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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

Wednesday, April 1, 1992

Pages 553 - 570

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Wednesday, April 1, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 54-12(2): Appointment Of Workers' Compensation Board Chairperson

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two statements. First, as Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Mr. Bryan Roberts has been appointed as the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories.

--- Applause

Mr. Roberts' appointment will be effective today and remain in effect pending confirmation of a longer-term appointee.

Mr. Roberts is the longest-serving employee of the Workers' Compensation Board, having been with the board since it was first established in the Northwest Territories. He has served previously as executive director, interim chairman, director of client services, and head of policy and planning of the Workers' Compensation Board, and is, therefore, very familiar with all aspects of the operation and evolution of the board.

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to be able to announce the appointment of Mr. Roberts, who is well known to northern employers and labour organizations. He will

provide continuity through his current knowledge and lengthy experience. Thank you.

Ministers' Statement 55-12(2): Official Languages Act

I wish to inform the House that an amendment was required to the Northwest Territories Act, as Members know, to confirm the amendment to the Official Languages Act of the Northwest Territories to extend the time for making all statutory instruments in English and in French to September 30, 1992. A bill to amend the Northwest Territories Act was given three readings in the House of Commons and the Senate, and it received royal assent on March 31, 1992. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ministers' Statement 56-12(2): Northwest Territories Teachers' Association Negotiations

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that the teachers voted against a proposal for a negotiated collective agreement. The proposal was outlined in a memorandum of understanding signed off by the negotiators on March 6, 1992.

The president of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association has requested that our negotiators get back to the bargaining table. He indicated a strong preference for negotiated agreement. I have agreed to his request. I feel that a negotiated agreement is in our mutual interest. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 57-12(2): Choice Of Pain Control In the Performance Of Abortions

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have an emergency statement which I would like to make. Mr. Speaker, last night I met with the representatives of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital to discuss what can be done to improve pain control measures used in the performance of abortions. We also spoke about counselling services and complaint procedures. At the meeting, direction was given to the hospital to develop a plan for providing patients with further choices for pain control, beyond those which it implemented the other day.

Mr. Speaker, the hospital board responded today by introducing a procedure that will allow patients to make an informed choice on the method of pain

control they wish to have administered. Patients will be provided with the options of pain control or medication alone, supplemented with local anesthetic or replaced with general anesthetic. The risk involved with each option will be explained to each patient; however, there will be instances in which a physician overrides the patient's first choice because of the risks involved.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to announce that I expect the draft terms of reference for the independent inquiry to be available today. In addition, at a meeting this morning with Ms. Lynn Brooks of the Status of Women Council, she agreed that with the complainants' permission, she would provide copies of the complaints to an inquiry, through my office. The confidentiality of the complaints will be respected.

In conclusion, I will be circulating copies of the letter of direction provided to the Stanton board, the board's response and the draft terms of reference of the independent inquiry to Members later this afternoon. Thank you.

--- Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Media Allegations Re Medical Services At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to correct certain media reports and statements about a discussion in this House about medical services provided at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. I want to say that if any allegations have been made, they have been made by the media by its reports on the issues.

Page 554

Allegations have been made by the media that Members of this House were dwelling on Mr. Whitford, the person, on the issue of procedures and medical services.

Mr. Speaker, I asked the reporters who have been here to review and read Hansard. If you have just arrived, ask your media colleagues. They will -- or at least I hope they will -- say that the issues have been clear, and that the facts will prove this. The issue has been health services and the statutory responsibilities of the Minister of Health, but, more specifically,

certain surgical procedures used at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, my concern still remains. I believe that all people who have listened to the issue for up to two weeks believe that it is the statutory responsibility of any Minister and government to ensure that the well-being of the people of the North is properly protected, and that they have the assurances of the right to quality health services.

I want to say the Members on this side of the House have acted properly and have given many opportunities for the Minister and government to respond to our concerns. Still, today, all issues and concerns have not been dealt with or addressed in a manner that satisfies the Members of this Assembly. I will not be satisfied until the Minister has dealt with our concerns and the women of the North feel comfortable and are assured they are receiving the best quality health services. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Problems With Artificial Limbs

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to be back here. I would like to make a statement of concern to the residents of the Northwest Territories. There are many hunters, business people and unemployed people who get into accidents and have lost their limbs. Presently, there are a lot of these people in the North. These people have to go south to get fitted for artificial limbs. Artificial limbs take a long time to get used to, even if you have been wearing them for some time. They are not a normal part of the body. Once you get used to wearing them, they begin to wear out and have to be replaced again. Perhaps people with artificial limbs have to go through replacement of limbs a number of times during their lifetimes.

I think it is time for the NWT to get its own facility to produce and fit artificial limbs. Money is going to southern institutions for this kind of work, and people in the North have to wait a long time to have their limbs made or replaced when needed. People do not ask to get their limbs replaced even when they need to because they know that they need to make a trip to a southern institution to get fitted again. When they do get a replacement, oftentimes it does not fit.

I know about this personally because I have not utilized the artificial foot I obtained. You have to go

south to get fitted, and they send it north, but when it does not fit, it is a real problem.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

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

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, this really concerns me because I am one of them. A number of times I went down south to get a part for my foot, and a number of times it did not fit. This means that I had to travel back down south again and back. It is not necessary. I think those people making artificial limbs should travel once in a while to the communities to see if the artificial limb fits the person properly.

I know a young fellow who had an accident a couple of years ago. He is still growing up. Each year his foot gets bigger and bigger; the normal foot is growing. Very often those artificial limbs are worn out quickly, like my leg, my arm, my hands. If there is not a proper fit it could damage your body. I know that. That is what happened to me.

I know today is April Fools', but this is not an April Fool; this is true. As a matter of fact, I have an exhibit that I can show this House about what happened to me and what happened after the fitting. Mr. Speaker, this is what I have got: This artificial foot is worn out after wearing it because it fits; the other one, the new one, does not fit. It was fitted down south and sent to me. It is too soft, and sometimes I have a hard time putting it on. This other one is harder. I think it is like false teeth. If you have false teeth and they do not fit, it hurts your gums. This is the same thing.

There are a lot of people in the North suffering from this problem, and they would like to walk like you people do; I also would like to walk like you people do, not staggering. I think in the future this government should look into this problem, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. The Chair would like to recognize in the gallery, Mr. Gary Bohnet, president, and Mr. Gordon Lennie, vice-president, of the Metis Nation.

--- Applause

Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Gzowski Golf Tournament For Literacy

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we are all aware, there is a lot of work to be done in the NWT to improve literacy levels in all of our official languages. I am very pleased to tell the Legislative Assembly that Peter Gzowski, the host of CBC's Morningside show, will once again hold a golf tournament in the NWT to support community literacy projects. The community of Fort Providence will be hosting the third annual NWT Gzowski tournament.

The first two tournaments, held in Yellowknife in 1990 and Pond Inlet in 1991, became the focus of a number of community events to celebrate literacy. This year's tournament in Fort Providence will be no exception. Although the tournament will be held on Saturday, April 4, events leading up to it begin on Thursday, April 2. The band council, the hamlet council, Metis Nation Local No. 57, Arctic College, Elizabeth Ward School, the Zhahti Zue Teaching and Learning Centre, and Zhahti Koe Friendship Centre are working together to put on a series of events to show off Fort Providence to the visitors. Several of Fort Providence's local businesses are also providing support, including Sonny's MiniMart, the Northern Store, the Snowshoe Inn and Northland Utilities, NWT, Ltd.

