and an action plan put into place showing how cabinet will lead this government out of the deficit crisis. The standing committee on finance will want to see such a plan as soon as possible.

The standing committee on finance will require responses to last year's standing committee on finance recommendations on O and M, which we have not yet received.

Key result indicators should be incorporated into the main estimates in order that the standing committee on finance can see past trends and future goals -- for example, school graduation rates -- and use the data to evaluate the fundamental needs and drive resource allocation decisions. We want no surprises or abuse of special warrants. The chairman of the standing committee on finance should be informed, in advance, of any special warrant or significant changes over half a million dollars.

Corrective management action must be taken in the areas of housing, education and health.

The use of the territorial budget to put local people to work must be a priority and used at every opportunity. We must have assurances that standards applied across the board are driven by base necessity and affordability.

Departments must work together to take advantage of economies of scale and otherwise save money. This is essential. A message must be sent to all government civil servants, including agencies, boards

and commissions, that when they spend government funds they spend it with the same due consideration as if they were spending their own.

No New Income or Sales Tax

March 31, 1992, government financial statements should be made available to the Members by June 7, I believe, so that we can know the state of affairs on a timely basis. We require the March 31, 1992 financial statements of the government at the same time as we are provided with the O and M budget for this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Legislative Assembly, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Legislative Assembly, O and M, \$4,631,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Executive, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Executive, O and M total \$6,265,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

NWT Housing Corporation, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. NWT Housing Corporation, \$18,282,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Finance, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Finance, total, O and M \$10,048,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Culture And Communications, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Culture and Communications, total. O and M, \$4,867,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Personnel, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Personnel, total O and M, \$10,822,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Justice, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Justice, total O and M, \$28,553,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Safety And Public Services, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Safety and Public Services, total O and M, \$2,468,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Government Services, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Government Services, total O and M, \$5,704,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Public Works, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Public Works, total O and M, \$41,648,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Transportation, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Transportation, total O and M, \$23,271,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Renewable Resources, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Renewable Resources, total O and M, \$27,739,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Municipal And Community Affairs, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Municipal and Community Affairs, total O and M, \$21,874,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Health, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Health, total O and M, \$61,757,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Social Services, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Social Services, total O and M, \$39,419,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Energy, Mines And Petroleum Resources, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, \$2,880,000. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Economic Development And Tourism, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Economic Development and Tourism, total O and M, \$11,633,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Education, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Education, total O and M, \$63,131,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Total 1992-93 interim appropriation, \$384,992,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): That concludes the detail of the Interim Appropriation Act. Is it the wish of the committee that we go into Bill 7 clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 3, interim appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 4, purpose of expenditures. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 5, lapse of appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 6, accounting. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 7, ceases to have effect. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Schedule, vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$384,992,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): This concludes Bill 7. Does the committee agree that Bill 7 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I would like to thank the witnesses for their attendance in the committee. Mr. Government House Leader, what is your wish?

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I could proceed with the motions on Bill 14 if you wish.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Let us deal with Bill 14 clause by clause. Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Bill 14: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 3, appropriation. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion in that respect, if I may move the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Proceed, Mr. Minister.

Motion To Amend Clause 3(2), Bill 14, Carried

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that clause 3(2) of Bill 14 be struck out and the following substituted: "(2) The total amount of all expenditures made under the authority of this act must not exceed \$166,351,000."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. The motion is in order.

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AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--- Carried

Clause 3, as amended. 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): Schedule. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: I have a motion on the schedule, Mr. Chairman, if I might proceed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Proceed, Mr. Minister.

Motion To Amend Schedule, Bill 14, Carried

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the schedule to Bill 14 be struck out and the schedule set out in the schedule to this motion be substituted. The schedule would read: "Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1993. Vote 2: Capital. Item 1, Legislative Assembly, \$3,163,000; Item 2, Executive, \$100,000; Item 3, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, \$27,448,000; Item 4, Finance, no dollar amount; Item 5, Culture and Communications, \$1,302,000; Item 6, Personnel, no dollar amount; Item 7, Justice, \$663,000; Item 8, Safety and Public Services, \$50,000; Item 9, Government Services, \$4,790,000; Item 10, Public Works, \$4,374,000; Item 11, Transportation, \$35,176,000; Item 12, Renewable Resources, \$838,000; Item 13, Municipal and Community Affairs, \$36,351,000; Item 14, Health, \$5,699,000; Item 15, Social Services, \$8,257,000; Item 16, Economic Development and Tourism, \$11,510,000; Item 17, Education, \$26,630,000. Total appropriation, \$166,351,000."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--- Carried

The Schedule as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Does the committee agree that Bill 14, as amended, is concluded and is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): We will take a 15 minute break.

