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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1992

Pages 616 - 630

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngha'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, and welcome back to the continuation of the second session of the 12th Assembly. Orders of the day for Tuesday, June 16, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ms. Cournoyea, Government Leader.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 61-12(2): New Directions

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the last session the government has spent a great deal of time considering the direction our Territories should be going. We have been encouraged in this process by the comments of Members of the Legislative Assembly and the recommendations of its committees. Of particular note were several of the recommendations made by the standing committee on finance in its report on the 1992-93 capital budget. I would like to quote a few of them:

1) The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly, as a whole, work together to change the future course of the Northwest Territories, which will be bleak if we do not do the right things. The committee supports the Minister of Finance and Government Leader in this goal, but with a watchful eye.

2) The committee recommends fundamental changes in the way government does things. This means, among other things, that government must review its management and leadership style at the political level and bureaucratic level in order to achieve more with less. The committee feels that there is a need for a

government program of change -- to become more goal-oriented, service-oriented and people oriented.

3) The committee recommends that the Members of the Legislative Assembly look beyond constituency interest and determine what is in the best interests of all Northerners.

These recommendations confirmed to Members of cabinet that change must be its guiding light -- not just in terms of running government with less money, but fundamental change in how government is structured and delivers services.

Cutting back on the number of departments and agencies through consolidation, decentralization of programs and services to regional centres, equalization of budget reductions, community transfer, and returning to a balanced budget within two years are all essential elements of that change.

As you know, cutbacks in federal transfer payments and continued poor economic performance have cut deeply into our budget. We had to move quickly to implement a short-term restraint program last fiscal year. This year's budget is based on similar projections and the need to consolidate wherever possible. The target is a \$25 million deficit in 1992-93 and a balanced budget in 1993-94. It can be met if we begin implementation immediately.

The most visible part of our plan is to cut back on the number of departments and agencies through consolidation. For example, plans for merging the Department of Government Services with the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Culture and Communications with the Department of Education are finalized and will be implemented early this summer. The Reshaping Northern Government working group, which includes three MLAs, has provided sound advice and assistance in this area and we will continue to benefit from their input as we move to the next step of consolidations. Consolidation, however, is just the beginning of what must be a comprehensive process of reform. While important and necessary, it does not greatly affect the public, particularly in the regions where people are more concerned about how and where government spends its budget of over one billion dollars.

In many communities government expenditures are virtually the sole economic base. As a result, we tried to avoid reductions affecting the smaller, more vulnerable communities in developing the 1992-93 operation and maintenance budget. Cabinet's focus

was to reduce overhead, not programs. We wanted to reduce services to government, not services to the public.

This approach has meant that 160 positions have to be eliminated. Positions that were vacant were selected first for elimination. Others were left vacant so that affected employees could compete for them. Unfortunately, layoff notices will have to be given to 21 of our 5500 government employees. This is not a happy fact and is one we tried to avoid in every possible instance. These employees are eligible for the workforce adjustment program which forms part of the recently negotiated contract between the Union of Northern Workers and the government.

We are prepared to implement the program before ratification of the contract. We believe that this is in keeping with the spirit of the negotiations and a commitment to fair treatment of all employees. The program will be available to union and non-union personnel where jobs are affected by restraint and consolidation. The Minister of Personnel will be speaking on this matter later.

In deciding which areas would be affected by restraint, cabinet did everything it could to protect programs in health, education, social services and housing fields. The most in need, such as the elderly, the youth and those suffering from poor health, must be assisted and given hope. Forced growth requirements must be accommodated and service levels maintained. However, this has meant that we had to reduce expenditures in other areas to a greater degree. Unfortunately, that is the choice we face in sustaining our most important social programs and continuing to offer our rapidly growing numbers of youth the best possible education. We must be prepared to invest in our young people and meet obligations to our elders.