Community events include a bannock and chowder lunch with the elders, reading and traditional crafts demonstrations in the Slavey language centre, the grand finale of a reading contest in which children have tried to read 1100 books in one month, a community feast, entertainment and drum dance.

Page 555

This year southern celebrities include two singers, George Fox and Shari Ulrich, actors Sarah Polley and Cynthia Dale, journalist Victor Malarek and Avie Bennett, chairman, president and chief executive officer of McClelland and Stewart Inc.

Northern celebrities include Government Leader Nellie Cournoyea, Education Minister Titus Alloo...

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to finish my statement.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. I did not want to mention all the Ministers' names right away, so I could get consent.

--- Laughter

Northern celebrities include Government Leader Nellie Cournoyea, Education Minister Titus Allooloo, MP Ethel Blondin, and Chris Brodeur, chairman of the Arctic College Board of Governors. The roster also includes Joe "Pinto" Dragon, who is originally from Fort Smith and will attend his first Pittsburgh Penguins hockey training camp this August. Two young women from Fort Providence, Melanie Thom and Lorna Nadli, won an essay contest sponsored by the Department of Education. They will travel back home with the celebrities from Yellowknife and Fort Simpson, where they are attending high school.

Each Gzowski tournament has a poet laureate, who writes a poem about the event. This year's NWT tournament will feature two authors, Tim Wynne-Jones and northern author Michael Kusugak.

The community of Fort Providence is very pleased to have an opportunity to host one of Mr. Gzowski's tournaments and to give visitors an opportunity to experience true northern hospitality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

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

Member's Statement On Setting Up A Credit Union In Cape Dorset

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement is in reference to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. The people of Cape Dorset are interested in setting up a credit union, due to the lack of such facilities within the Territories. The people are very interested in setting up some banking facilities, which would be very useful in their community, and it would also encourage membership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements, Mr. Todd.

Member's Statement On Confidence Needed For Private Businesses

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I attended the annual general meeting of the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce. I had the opportunity and the pleasure of presenting a paper on the Strength at Two Levels document at this meeting. I tried to focus on matters that have been debated in this House and directions that have been proposed and issues from the report that will directly affect the Keewatin and its people. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that this was an entirely new perspective for me for this year, in that I attended as Member of this House, and the past 10 years I have always been involved in organizing the chamber.

Mr. Speaker, the organizers of this year's meeting did the usual terrific job. The turnout was incredible and, as always in the Keewatin, the debate was lively, to say the least. What surprised me most was the level of concern, even anger out there toward the government. It seems that everyone has some concerns about the restraint program being instituted by this government.

Mr. Speaker, I know it is necessary to get a handle on the current financial difficulties that we are facing. It is important that we use the funds we have available in a most efficient manner. However, from what I can gather in the Keewatin Region, regional staff seem to have misinterpreted, at least I hope they have misinterpreted, the message from the cabinet. Instead of fiscal restraint, they are cuffing and slashing whenever they can. I heard so many horror stories from business people this weekend, I thought I was on "Geraldo."

--- Laughter

Businesses in the Keewatin are fighting for their very survival. This is not just a regional issue. This is an issue that is across the Territories. I know from talking to other Members that businesses all over the North are currently being threatened, from Rankin Inlet to Broughton Island to Yellowknife. We are going to lose some of the precious few businesses we have if we do not recognize this and do something about it now. It may already be too late for some people.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Government Leader, the Minister of Finance and other Members of cabinet take note of the urgency of this matter and act on it now. Give the private sector the confidence it needs. Give clear direction to government to act in a responsible manner. Remember, we all have to survive in this country.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O230-12(2): Home Care Services, Fort Simpson; And Return To Question O416-12(2): Response To Question Re Home Care Services, Fort Simpson

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, on March 2 and 27, 1991, the honourable Member for Nahendeh asked whether the Department of Health had assessed the delivery of home care services in Fort Simpson. The Member also asked whether there had been any discussions on the development and implementation of a model for home care program in small communities.

A community health services and facilities review is under way, and the department expects to have a community profile by the end of April 1992. The Department of Health and the Mackenzie Regional Health Service will then meet with key respondents in Fort Simpson to review the information and develop service delivery options.

The Department of Social Services presently contracts for the delivery of home care and support services for elderly and disabled residents in the community. Discussions on home care services in Fort Simpson would be premature at this state and should wait until the formal review is complete.

Page 556

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

This is a reply to a question asked by Mr. Nerysoo on February 25, 1992. A basic bibliography listing documents reviewed by the review project team during the development of Strength at Two Levels has been circulated to all Members.

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

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Ms. Mike on March 26, 1992. A four-classroom addition was planned for Quluaq School for construction last year,

However, due to funding limitations and the school enrolment declining from 177 in 1989-90 to 166 in 1990-91, construction was delayed until enrolment increased.

Since this decision, 1991-92 enrolments have again risen to 177 students. The capacity of the school is calculated at 198 students. The existing school was built in 1984 and is in good condition. Should the enrolment continue to increase in 1992-93, the department will begin the planning for additional classroom space in 1993-94, with construction to commence in 1994-95. Thank you.

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

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mr. Pudlat on March 30th. The Department of Personnel will build no new staff housing units for the 1992-93 fiscal year. There are renovations planned for three units in Baker Lake, one unit in Fort McPherson, one in Igloodik and one unit in Rankin Inlet. A retrofit for one unit in Baker Lake is also planned.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: This is a return to a question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on March 24th. I wish to correct some information I provided in replying to questions from the Member on March 24, 1992. For operational reasons the municipal planning engineer position is being transferred, along with the incumbent, effective May 4, 1992. As this position serves the entire Fort Smith Region, including the Deh Cho, North Slave and Fort Smith areas, we are confident that the same level of service will be maintained, and indeed improved, throughout the region. The honourable Member may be assured that as usual the department will monitor the delivery of municipal engineering programs in a manner consistent with other municipal assistance programs throughout the region. We have always been prepared to reallocate staff resources to improve program effectiveness.

The department intends to place a technical officer position on an interim basis in the Fort Smith office, similar to the positions in the Deh Cho and North Slave area offices. Under this arrangement the continuity of services in the Fort Smith area will be ensured.