--- **SHORT RECESS**

Bill 23, Loan Authorization Act, 1992-93

The House will come to order. We are dealing with Bill 23. Is it the wish of the committee that we go clause by clause? Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I would ask to move to the witness table and request the presence, as a witness, of Mr. Eric Nielsen, the deputy minister of Finance.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): We are dealing with Bill 23. Mr. Minister, do you have introductory remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the Loan Authorization Act is to authorize the making of loans to municipalities. It is the requirement of the NWT Act that the lending of government funds be authorized by the Legislative Assembly. This act is an annual act which, for the 1992-93 fiscal year, will provide the authority to provide up to a maximum of nine million dollars. The municipalities that , have identified a requirement for loans include Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife. The nature of municipal purposes for which these loans will be used include: the acquisition of capital equipment; the repair of the existing municipal property; and the development of new municipal infrastructure, such as subdivisions and buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: The standing committee on finance reviewed this bill at its meeting on March 25th. Although the committee is in agreement with the intent of the bill to authorize loans to municipalities, the committee was concerned about municipalities receiving loans without having the ability to repay them. The government assured the committee that communities must first receive ratepayer approval to borrow money and then must go through the GNWT screening mechanism to ensure they have the ability to repay these loans. Therefore, the committee agreed on March 25th to recommend this bill to the House for consideration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Is it the wish of the committee that we go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Clause 1, interpretation.

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--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 3, authority to make loans. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 4, monetary limit. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 5, authority to disburse from consolidated revenue fund. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 6, lapse of authority. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 7, agreements. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 8, security of loans. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 9, power to fulfill obligations and enforce rights. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 10, delegation to Minister. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 11, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Is the committee agreed that Bill 23 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I would like to thank the witness. Is the committee agreed that we proceed to Bill 22?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

Bill 22, Write-Off Of Assets And Debts Act, 1992

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1992 is to authorize the write-off of certain debts listed in the schedule to the act. Pursuant to the Financial Administration Act, the write-off of government assets or debts exceeding \$20,000 must receive Legislative Assembly approval. The write-offs being proposed in this act will not require a new appropriation. The write-offs will be charged against allowances for bad debts which were established in previous departmental budgets, at a time that it is determined collection of the debts would be unlikely.

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

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance reviewed this bill at its meeting on March 25th. The committee had no concerns with the bill and agreed to recommend this bill to the House for consideration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Any other general comments? Is it the wish of the committee that we deal with the bill clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 2, write-off of assets. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 3, write-off of debts. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Schedule 1, assets written off, \$24,632.19. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Schedule 11, debts written off, \$185,262.12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Is it agreed that Bill 22 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): We will now proceed to Bill 12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Introductory remarks, Mr. Minister.

Bill 12, Tobacco Tax Act

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, the bill would amend the Tobacco Tax Act to deem a certain amendment to the tobacco tax regulations to have

come into force before the amendment came into force under the Tobacco Tax Act and the Statutory Instruments Act.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is being brought forward because there was an error made in the Department of Finance, and consequently we are asking for the bill to bring the amendments to the tobacco tax regulations into force before the amendment came into force. It is a long, complicated story, Mr. Chairman, and we will get into it with Mr. Todd, I am sure.

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

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: You never told me it was a long, complicated story. I thought it was a short, simple transaction here. However, if the Minister would like us to have a long, complicated conversation on it, I am certainly agreeable to that.

The standing committee on finance reviewed this bill at its meeting on March 4th. The committee had no concerns with the bill and agreed to recommend this bill for consideration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, what does that mean? The regulations were not implemented when the Tobacco Tax Act was approved, so is this a retroactive act? What happens during that time that people were paying tobacco tax?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: There was an error made. Somebody picked up a wrong number. All the people who sell tobacco in the NWT were advised, and they charged the correct amount, except that the regulation had the wrong number in it. We are just doing this bill to make the collection of those taxes at the rate the retailers charged, legal.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: What was the mistake?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, each calendar quarter, the retail tobacco prices are

surveyed. On the basis of this survey, a new taxable price is calculated. The changes are usually minor.

To implement the new taxable price, a regulation must be prepared by the legislation division. The regulation must be registered to legally implement the new taxable price. The regulation to come into force October 1, 1991 contained an error, and an incorrect taxable price was registered. A new regulation was prepared with the correct taxable price, and was registered, and came into force October 15, 1991. During those 15 days, Mr. Chairman, although we were charging the correct price, the regulation under which we were charging that price contained the wrong number.

To ensure that the correct regulation is made effective as of October 1, an amendment to the Tobacco Tax Act has been prepared. This is the reason for the bill, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. General comments. Shall we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Clause 1, deemed commencement of certain regulation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Is Bill 12 now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Bill 5, An Act To Repeal The Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Bill 5, An Act to Repeal the Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act. Mr. Pollard.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bill 5 would repeal the Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act. This bill is on our books and has never been used. We have no intention of using it, Mr. Chairman. We are merely asking for repealing of this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Chairman of the standing committee on finance, Bill 5.