In our determination to equalize the burden of budget reductions across the Territories, it became clear that we must shift more of the economic benefits associated with government spending to centres which are just on the verge of becoming self-sustaining. Communities such as Fort Simpson

Page 617

and Rankin Inlet are stranded in the never-never land of being too small to be big, but too big to be small. Others, like Fort Smith and Inuvik, have seen their economies decline dramatically over the past number of years. They have seen some growth associated

with education and health expenditures but have not enjoyed anywhere near the degree of prosperity of Yellowknife.

For example, the recent addition of more specialist services at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital has meant almost 30 high-paying professional jobs in the capital; the number of teachers has increased by over 10; and close to 80 jobs have been created by growth in government spending. In addition, the move of CBC Northern Services has brought nine new jobs. National retail chains and fast-food franchises are establishing themselves. In the capital city there is a fair amount of construction activity such as elementary and junior high schools and a new multi-million dollar Legislative Assembly building. In addition, there is a new Woolco store and plans for a Canadian Tire outlet and other retail and commercial buildings.

All of us welcome these jobs to the North and the enhancement they bring to the quality of life in the city. Yellowknife's excellent economic prospects and improved levels of communications facilities throughout the Territories, now make it possible for the government to devote more time and money to other centres.

Accordingly, we are committed to the development of a decentralization program which will assist in developing those centres which are being more severely impacted by the sluggish economy and are losing positions due to budget reductions. Decentralization will also provide the opportunity for staff to live, work and make decisions closer to the people they serve.

The following facilities and agencies will be decentralized beginning April 1, 1993 and ending in April of 1994:

- 1) Airport and other transportation programs will be moved to Fort Simpson, Norman Wells and to Baker Lake;
- 2) To take advantage of existing infrastructure and support services, the head office and administration of Arctic College will be moved to Iqaluit and Fort Smith;
- 3) In recognition of the distinct supply routes for products delivered by the POL division, its headquarter's operation will be placed in Rankin Inlet and in Fort Simpson;
- 4) Given the availability of the necessary communications and processing facilities and available infrastructure, the health insurance section, which primarily processes health billings, will be located in Inuvik and Rankin Inlet;
- 5) The Science Institute headquarters will be

moved to its laboratory and research facility in Inuvik, Igloodik and/or Iqaluit; 6) Recognizing the predominance of transportation and utilities companies in Hay River, the Highways Transport Board and Public Utilities Board will be moved there; and 7) In order to capture the economic benefits of government spending, cabinet is prepared to support the location of an aircraft maintenance facility in Fort Smith for its fleet of water bombers and to develop a training component in conjunction with Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, this program of decentralization has obvious benefits for recipient communities and businesses but will also have an impact on our budget. We know that decentralization will cost a little more, but it is an investment we think is worth making to provide new job opportunities to people living in smaller centres. To those who might complain that decentralization is too high a price to pay, I would remind them that it would have been more economical to have the territorial capital in Ottawa.

The incremental costs of decentralization will take two forms. The first will be in the training and infrastructure necessary in each community to accommodate the new positions. I would invite all MLAs, mayors, chiefs and local chambers of commerce to help us in the planning process. The second area of incremental cost will be to assist employees to move to new locations or find alternative employment. I can assure all employees affected by decentralization that they will be treated fairly and be provided with transitional assistance, to be determined in consultation with the union.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that while our focus regarding government decentralization has been to communities in the Deh Cho, Inuvik, Keewatin and Baffin regions, we are also taking action to work with other regions to maximize benefits associated with mineral development in the North Slave and Kitikmeot regions. New discoveries and encouraging drilling results have confirmed world class deposits of lead, zinc, gold and diamonds. If transportation and energy infrastructure can be developed, the Northwest Territories will be the most exciting mining region in the world, and the employment and economic development opportunities will be enormous.

The Departments of Transportation, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and Economic Development and Tourism, along with the NWT Power Corporation, are working with communities and companies to explore all opportunities. The options

range from traditional economic development strategies such as bebfits agreements and training and business development assistance, to bold new initiatives such as ports and hydro dams built and owned by communities on a joint venture basis. When the drilling results come in, we will be prepared to support initiatives which will maximize local benefits. Mr. Speaker, because of the size of these projects, we will require federal government assistance, and we will continue to lobby the Prime Minister and the responsible federal departments.