Return To Question O122-12(2): Legal Implications For Courtroom Interpreter

This is a reply to an oral question asked by Mr. Pudlat on February 21 st. Mr. Pudlat asked about the status of interpreters during their assignments for the court and the possibility of lawsuits against them. Court interpreters, while interpreting for the court, are officers of the court. Their liability, if any, for actions done in good faith in the course of fulfilling their obligations to the courts as interpreters would be a matter for the Government of the NWT to deal with. This would be by defending or arranging for the defence of interpreters and would apply for interpreters who are employees and for independent contractors.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O308-12(2): Accomplishments Of Government Leader Over Last Five Months; And Further Return 0420-12(2): Response To Question Re Accomplishments Of Government Leader Over Last Five Months

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have the reply to a question asked by Mr. Brian Lewis on March 11, 1992 regarding the accomplishments of government over the last five months. Mr. Speaker, the activities of government since it took office in November have been driven by numerous issues at the national, territorial, regional and community levels. One of the most pressing matters is the decline in federal funding and the severe impact this has placed on cash flow. Cabinet has had to wrestle with this problem, and at the same time shape capital and O and M budgets for 1992-93 and develop a strategy to return to a balanced budget within two years. It has also considered a range of options for making government more efficient and less costly. Reshaping northern government is the beginning of this longer-term effort.

As you know, the government inherited no well-developed budget from the previous cabinet; however, in the short time it has been in office, we have prepared and submitted to the Legislative

Assembly reduced 1992-93 capital estimates and a proposal on major innovations to the government's capital planning process. The innovations will significantly increase the involvement of all Members of the Legislative Assembly and community governments in the government's capital planning program. Part of these changes include the move to a fall capital budget in order to better co-ordinate with the summer transportation and construction season. By taking this approach, we can make sure that projects are planned well in advance and that construction activity in any one year does not exceed what the local labour force can handle.

We have prepared and submitted to the Legislative Assembly a proposed process and work plan for Reshaping Northern Government. This work plan is not a prescriptive outline of what the government has decided to do. Rather, it is an outline of the process the government proposes to follow to develop a plan of action for dealing with the issues before us. This proposal recognizes and provides for full consultation with ordinary MLAs, communities, aboriginal organization, the business community and other interest groups.

More recently, we have convened the Reshaping Northern Government working group, which is a joint cabinet/Legislative Assembly initiative to review and discuss many of the issues currently faced by the Government of the Northwest Territories. This working group's terms of reference include consultation with labour, business and aboriginal organizations.

Finally, we have worked towards and supported the introduction of a new Legislative approval process designed to give all stakeholders and the public far greater input into consideration of proposed legislation before it is presented in the House for committee of the whole discussion and subsequent approval.

Page 557

These things have been accomplished, but the challenge to any government is to look ahead and deal with pending problems and issues. In this regard, we will continue to work with MLAs to develop strategies in a number of key areas: 1) education, which means not only K to 12 but also upgrading and job training; 2) employment strategies which will allow us to maximize northern employment and development opportunities; 3) refinement of social and housing policies so that, in these tough economic

times, people most in need are cared for; and 4) continuing efforts on the intergovernmental front so that the NWT can take its rightful place among the other provinces.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of intergovernmental affairs, the Northwest Territories has accomplished full participation in both the First Ministers' Conference on the Economy and, more importantly, the federal-provincial conference on the constitution. As I reported to the House last week, we have been able to ensure that the interests of the Northwest Territories are understood and have been included in a number of position papers on the economy being developed by First Ministers.

Finally, the ratification of the Gwich'in land claim provided us with the opportunity to negotiate and sign implementation plans which clearly set out the financial implications of land claims and define the federal government's responsibilities. Mr. Speaker, hopefully, we will be equally successful in finalizing the details of the Nunavut final agreement due to be ratified later this spring. Thank you.

--- Applause

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O459-12(2): Additional Teacher For Chesterfield Inlet

MR. ARVALUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Education. I received correspondence stating that they will be short one teacher in Chesterfield Inlet, according to the government goals and objectives. Is it changed now?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question O459-12(2): Additional Teacher For Chesterfield Inlet

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Mr. Speaker, based on the funding formula that the Department of Education allocates to divisional boards of education, based on enrolment of the previous year, in respect to Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet, the community is eligible for 4.5 teachers for this year and 1.5 teacher assistants. This means they are eligible for one additional teacher from the previous year. However, when we fund the divisional boards, based

on this enrolment formula, it is up to the divisional boards of education in the regions to allocate funding to the communities where there feel it is a priority.

So it is not up to us to tell the divisional boards how many teaching positions should be allocated to Chesterfield Inlet. That is the responsibility of the divisional board. We fund the divisional board based on the enrolment. Up to this point, the Victor Sammurtok School is eligible for 4.5 teaching positions and 1.5 classroom assistants, which is a one person year increase from previous years.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Question O460-12(2): Internal Review Of Department Of Health

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the current Minister of Health. Like many Northerners, our main concern is about the issues raised earlier this week and last week with respect to the surgical procedures performed at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. But perhaps I am more concerned about the performance of the territorial health administration. Since the issues were first raised, the response by the department has seemed, at least to me, to be uncoordinated and confused. I am also concerned that the former Minister appeared to be inadequately briefed about the complaints and the follow-up correspondence received by his department officials. Will the Minister undertake an internal review of whether standard policies for advising the Minister of critical issues are regularly followed by the director and the health officials within the department?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O460-12(2): Internal Review Of Department Of Health

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O460-12(2): Internal Review Of Department Of Health

MR. TODD: I realize this is somewhat of an emotional issue, but frankly I was astounded by the way the department and the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board have been handling the release of public information. Press statements were released and later recalled. Public comments attributed to Dr. Morgentaler were later refuted. Local physicians

have been making comments that contradicted the complaints by women. I thought the administration of the department was supposed to be the responsibility of the deputy minister and his senior staff. Removing the Minister is only one part of the solution. Is the current Minister willing to undertake a review of the deputy minister and his senior staff's performance throughout this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O460-12(2): Internal Review Of Department Of Health

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O460-12(2): Internal Review Of Department Of Health

MR. TODD: In response to earlier questions by my honourable colleague from Baffin Central, the former Minister indicated that Lynn Olenek was in charge of co-ordinating the public position of the hospital board. Can the Minister advise this House whether this was, in fact, the case?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

Page 558

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

Question O461-12(2): Current Projected GNWT Deficit

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Finance regarding the projected deficit. Earlier in this session, I questioned the Minister about the amount of the deficit. At that time, this House was informed that it was in the range of \$50 million. Can the Minister, today, give us a more current estimate of what the projected deficit is for this government?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O461-12(2): Current Projected GNWT Deficit.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is \$49 million that we are currently forecasting, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O461-12(2): Current Projected GNWT Deficit

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, the Minister of Finance was in Ottawa meeting with various senior federal government Ministers regarding an issue - which is a thorn in the side of the Minister -- of \$41 million regarding health billings. Can the Minister advise this House as to how this \$41 million worth of outstanding billings is being accounted for?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O461-12(2): Current Projected GNWT Deficit

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, we believe the \$41 million is an outstanding bill that the federal government of Canada has not paid us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O461-12(2): Current Projected GNWT Deficit

MR. KOE: Is that \$41 million billing in the financial documents of this government'?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O461-12(2): Current Projected GNWT Deficit

HON. JOHN POLLARD: It is an account receivable, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Last supplementary, Mr. Koe,

Supplementary To Question O461-12(2): Current Projected GNWT Deficit

MR. KOE: Is the \$41 million, in the Minister's judgment, going to be collectable? If not, when will it be recognized as a doubtful account and written off?