MR. TODD: For the record, Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance reviewed this bill during its meeting on March 4. We had no concerns with the bill and agreed to recommend this bill to the House for consideration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Are there any other general comments? Are we ready to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Does the committee agree that Bill 5 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): What is the committee's wish? I would like to thank the witness for appearing, Mr. Gargan.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The motion to report progress is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion to report progress? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 5, 7, 12, 14, 22, and 23 and wishes to report progress, with two motions being adopted. Bills 5, 7, 12, 22, and 23 are ready for third reading. Bill 14 is ready for third reading, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder to the motion. Mr. Zoe. The motion is in order, Mr. Nerysoo. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 2, Ministers' statements.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 2, Ministers' statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Allooloo.

REVERT TO ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 53-12(2): Tribute To Lucy Yakeleya

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you. I will give this statement in an emergency nature. Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise Members of this House that this is the last day of service with the Language Bureau for one of our most senior and valued interpreters, Lucy Ann Yakeleya.

Ms. Yakeleya joined the Language Bureau when the Dene language section was re-established in 1982 and has been providing excellent service to both this House and the government for the past 10 years. Originally from Fort Good Hope, she has always provided North Slavey interpreting services in a conscientious and professional manner. She will be missed by her colleagues.

A few years ago, Ms. Yakeleya suffered an accident that resulted in the freezing of some of her toes, causing some loss. This was while attending language workshops in Fort Good Hope.

I believe that our interpreters play a very important and valuable role in ensuring that there is proper communication between the people of the Northwest Territories and their government and also ensuring that Members of this House can be properly understood no matter what official language of the Northwest Territories they choose to speak. Sometimes they have to put in long hours and work under trying conditions.

I know you share with me an appreciation for the service of our interpreters and that you will especially join me in expressing our very best wishes to Lucy Ann Yakeleya.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Item 20, third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 20: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to deal with Bill 7 for third reading, please.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to deal with third reading of Bill 7, Interim Appropriations for the GNWT for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1993. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, please.

Third Reading Of Bill 7: Interim Appropriation Act, 1992-93

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 7, An Act Respecting Interim Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1993, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard, your motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

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--- Carried

Bill 7 has had third reading.

--Applause

Third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I would, again, seek consent to deal with third reading of Bill 14, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to deal with third reading of Bill 14. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Pollard.

Third Reading Of Bill 14: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Bill 14 has had third reading.

--- Applause

Third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to deal with third reading of Bill 23.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to deal with third reading of Bill 23. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

Third Reading Of Bill 23: Loan Authorization Act, 1992-93

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 23, Loan Authorization Act, 1992-93, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Bill 23 has had third reading.

--- Applause

Third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I would again seek consent to deal with third reading of Bill 22. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to deal with third reading of Bill 22. Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: There was one nay. I will ask again. Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: I hear one nay. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

Third Reading Of Bill 22: Write-Off Of Assets And Debts Act

HON. JOHN POLLARD: I was worried there, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that Bill 22, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1992, be read for the third time.

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

--- Carried

Bill 22 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I would seek consent to deal with third reading of Bill 12.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to deal with third reading of Bill 12. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

Third Reading Of Bill 12: Tobacco Tax Act

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act, be read for the third time.

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

--- Carried

Bill 12 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to deal with third reading of Bill 5.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed to third reading of Bill 5. Are there any nays? I hear one nay. I hear only one nay. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

Third Reading Of Bill 5: An Act To Repeal The Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Members of the House for their cooperation. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 5, An Act to Repeal the Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act, be read for the third time.

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

--- Carried

Bill 5 has had third reading. Third reading of bills.

I understand that His Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to assent to bills today. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner is prepared to assent to bills?

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER NORRIS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories I hereby

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assent to: Bill 5, An Act to Repeal the Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act; Bill 7, An Act Respecting Interim Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1993; Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act; Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93; Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1990-91; Bill 22, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1992; Bill 23, Loan Authorization Act, 1992-93; Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1991-92. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Mr. Clerk, Item 21, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, meetings for this evening: immediately after adjournment, of the standing committee on legislation; and at 5:00 p.m., of the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges. Meetings for tomorrow morning: at 9:00 a.m., of the standing committee on finance; at 10:30 a.m., of the ordinary Members' caucus; and at 12:00 noon, of all committee chairmen.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, April 1, 1992.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motions
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Documents 9-12(2), 10-12(2), 12-12(2); Motion 6-12(2)
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April Fool's Day, 1992.

--- ADJOURNMENT