Mr. Speaker, infrastructure made it possible for the West to be opened up, and the same holds true for the North. As a sign of our commitment, and in preparation for what we expect will be a new, jointly financed infrastructure program, the government will be completing the Wrigley extension as the first leg of the Mackenzie Valley Highway. The focus of this pilot project will be local involvement and innovative training projects to get people off social assistance and into the work force. The prospects of federal participation are made easier by the significant progress our government has made on the national scene. For the first time, we have been full participants at First Ministers' meetings on the economy and the Western Premiers' Conference. The Northwest Territories is no longer viewed as an outsider looking through a window into the rest of Canada. It is an active participant. This success has been complemented by the progress at national constitutional talks, which the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs will be reporting on later in this session.

Another area in which we have spent considerable time in trying to balance out our economy are the smaller communities which have only minimal government services and limited infrastructure. In those cases, we must find ways to maximize every job in every community by increasing local content. Two recent initiatives by the government will go a long way toward making this happen. The first is the new business incentive policy, and the second is the federal government's agreement to our proposal that the business incentive policy be applied to Housing Corporation. projects.

The latter initiative will assist communities in capturing term positions associated with capital projects. Over the longer term, the best way of injecting real employment opportunities into smaller communities will be by transferring greater

responsibility and associated jobs to community governments. Community transfer agreements and ownership of programs will mean community priorities are set and delivered locally. By transferring corrections from Social Services to Justice, we will be able to facilitate the development of community justice and corrections programs that are uniquely tailored to the northern environment. By having responsibility for policing, corrections and the justice system under one mandate, the opportunity is there to develop programs that will focus on rehabilitation rather than incarceration. It will also encourage community involvement in the justice system.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, people of the Territories are demanding change because the old way of doing things simply does not meet the needs of today's northern society. I believe this need for change is being reflected in how the business of this chamber is conducted. Since the election and through the rest of this fiscal year, the House will sit a record number of days; committees will meet more than ever before; and communities will be given the opportunity for direct input into the capital planning process. What this signals to me is a strong desire by MLAs, mayors, chiefs and other interested parties to be directly involved in the decision making process.

Together, cabinet and the Legislative Assembly have taken a few tentative steps to accommodate these calls for participation by moving to a fall capital budget, by opening the legislative review process to the public, and by creating special committees such as those on reshaping northern government and the constitution.

The package I have presented today will build on these earlier initiatives, move government closer to its constituents, and result in an administration that is more closely tuned to the people it serves. Thank you.

--- Applause

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

Ministers' Statement 62-12(2): Work Force Adjustment Program, GNWT Employees

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, as promised, I am announcing a new work force adjustment program. This program will provide a wide range of benefits to employees whose positions are declared surplus as a result of the government's reform initiatives, including restraint and the consolidation of departments.

The benefits under the program apply until April 1, 1994, and a wide variety of options are available. Employees whose positions are declared surplus will have hiring priority for their entire surplus period. It is expected that it will be possible to locate alternate jobs for the majority of affected employees. Those who are not able to identify alternative jobs will be eligible for retraining and education leave assistance for up to one year. The enhanced skills that they obtain during this year should help prepare them for appointment to another job. Finally, if it is not possible to place all employees, enhanced severance payments will be available.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that a solid work force adjustment program will provide a degree of security for our staff over the next two years. This will be essential for the implementation of change.

Members will note that the proposed budget reduction for 1992-93 will affect only a few employees. While the government deleted approximately 160 positions, only 21 employees will be declared surplus. To achieve this, many positions were left vacant to avoid the need to lay off staff.