MR. SPEAKER: That is really two questions in one. Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O461-12(2): Current Projected GNWT Deficit

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, there is communication going on between myself and Mr. Siddon's office. We will be sending another letter to him today to try to resolve this issue. In the event that we are unable to resolve it this year, it will be set up in the new year's books as a doubtful account, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O462-12(2): Interpreters' Liability

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. In his response to Mr. Pudlat, he stated that the interpreters' liability, if any, will be defended by the government. What would happen if the interpreter loses her case or defence even with the help or defence by the government? Who would be ultimately responsible for that suit?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O462-12(2): Interpreters' Liability

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the return was intended to assure interpreters that if they are working as officers of the court, and they are acting in good faith, their liability would be the responsibility of the employer. As employer, we would arrange for their defence. We would take responsibility for any of the consequences if liability should be found against our employees working for the courts in good faith. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question O463-12(2): Number Of Students Enroled In Eastern Arctic Teacher Education Program

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. I would like to ask the Minister if he knows how many students are attending the Eastern Arctic teacher education program?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know that information, but I will get back to the Member as soon as I can.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question O464-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

MR. KOE: I have a question to the Minister of Health regarding Metis health benefits. Can the Minister advise me of the status of the request from the Metis Nation regarding Metis health benefits?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

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

Question O465-12(2): Status Of Northern Accord

MR. KOE: I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the Minister advise this House of the current status of the Northern Accord, please?

Page 559

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O465-12(2): Status Of Northern Accord

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the Northern Accord negotiations with the federal government still have some outstanding issues; that being the case, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs wishes to have the document signed by the end of May. However, in terms of the financial issues surrounding the takeover of these responsibilities, to myself as Minister responsible as well as to the Minister of Finance, I do not believe it is in the best interests of this government to take over any responsibilities that do not have the financial dollars attached to it in the takeover. We are stymied right now at this time in the negotiations with the federal government, although the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs hopes this is concluded by the end of May.

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

Supplementary To Question O465-12(2): Status Of Northern Accord

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In prior negotiations, there has been an outstanding issue related to community benefits. Will the issue of community

benefits be addressed to the satisfaction of aboriginal and other business groups in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: That asks for an opinion of the Minister. Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O465-12(2): Status Of Northern Accord

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, in the area of community benefits, that, to my knowledge, is not one of the outstanding issues.

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

Supplementary To Question O465-12(2): Status Of Northern Accord

MR. KOE: Late last week the federal government announced a change in federal policy on ownership of petroleum companies, and it is now open to foreign investors. Will this affect exploration or development in the North? What is the impact on the Northern Accord?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O465-12(2): Status Of Northern Accord

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, we are hoping it will have a positive impact on our industry. The Member is very aware that the oil and gas industry, as it presently exists, is reluctant to spend the dollars for exploration and development of resources in the NWT, and hopefully, with the possibility of additional infusion of capital, they would be more open to begin more activity in the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O465-12(2): Status Of Northern Accord

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In an earlier question the Minister stated that the issue of community benefits was not an outstanding issue. To my knowledge, some regions still consider this a fairly major concern. How is the Minister and her department dealing with this issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, when I made my previous response, I felt the issue had been resolved, in terms of community benefits. I am not aware of this being an outstanding issue; however, I will again check and elaborate in a response to the Member. So I will take that as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W32-12(2): Discussion With Arctic Red River Band Council Concerning Ferry Operation

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Transportation. Would the Minister indicate the status of discussion on the operation and management of ferry operations with the Arctic Red River Band Council?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Address. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Item 8, replies to Opening

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Arngna'naaq's Reply

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Mr. Speaker, over Christmas the North lost an important figure with the death of Armand Tagoona. Armand's final months were overshadowed by certain events with which we are all familiar. I do not wish to minimize these events, as Armand himself did not minimize them. However, today I will address another side of the man.

Armand was born in Repulse Bay in 1926. He was born a member of the Aivilik people. With his mother and father he moved south and west to Baker Lake while he was still a boy of seven years. For many years the mission, the Hudson's Bay Company and the RCMP were the only white residents of Baker Lake, and then the Department of Transport opened a station. An Inuit assistant was needed, and the department asked Armand Tagoona to work for them, offering a very good salary of two dollars per day. He became one of the richest Inuit in the area, besides being one of the most gifted in the whole settlement.

On the 26th day of April 1959, Armand Tagoona, before some 60 white people and 150 Inuit in Rankin

Inlet, was ordained a deacon. As a token of their love, his white and Inuit friends in Baker Lake had sent him an ordination gift of robes and an inscribed prayer book. In his words, when asked why he wanted to work for the church, he said, 'Canon W.J.R. James, our Minister at Baker Lake, gives us a sermon four times a week during services. In the year of 1953 I started studying the Bible at home and listening to sermons to try to understand what a believer should do. Then my believing in God got stronger and stronger. Then I had belief in God and in Jesus Christ the son of God, our Lord and Saviour.

*At that time I was working for the DOT and my future was for that. In the year of 1954 our minister visited our house. While on his visit he asked me, 'Do you think God is calling you sometimes to work for Him? Because I did not want to say yes or no, I said, 'I do not know.' Then he said, 'Watch for God's call, because God is calling some people to work for him.' Then I studied the Bible and the Word of God more and harder and prayed more. In my heart there was a saying, 'Watch for God's call, because God is calling some people to work for Him.' Then I wondered, 'Am I one of them?' This went on for over three years.

Page 560

.In the year of 1957 Canon James told us in the service that God was needing more workers to help the church. I then wondered again, 'Am I one of them?' Later I let Canon James know what I felt. He wrote to Bishop Marsh, Bishop of the Arctic, about it. The answer was that he welcomed me to work for God and help the church."

"I want to say this: Why did I come to work for God in the church and give up DOT? Not because I do not like them, no. I gave up because God's call was too strong for me to say, 'No.' I was very happy to work for Him, to help the church."

In his lifetime he built three churches: one Anglican Church in Rankin Inlet; one Anglican Church in Arviat; and he took a leave of absence in 1969 and started the Arctic Christian Fellowship Church in Baker Lake, I remember when the little church in Baker Lake first started. Services were held on Sunday afternoon because it did not want to interfere with the morning and evening services of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches. If you were late, you would not be able to enter the building because the little church was too full.

In his lifetime he wrote three hymn books, now used in the Eastern Arctic. He also wrote many, many weekly newsletters. Armand was also a gifted artist. He produced a series of drawings for his first exhibition held at the Robertson Galleries in Ottawa in October 1972. He was first encouraged to begin drawing and was assisted in writing in English by the Butlers, a couple from Pittsburgh who came to Baker Lake to help develop arts and crafts activities among the Inuit. A book was produced with 23 of his drawings and the stories behind them. The book is entitled "Shadows.' It is a series of experiences of Christianity and shamanism into the coherent whole that is the life of one man.

He turned down an award from the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada in the early 1970s. The award from ITC would have been an award from all the Inuit of Canada, thanking him for his service to bettering the lives of the Inuit. In 1988 he was again recommended and asked for his appointment as a member of the Order of Canada, but he turned that down as well. He told his son William Tagoona that he could not accept the awards, as there is only one award he wants to receive, and that is in Heaven.

In 1985 he returned to the Anglican Church as the pastor for Rankin Inlet. He and his family returned to Baker Lake in the fall of 1991.

He died on December 21, 1991, of severe hemorrhaging of the stomach, at the age of 65. Armand and his wife, Mary Tagoona, had 13 children, of which 11 survived. At the time of his death he and his wife had 45 grandchildren. When he fell ill in December, 1991, they did not have any records of him. He had not been to the health centre since the early 1960s.

He always saw the brighter side of life, which was reflected by a certain aura about him. He was an inspiration to all who met and got to know him. In Bryan Pearson's words from Nunatsiaq News of February 14, 1992: "Many knew, admired and loved him. He was a northern treasure, a rare human being, selfless, a doer, a builder, a rebel and a family man.' Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Replies to Opening Address. Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees.
Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills.
Mr. Arngna'naaq.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Report Of The Standing Committee On Legislation On The Review Of Bill 1 And Bill 17

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the committee that the standing committee on legislation has reviewed Bill 1 and Bill 17, and wishes to report that Bill 1 is now ready for committee of the whole and that Bill 17 is ready for committee of the whole, as reprinted and amended. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Reports of review of bills. Mr. Todd.

Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance On The Review Of Bill 13 And Bill 24

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the standing committee on finance has reviewed Bill 13 and Bill 24, and wishes to report that Bill 13 and Bill 24 are now ready for committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 65(5) and have the following bills placed on the orders for committee of the whole today: Bill 1, Bill 13, Bill 17 and Bill 24. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Pursuant to Rule 66(3), and on the order of the Assembly, Bills 1, 13, 17 and 24 are ordered into committee of the whole for today.

Reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 10.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 9-12(2): Report Of The Special Committee On Constitutional Reform

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present the interim report of the

Page 561

special committee on constitutional reform. The special committee on constitutional reform was established to review federal, provincial, territorial and aboriginal proposals for constitutional reform and to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on national constitutional matters. On behalf of the special committee I would like to table our interim report to the Legislative Assembly. The report sets out five major issues which require close monitoring by the special committee and recommends objectives and principles to be pursued by the Government of the Northwest Territories in the current round of multilateral discussions.

While all proposed constitutional amendments will be monitored, five areas are particularly important to the Northwest Territories. Those five areas are:

- 1) territorial participation in all multilateral negotiations;
- 2) constitutional recognition of an inherent right to aboriginal self-government;
- 3) the effects of the constitutional amending formula on the Territories;
- 4) the effects of the Canadian economic union proposals and the redistribution of federal and provincial responsibilities;
- 5) constitutional amendments relating to national institutions.

The interim report, Mr. Speaker, concludes with the following recommendations for the territorial role in the multilateral consultation process:

- 1) The Government of the Northwest Territories should ensure the participation of appropriate Ministers and officials throughout the multilateral consultation process.
- 2) Ministers and officials should, to the extent possible, ensure that the positions and principles

outlined in this report are enunciated and that any draft legal text or consensus document is consistent with these principles and positions.

3) The Government of the Northwest Territories should report to the special committee and the Legislative Assembly on progress in multilateral consultations, as appropriate.

4) When a draft legal text of constitutional amendments has been made public, the Government of the Northwest Territories should table the draft text in this Assembly for consideration, together with such information and recommendations as may be appropriate.

5) The special committee should continue to monitor national constitutional reform issues and should develop and distribute, as soon as possible, a public information package relating to national constitutional reform.

Motion To Receive And Adopt Committee Report 9-12(2), Carried

Mr. Speaker, that concludes our report, and therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the interim report of the special committee on constitutional reform be received by the Assembly and adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order, Mr. Kakfwi. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--- Carried

Item 10 , reports of standing and special committees. We will return then to Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 40-12(2), a letter and a couple of reports that I received from a former chaplain at Akaitcho Hall for the academic years 1989-91, Pastor Tom Gavac. In this report and letter he has some serious questions and concerns regarding the responses and accountability of Akaitcho Hall. I think it will be useful, since the Minister responsible for Education had indicated that there is going to be a full

comprehensive review of that institution in May. So I would like to table these documents, and it might help him to take care of our students and our institution. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Tabling of documents. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 41-12(2), Public Utilities Board of the Northwest Territories 1991 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Todd): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 42-12(2), Dental Services Delivery Mechanism for the Keewatin Region, which is an initiative by the Keewatin Regional Health Board and local development corporations to deliver health services in the Keewatin, in spite of the Department of Health. Thank you.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 43-12(2), Arctic College Annual Report, 1990-91.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 44-12(2), three motions that were passed by the Deh Cho Regional Council. One is with regard to elective birthing in Fort Simpson Hospital; one is with regard to home care in Fort Simpson area; and lastly, Fort Simpson hospital converted to a modern health care centre. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, maybe for clarification. Can I, according to the rules, move a report of the special committee on constitutional reform into committee for discussion?

MR. SPEAKER: Your point of order, Mr. Nerysoo, Under our rules there was an option to move it into committee of the whole. The committee decided that the motion being made to the report is received and adopted; it has been done, so according to the rules this particular item has been dealt with. Item 13, notices of motions. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice Of Motion 12-12(2): Interim Report Of The Special Committee On Constitutional Reform Moved Into Committee Of The Whole

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, April 3rd, I shall move that the interim report of the special committee on constitutional reform be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

Page 562

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion. Mr. Lewis.

Notice Of Motion 13-12(2): Appointment Of Alternates To The Special Committee On Constitutional Reform

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, April 3rd, I shall move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the notwithstanding Rule 89(2), that Mr. Arngna'naaq and Mrs. Marie-Jewell be named as the alternate Members to the special committee on constitutional reform. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to proceed with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion.

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

Item 15, motions. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with my motion today regarding appointment of alternates for the special committee on constitutional reform.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with motions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Lewis. Excuse me, Mr. Lewis. If Members could distinctly speak out. I will ask again to make sure we have this correct. There is a nay, Mr. Lewis. You cannot proceed with your motion today. Item 15, motions.

Item 16, first reading of bills.

Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels; Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; Tabled Document 12-12(2),

Plebiscite Direction; Motion 6-12(2), Discussion on Sobriety Clause in Contribution Agreements; Bills 1, 13, 17 and 24, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The committee will come to order. Mr. Government House Leader, what do you wish to do?

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, if the chairman of the standing committee on finance is in agreement, we could do Bills 13 and 24 and then 1 and 17. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We will deal first with Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act. We will take a 15 minute break first.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 13, Financial Administration Act

The committee will come to order. We are dealing with An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, Bill 13. I wonder if the Minister has opening remarks.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would ask if I could bring in the witness, the deputy minister of Finance, Mr. Eric Nielsen, and go to the witness table. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is this government agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Minister. For the record, would you introduce your witness?

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have Mr. Eric Nielsen, deputy minister of Finance, with me. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Do you have opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, this bill will provide the Financial Management Board with the authority to approve forgiveness of debts that are valued at \$1000 or less. The act currently requires that all forgivenesses be approved by the Legislative Assembly. The Social Assistance Act allows the Minister of Social Services to forgive overpayments of social assistance up to \$500.