We will do all we can over the next few months to provide choices for displaced employees and to assist staff members in coping with change. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 63-12(2): Collective Bargaining Settlement, Union Of Northern Workers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that a memorandum of agreement has been signed by the government and the Union of Northern Workers bargaining committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi, the time allotted for Ministers' statements has expired.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Negotiators met for a total of three weeks in three separate sessions since March of this year. On June 9, 1992, an agreement was reached which I believe satisfies the needs of both the government and the union. The union

bargaining committee is unanimously recommending ratification by its membership. Ratification is expected to be completed by mid-September.

As you know, there is not a great deal of money available for salary and benefit increases. However, the negotiations provided a good opportunity to solve a number of longstanding labour relations issues and to implement some creative changes to the collective agreement. These changes do not have significant cost implications but will provide more flexible benefits for employees.

For example, significant changes were made to give more flexibility in scheduling hours of work depending upon the needs in the workplace: Clear rules were added for shift scheduling; employees now have the flexibility to put in their required hours of work over fewer days; the job sharing provisions, previously available only to health service employees, have been expanded, and all government employees are now eligible to participate. This will benefit staff who wish to work fewer hours so that they can spend more time with their families; employees in smaller communities can schedule their own hours of work to better meet their own and the community's needs. Employees who work evenings and weekends because of the schedule of their clients will be able to get time off during the normal work week to compensate for these irregular hours.

A major change to the collective agreement is for the payout of vacation travel assistance. The current system of providing travel warrants is cumbersome and administratively inefficient. The new system will provide a cash payout to all employees regardless of whether they take their vacation on the land or they travel to southern Canada. This change was achieved at no extra cost. It will put cash in the employees' pockets, and it enhances the benefits for employees who take their vacation on the land and were previously paid only a small proportion of the benefit available to those who travelled south.

--- Applause

A work force adjustment policy was negotiated which provides a wide range of benefits to employees whose positions are declared surplus as a result of restraint or the consolidation of departments. There is no negotiated increase to salaries

during 1992-93. Settlement allowances will be increased by 1.8 per cent in 1992-93. Salaries will be increased on April 1, 1993 by 1.8 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a fair and balanced agreement which recognizes the need for restraint within a more flexible work situation. Thank you,

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Legislation Governing Adventurers In The North

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently I became very concerned about the frequency and number of adventurers who tried to make trips to the North Pole by various kinds of transportation, just to show the world they can achieve something. In 1992, there was a group who set out on foot to reach the North Pole. They did not want any help from anybody, and one of their members decided to turn back after they had gone a great distance. There was a great concern for his safety, and a search was initiated using an airplane and a helicopter. They did not find him right away, but when they did he was not in any immediate danger. It cost the taxpayers \$200,000 to search for this individual.

I live in the High Arctic, and I know the area quite well. You have to be very well prepared to venture up there, and have training in survival, because of the harsh weather conditions and other dangers. I think it is time for the government to introduce legislation so these people who venture out to the North Pole are aware that there is a law that they have to follow if they want to venture out on their own. There is a danger not only to those who go out but to the people who go out to rescue them. We are concerned about the people who venture out to the North Pole. Before tragedy occurs or it is too late, the government should introduce legislation to make it mandatory for them to insure themselves before they venture out. It is time for our government to take the necessary steps to bring in legislation, as well as informing the federal government to introduce legislation for the benefit of those who venture out in a variety of ways to the North Pole.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On First Nations Trust Company

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform this House that on April 7th of this year I met with the Government Leader and the Minister of Finance to discuss the feasibility of a First Nations trust company. We are all aware that the federal government has provided substantial funding, programs and support for aboriginal groups over the years.

Yet, despite this massive support, the aboriginal people of Canada have never really benefited from the dollars flowing from the federal and provincial governments. In order for aboriginal economic development policies to be successful, it is essential that aboriginal people control and be responsible for the capital which is used in their particular ventures.