This amendment is being proposed to improve the efficiency of government administration. The current legislation results in excessive administrative procedures and approvals by the government and the Legislative Assembly to deal with relatively minor dollar values. The amendment will also consequentially amend the Social Assistance Act so as to retain all authority for forgiveness within the Financial Administration Act. The Financial Management Board will delegate authority to the Minister of Social Services in order to maintain the current responsibility.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Chairman of the finance committee.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance reviewed Bill 13 during its meeting of today, April 1. The committee was pleased that the Minister of Finance and his staff were available at that time, and I might note on very short notice, to answer the questions of the committee. It is difficult to get a Minister who makes himself so accommodating to the committee, and we appreciate it. Do I hear any nays?

--- Laughter

The committee was not opposed in principle to this amendment that would permit FMB to write off debts up to \$1000. However, the committee was concerned that the total amount could be substantial if large numbers of debts are to be written off on an annual basis. Although these write-offs would appear in the public accounts, this would be after the fact. We were

pleased that the Minister of Finance gave the commitment to supply the committee and the House with an annual listing of the debts written off under this section of the act. As a result, the committee agreed at its meeting to recommend this bill to the House for consideration. Thank you.

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

Page 563

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very short general comment and perhaps a question, if I may. I know this bill, with good intentions, would try to eliminate hassles of introducing legislation every time they need to collect \$500 or more. However, my concern is that it seems to give a message to the social workers or other government employees to become even more careless in dissemination of government funds to individuals who may have been eligible at first but later become ineligible, through employment or uncollectable financial loans from the government. Will there be a policy or statement of intent somewhere from the government that available means will be used to collect the outstanding overpayments or loans, despite this bill being in effect, if it is passed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: I understand the concern. There is a limit of \$500 right now that is available to the Minister of Social Services. There does not seem to have been abuse of that system at the present time, and I think raising the amount up to \$1000 recognizes the increase in costs of things today and the fact that we are paying more money out in social welfare. So we do not anticipate any abuse of the privilege. But if the Member is concerned, I will undertake to make sure that there is a letter put around to departments to be careful of abuse in this particular area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Does the committee wish to go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 3. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: What is the section with regard to 10(1) of the Social Assistance Act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, it is just taking the \$500 limit out of the Social Assistance Act and putting it into this act, and then the FMB will delegate the authority to the Minister of Social Services to be able to continue to write off or forgive debts. Only this time it will not be \$500; it will be a maximum of \$1000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is it agreed that this bill is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. We will go to Bill 24. Is that the committee's wish?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Bill 24, Financial Administration Act, No. 2

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2. Mr. Minister.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2, is being proposed to respond to concerns that have been raised by the Auditor General and the standing committee on public accounts in previous years. Mr. Chairman, under the present act the legislation restricts authorized expenditures from exceeding the budget at the activity level. However, in each of the years since the Financial Administration Act was assented to in 1987, over expenditures at the activity level have occurred.

The government has thoroughly considered this issue in cooperation with officials from the Auditor General's office. We have determined that it is unworkable to try legislatively prevent over expenditures at the activity level. For example, it is common for the government to receive invoices subsequent to year end and in substantially larger amounts than were anticipated. These increased costs and other yearend accruals can occur even though management has taken all reasonable steps to control expenditures. Rather than retaining legislation which is unworkable, the Auditor General and the previous Assembly's standing committee on public accounts recommended that the provisions related to activity budgets be amended. The government is proposing that instead of it being a breach of legislation for an over expenditure to occur, such an occurrence be dealt with by management accountability and recording.

Mr. Chairman, with this amended legislation all over expenditures will continue to be reported in the public accounts. The proposed amendments will also bring the act into line with government standards and will hold management accountable for the actions they take.

Finally, over expenditures that exceed the total department budget will continue to be a breach of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Chairman of the finance committee.

Page 564

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance reviewed this bill, Bill 24, in its meeting yesterday. The committee was pleased with the Minister of Finance and his staff to appear at short notice. The Minister informed the committee that this

amendment was recommended by the Auditor General of Canada and the standing committee on public accounts of the 11th Legislative Assembly. Mr. Chairman, the committee has no major concerns with this amendment and agreed to recommend this bill to the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: Mr. Chairman, similarly to the previous bill we just dealt with, Bill 13, these two sort of show that it will now be no longer illegal to go over your budget from individual activities of the capital estimates. I suppose sometimes you do go over your budget, but my concern is still that we are very serious about eliminating the deficit of the government, but this will not help to eliminate that deficit. However, if it is genuinely a good intention of the government not to abuse the right of having the bill, Financial Administration Act, No. 2, in place, then I suppose we will have to wait and see. But I still have that concern that we will have to watch very carefully.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): General comments. Does this committee wish to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 3. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Section 32.2(2) which mentions responsibilities of deputy ministers and that they "shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that no expenditure is incurred..." What happens to a deputy minister who has over expenditures?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, early in its mandate this government conveyed to deputy ministers the fact that 46 per cent of their appraisals

on the kind of work that they do for this government would be allocated to the financial area. We believe that was saying to deputy ministers, "We expect you to be financially responsible; and if you are, then you will get better appraisals." So their management skills will be judged 40 per cent on their financial ability.

Mr. Chairman, there were some 20 cases in activities that went over their budgeted amounts in 1987-88; in 1988-89 there were some six activities; in 1989-90 there were five; in 1991 there were seven cases. So we have a fairly good record of where it occurs, how it occurs. If we were to see a trend whereby a deputy minister or department were going over in their activities, then I would have no choice then to bring that to the Financial Management Board and suggest to them that there may be something that should be done with regard to disciplining that particular deputy minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 3. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Will the Minister of Finance have anything regarding the deficit itself? The Minister indicated there were several overexpenditures in certain departments, The intent of this act is to ensure that is no longer the case, but I am still interested in finding out which departments and how much of

- deficit they over expended. I asked the Minister already in

- written question, and I still have not received any response to date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: The response is on its way to Mr. Gargan. I will not know until the year end which departments have overspent, which departments are outside of their activity levels. The House has seen, in the supps that have gone through here, where departments have come forward for additional funds, whether that was taken out of the supp reserves or whether it has just been granted them. Those expenditures have been processed through the House. I will not know until the year end, numbers are available to us if there are any departments that have overspent in any of their activities or if they have overspent as a department. But I will report to the House when I do have the year end results.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is indicating that he does not know what the overexpenditures are, but how do we come up with those figures with regard to a deficit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, we are spending more money than we are taking in, and that is how the deficit is accruing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Koe.

Penalties For Over Expenditures

MR. KOE: In this case, in terms of Overexpenditures or unauthorized expenditures exceeding budgets, this Financial Administration Act sets the rules out. It does not seem to me to have a penalty section. The Minister mentioned about appraisals. Who does the appraisals for deputy ministers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, the Government Leader.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: In the last year you mentioned there were seven instances of Overexpenditures Hopefully they were not all with one deputy minister, but I assume that the seven instances were dealt with appropriately and that some kind of action or penalty was imposed on these individuals.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, that was the previous government, and I have no knowledge of what actions were taken.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: For the future, then, I assume that something will be done. This is nice to say, "Take

Page 565

all reasonable measures," and the next section, 32.2(3), says, "the Minister responsible... shall submit... a report providing the details...' and I assume that whatever the disciplinary action, it will be included in this report. Is that going to be the case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, once the report is received by the Financial Management Board, there may be good reason for the over expenditure, which is partly the reason that this bill is being put before you today. There are times when activities are overspent and it is not as a result of poor management, it is just one of those things that happens in government.

So I guess, based on the report and the reasons for the over expenditure, then if there were reasons to believe that it was because of poor management, poor judgement, or just plain not caring, then there would be recommendations to the Financial Management Board to discipline that particular deputy minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: This next issue is a somewhat related one, to deal with the Financial Administration Act. What happens in cases of misappropriation or theft of funds? We have had certain cases, again related to the prior administration, but it still happens. I know individuals involved are usually penalized if found guilty. What happens to the deputy or the Minister involved?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, as far as I can determine, although the individual who may have purloined the funds is sought out and the RCMP informed, and the individual is charged and dealt with by the courts, as far as I can determine, the circumstances surrounding that particular issue are looked at by the individual Minister responsible, and if it is felt that either the accounting systems within the department or the personnel within the department are not up to the task, shall we say, then there is provision, under the fact that the Minister is responsible, for the Minister to go to the Government Leader and suggest that his or her deputy or senior staff have not performed their duties adequately. Or if it is in the case of procedures within the department, there are suggestions made as to how to improve those procedures so there is a better check kept on things.

But I cannot say that somebody is going to be fired or what is going to happen to them. I can only assure you that if these instances occur, they will be dealt with as very serious occurrences.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

-Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does this committee agree that Bill 24 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I would like to thank the Minister of Finance and the witnesses for appearing. We will now go to Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Child Day Care Act. Mr. Whitford, do you have opening remarks?

Bill 17, Child Day Care Act

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present to this Assembly Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Child Day Care Act, which amends sections 16 and 17 of this act. The bill incorporates the recommendations of the standing committee on legislation, which met on March 5th and again on March 31st, 1992. Presently, section 16 of the current Child Day Care Act is deficient in that it does not allow the director of child day-care services to suspend a licence of an operator of a licensed day-care facility

pending an investigation of allegations of child abuse or neglect.

The director presently has the power to suspend a licence after she has issued an order requiring the operator to comply with the act or regulations and the operator refuses to do so. Also, the director presently has the power to suspend a licence without issuing an order where she has reasonable grounds to believe that an operator has contravened the act or regulations thereby endangering the health, safety or well-being of children in a licensed facility.

Mr. Chairman, as I previously indicated, these powers do not include the power to suspend a licence where the health, safety or well-being of a child or children are endangered due to suspected physical or sexual abuse or neglect. Mr. Chairman, under the proposed bill, section 16 of the act will be repealed and a new section 16 substituted with this additional power added.

Mr. Chairman, subsection 17(2) is also amended to allow the director to reinstate an operator's licence that had been suspended, upon application by the operator. A new subsection 17(3) will allow the director to reinstate a licence that has been suspended due to the health, safety or well-being of children in a facility being in endangered, without the operator having to reapply, where the director is of the opinion that the grounds for suspension no longer exist.

An example of where this would be used would be in the case where a thorough investigation into allegations had been conducted by the Department of Social Services and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and there is insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect. The director would act expediently under section 17(3) to reinstate the licence without awaiting an application from the operator.

Page 566

Mr. Chairman, a decision to amend this act was made after extensive consultation with, and upon recommendations of, legal counsel and legislative counsel with the Department of Justice. Those are my remarks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Chairman of the legislation committee.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on legislation has been considering Bill 17, which is the Child Day Care Act. The bill would correct a serious flaw in the scope of the current statute. Presently the director of child day-care programs within the Department of Social Services is able to suspend the licences of day-care operators. However, the wording of the relevant sections of the act makes it difficult for the director to take action that would effectively close down a day-care operation when it became apparent that there was a risk to health, safety or well-being of children who were cared for in the facility.

The standing committee appreciated the attendance of the Minister of Social Services, the Hon. Tony Whitford, at meetings when this bill was reviewed. The Minister and his officials were able to assist the committee greatly by introducing the bill, outlining difficult case situations created by the current legislation and responding to Members' questions.

Bill 17 would amend the Child Day Care Act to allow the director to suspend a licence if she had reasonable grounds to believe that the health, safety or well-being of a child attending a day-care facility was at risk. This would be extremely important, Mr. Chairman, under circumstances in which there was strong evidence to suggest that a youngster was being mistreated. Presently, there is no option for the department to follow. Bill 17 would correct this.

The new legislative procedures adopted by this House last winter allow for amendments to be made in bills at the standing committee stage, with the concurrence of the Minister. This is what happened when the standing committee reviewed Bill 17. During an earlier meeting the committee noted that amendments to the Child Day Care Act would not allow an operator who had lost his licence because of a reasonable-ground suspension to apply for reinstatement. A motion was passed in the standing committee on legislation to amend the reinstatement procedures. The Minister concurred with this amendment, and the bill has been reprinted to reflect this change.

Mr. Minister, I should also report that there was considerable discussion during the standing committee meetings about the overall quality of the Child Day Care Act. The committee expressed particular concern regarding the level of authority accorded to the director of child day-care programs. It was generally felt that some of the authorities presently held by the director might be better placed

in the hands of the Minister. The current amendments in Bill 17 will strengthen the director's authority even further. The standing committee was generally concerned about this, but Members had no wish to delay ministerial initiatives aimed at improving the department's capacity to ensure the safety and protection of children. Accordingly, at its meeting on Tuesday, March 31st, the standing committee on legislation voted to refer Bill 17 to committee of the whole.

The standing committee felt that the more general issues about the substance of the existing legislation should still be addressed. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I wish to propose the following motion:

Motion To Undertake Comprehensive Review Of Child Day Care Act, Carried

I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Social Services undertake a comprehensive review, including public consultation, of the Child Day Care Act and bring forward amendments at the earliest opportunity,

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have outlined concerns by the standing committee regarding the sections of the act which deal with the authority of the director of the child day-care programs. I would also note that as part of the public process now followed by the standing committee on legislation, input was received from the NWT Status of Women Council, and the council was supportive of the amendment in Bill 17. However, they also pointed out a number of additional areas in which the act ought to be amended. This is the sort of input the Minister may wish to consider when he reviews the existing legislation.

This is important legislation, and it is essential that the government ensures it meets the highest legislative standards. I am sure that the day-care organizations and associations that use this legislation regularly will likely have additional recommendations for improving the existing statute. I would urge all Members to support this motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--- Carried

Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the Minister and officials know some of the comments that I made in the review process about this legislation. I wanted other Members and the government to hear the concerns I have so they can understand where I am coming from. I think I have had some concern about the amount of power and responsibility that is being placed in the hands of the director without clear indications that investigative measures or procedures are to take place prior to the suspension of a licence of an operator.