Most Members of this House are aware that, despite the fact that banking institutions have been utilized by aboriginal institutions, band councils and aboriginal businesses, very few aboriginal people are eligible for loans on an individual basis. Aboriginal communities have also encountered difficulties in obtaining loans and have been forced to rely on government contributions. It is for those reasons, Mr. Speaker, that we have consulted with the Government Leader and the Minister of Finance in regard to establishing a First Nations trust

company. Aboriginal communities and organizations in the Northwest Territories, British Columbia and the northern portion of other southern provinces have expressed a keen interest in a First Nations trust company. I hope this government views the creation of a First Nations trust company as a positive step toward our inherent right to self-government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

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

Member's Statement On Gwich'in Land Claim Agreement

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Gwich'in on the signing of the Gwich'in comprehensive land claim agreement.

--- Applause

Representatives of the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the

Gwich'in Tribal Council signed this historical document on April 22, 1992 in Fort McPherson. I would like to acknowledge the Gwich'in leaders who, under great pressure, decided that they must continue to progress as a society and aggressively sought the tribal land claim. The Gwich'in strength is reflected in their conviction that they could make the agreement work for them, in their unity of purpose that was proven with a 94 per cent vote in favour of the agreement, and in their leadership who worked for and with their people in an open and caring fashion.

I am happy to be part of the negotiations and, today, very proud to be Gwich'in. The Gwich'in agreement gives the region the certainty needed for resource development and the regulatory and management mechanisms to ensure that development is sustainable for our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with my statement.

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

MR. KOE: Mahsi. The Gwich'in agreement also contains provisions for the negotiations of self-government agreements. Negotiations are beginning to take a partnership approach between government and the Gwich'in. The Legislative Assembly must fully support this initiative because it will set the stage for the development of a new order of government and bring our northern society together. As a current government, we must be aware that the Gwich'in self-government negotiations may override many of our policies, programs, financial arrangements and legislation. This should not be viewed as a negative factor. Rather, as the Government Leader has indicated in Reshaping Northern Government, there is a requirement to change the way we deliver programs and services. Fundamental to that delivery is to recognize community authority. The Gwich'in are pleased with this government's initiative to recognize the need for change and community, or Gwich'in, authorities. The government has taken a similar

Page 620

in the establishment of a Nunavut government, the Inuit form of self-government.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council's goal is to continue to build on their aboriginal and treaty rights. This requires the Gwich'in to work hard during land claim

implementation and to develop and deliver programs and services to their people that are culturally relevant and community-based. I hope that governments will support and not suppress Gwich'in initiatives. It is this independence and control that our community members request and have demanded for many years.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Gwich'in and thank the Government Leader and other government officials for their attendance and contribution at the signing ceremonies, and I look forward to working with the Gwich'in in the implementation of their land claim. Mahsi cho.

--- Applause

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

Member's Statement On Depressed Conditions In Yellowknife

MR. LEWIS: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am still waiting until tomorrow to make a statement about the "New Directions" statement that the Government Leader made just a few minutes ago. I would like to spend just a couple of minutes in response to what she had to say to us.

Also, I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that although we do have a community that was based on gold and gold mining and so on, that the price of gold has been depressed for some time now, and that very few people are optimistic about new mines opening up in the future. Though the Minister has made some moves to decentralize -- and I agree with her that there are some things which obviously can be done just as well somewhere else - I would not want her to paint a picture of Yellowknife which does not conform to the facts because this community is also hurting. There are many people who are suffering in this very deep recession that we have gone through. I would like to correct the facts. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Member's Statement On Housing Conditions, Kivallivik

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Since the last sifting of the Legislative Assembly, I have taken the opportunity to be in my riding, meeting and talking to people in Baker Lake and Arviat. Within the last three months, I have had the pleasure of visiting Arviat three times, and all three times I have

stayed with a gentleman by the name of Solomon Kugak, and, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that he is here with us today.

Despite the wonderful company of my host, he lives in one of the earlier prefabricated three-bedroom houses which were built in the early to mid-1960s. I used to live in one of these houses when I was growing up in Baker Lake. At that time, they were one of the better houses, but by today's standards they should be condemned. Yet people continue to live in them because of the shortage of houses in the Territories. These houses have no running water; therefore, no flush toilets, only honeybuckets. They have been rehabbed so many times that the layers of panelling are probably as thick as the insulation inside the walls.