I agree and wholeheartedly support the initiative to protect the well-being and the health of children, but I also have to caution the Minister and the officials about this idea of allegations, because we have used the word quite loosely over the past couple of days. The definition is "unproved opinions" or "unproved arguments." What causes me concern is, I do not want the issue of simple allegations regarding an operator to be the basis on which you suspend a licence. I think there has to be a little more substantial argument that is placed in the hands of the Minister or the director to ensure there is some legal basis that they can stand on in any civil action,

I know my colleagues on the standing committee are aware of the concern that I have about this matter. I also realize the concerns of the Minister and the director in trying to respond and act quickly in cases that are necessary. But I also wanted to say that in our effort to act quickly and responsibly to concerns raised by the public about an operation of a daycare, we may cause great harm to the character of men and women and facilities that may never be recoverable in the end I am hoping that the Minister

Page 567

and his officials and the government are aware of the concerns that I have and appropriately apply the legislation, that you are going to receive approval on, with great care and with great vigilance in terms of the investigations that take place. I do not necessarily mean detailed investigations so that everything is provable. But I think that you must be vigilant about the actual circumstances that exist and the concerns

that are being expressed and you can verify those concerns. Otherwise, I think we run the danger of really defaming the character of people and day-care facilities. I wanted the Minister and Members here to understand the reasons I raise those arguments.

I want to say, as well, that I think the chairman of the standing committee on legislation clearly articulated the issues, and the motion that was introduced and passed by this committee requests that a comprehensive review be done of the present legislation, and I support that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. General comments. Shall we move clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):

Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): . Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Does the committee agree that that concludes Bill 17? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister and chairman of the legislation committee. We still have Bill 1 to deal with on our agenda. Is that the committee's wish, to go to Bill 1?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

Bill 1, Education Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Education Act. Mr. Minister, would you like to make your opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill proposes a minor amendment to the Education Act to provide for better financial management in the school system. The amendment would provide a consistent fiscal year starting July 1 and ending June 30 for all education boards.

In the 1990 report to the Legislative Assembly, the Auditor General observed that education boards do not know the amount of their government contributions at the beginning of their current fiscal year. This is because the fiscal year of most divisional boards and the board of secondary education is not the same as the beginning of the Government of the NWT fiscal year, April 1. The Auditor General noted that education boards require this information further in advance of their fiscal year to manage well. A change to the fiscal year starting July 1 would facilitate this. Boards and the NWT Association of School Business Officials also requested that the change be made.

The Department of Education submitted a proposal for this amendment to the Financial Management Board. The board directed the department to prepare an amendment to the Education Act, identifying a fiscal year starting July 1 and ending June 30 in the act for boards and divisional boards of education, and changing the fiscal year identified in the act for the board of secondary education from the year of April 1 to March 31, also, to the proposed year of July 1 to June 30.

Mr. Chairman, there are many advantages to the proposed change in the fiscal year for education boards, such as increased efficiency and consistency in the preparation of education board budgets and

financial statements. The annual programming, staffing, purchasing and other education board planning would coincide with the board's fiscal and budget year. There would be more lead time for the department to provide information to boards.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, the proposed amendment to the Education Act will provide for better financial management in the school system. In addition, procedures are in place to ensure that the education boards will provide sufficient information to the Government of the NWT, according to the reporting requirements of the Financial Administration Act. If the proposed amendment is approved, it will be effective for all boards as of July 1, 1992. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Chairman of the legislation committee.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on legislation has also been considering Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Education Act. The committee would like to thank the Minister of Education, the Hon. Titus Allooloo, and his official for their appearance and their assistance to the committee in outlining the substance of the bill. The Members were also grateful to the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi for appearing on behalf of the Minister of Education during an earlier part of our review.

Bill 1 would amend the Education Act to ensure that the fiscal year for boards created under this statute coincides with the school year. The school year for boards of education, divisional boards of education and the board of secondary education would be

Page 568

established as running from July 1 of each year to June 30 of the following year. Presently the fiscal year used by some boards is from April 1 to March 31. The standing committee on legislation agreed with the Minister that this change should make accurate budgeting and planning activities much easier for the boards involved.

I would also note that as part of the new public process for legislative review adopted earlier during this session of the 12th Assembly, the standing committee received correspondence from the Yellowknife Catholic school board, the Dogrib

Divisional Board of Education and the Kitikmeot Divisional Board of Education. All these boards expressed full support for the amendment contained in Bill 1. I should also note that the standing committee understands that the amendment is fully supported by the NWT Association of School Board Officials.

Accordingly, on Tuesday, March 31, the standing committee on legislation voted to refer Bill 1 for consideration by committee of the whole. In doing so, however, I must note a single concern that arises from policy considerations raised by this legislative initiative. During the current transition year in which the fiscal year for school boards is changed, there will be a three-month period, from April 1 to June 30, 1992, that is included in neither the old financial year nor the new financial year. Members of the standing committee on legislation were concerned that if an additional audit exercise is required for this transitional period, the various boards affected by the change should not have to fund the audit costs.

Motion That No Additional Audit Costs Be Assumed By Education Boards, Carried

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the standing committee on legislation, I would like to propose the following motion: I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education ensures that no additional audit costs should be assumed by education boards as the result of any change in the fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Your motion is in order and is being distributed. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: I just wanted to say a few comments. I outlined the standing committee's reasons for this motion just now, and Members on the standing committee on legislation felt that there are currently many financial pressures on divisional boards of education and the board of secondary education right now. Even though audit costs would not likely be overly substantial, the committee believes that additional cost requirements should not be placed on the boards as a result of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--- Carried

General comments. Clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Does that conclude Bill 1?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Minister, That concludes the bills that are before us. What is the committee's wish? Mr. Dent.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): The motion to report progress is not debatable. Those in favour of the motion? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

I will now rise to report progress.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. ARVALUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 13, 24, 17 and 1, and wishes to report that Bills 13, 24, 17 and 1 are ready for third reading, with two motions being adopted. 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. Pudluk. Your motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

April 1, 1992

Page 569

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I would seek consent to deal with third reading of Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed to third reading of Bill 24. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

Third Reading Of Bill 24: Financial Administration Act, No. 2

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Members for their co-operation. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2, be read for the third time.

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

--Carried

Bill 24 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Item 21, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the full caucus immediately after adjournment, followed by a meeting of the standing committee on finance, which will be followed by a meeting of the special committee on health and social services. Meetings for tomorrow morning: at 9:00 a.m. of the Management and Services Board; at 10:30 a.m. of the ordinary Members' caucus; and at 12:00 noon of the western caucus.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, April 2, 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
it. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motions
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions: Motion 11-12(2)

First Reading of Bills

Second Reading of Bills

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and

ITEM 20: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 1.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 1. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed Mr. Allooloo.

Third Reading Of Bill 1: Education Act

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the third time.

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

--Carried

Bill 1 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 17.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to deal with third reading of Bill 17. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Whitford.

Third Reading Of Bill 17: Child Day Care Act

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 17, An Act To Amend the Child Day Care Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order,

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--- Carried

Bill 17 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 13.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 13. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

Third Reading Of Bill 13: Financial Administration Act

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, be read for the third time.

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

--- Carried

Bill 13 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

16.17.18.

Page 570

Other Matters: Tabled Documents 9-12(2), 10-12(2) and 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., Thursday, April 2, 1992.

--- ADJOURNMENT