The ceiling of Solomon's house is very low, and he uses one of the bedrooms as an office. Like many dart players, he has a dart board in the room. The ceiling is so low that when I throw my darts, one out of five darts will hit the shade of his light bulb which is taped to the ceiling; taped to the ceiling because the shade is a piece of cardboard. The tiles which make up the ceiling are failing apart. This leaves big patches in the ceiling where you can see the insulation of the ceiling.

This is far from the worst scenario in the NWT, because there are other people in other communities which live in shacks or tents. But to experience such conditions again after so many years makes me think that there is more which can be done for our people in the NWT, from my corner of the world. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Feelings Of North Slave Region On Boundary Plebiscite

MR. ZOE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a few brief points concerning the North Slave region and the results of the plebiscite held in the NWT on the question of the division boundary between the Western and Eastern Arctic.

To begin with, my region has always supported the wishes of the Inuit people and their struggle for self-determination for their own homeland. The Dogrib people, and the Dene Nation for that matter, have been, and continue to be, involved in a similar struggle for a land base and a self-governing institution,

However, having said this, the Dogrib people are not at all happy with the process used to determine the division boundary. This concern, Mr. Speaker, was made abundantly clear in the plebiscite voting results from the North Slave region. The North Slave had one of the highest turnouts in the Western Arctic and voted overwhelming against the so called Parker line. Ninety-three per cent voted against the line, the highest "no" vote in the Western Arctic.

We voted against the boundary line because of the complicated nature of the boundary line. The Parker line is not only a political boundary but also a land claim boundary. The question of the overlap between Dogrib land and the Inuit land was not resolved with the Parker line and this is the central problem. Because of the timing of the plebiscite vote, the North Slave people did not have the opportunity to settle our disputed area with the Inuit. Mahsi.

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

Page 621

Member's Statement On Upholding Economic Development Strategy

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. During the 11th Assembly, I am sure you remember that the Hon. Gordon Wray tabled a major economic development strategy. One of the key elements of this strategy was to assist smaller centres in developing their emerging economic potential. Sixteen communities were identified as emerging market communities because they had the most potential for growth. It was recognized that emerging market communities are often at the centre of a regional transportation network and are in position to serve a regional market as well as a local one.

In contrast, Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River and Inuvik are identified as mature market communities that are generally self-sufficient and insular in terms of employment, income and service. I am concerned about the type of reasoning in the government's capital planning process, Mr. Speaker, in assessing the location of major projects. Some feasibility studies have favoured mature market communities because of a wider range of local contractors which would allow socio-economic benefits to be maximized within the boundaries of a single community. There seems to be an irrational fear that in emerging market communities, project funding will flow to contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers located in other communities of the region.

Mr. Speaker, the end result of this thinking is that government will continue to place major institutions and facilities in the major market communities that I mentioned and, to me, coming from a small community, it is like the rich get richer. I think it is imperative that the government ensure that emerging market communities places like Coppermine, Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet and the rest -- are not penalized because local economies are in the developmental stage. I am encouraged, however, to learn today that there is an effort by government to try to share some of the economic activity surrounding government and capital developments...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Antoine, your time has expired. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Continue, Mr. Antoine,

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be calling on the Minister of Economic Development and his colleagues to ensure that the basic principles of the economic development strategy are upheld and that economic activity is better concentrated in communities which need new development to realize their full economic potential. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O518-12(2): Funding To Fort Smith Hunters' And Trappers' Association;

Further Return To Question O520-12(2): Criteria For Funding Hunters' And Trappers' Associations;

And Further Return To Question O522-12(2): Advise Of Release Of Funding To Fort Smith Hunters' And Trappers' Association

HON. JOHN NINGARK: I have a return to oral questions asked by Mrs. Jeannie Marie-Jewell on April 3, 1992. In a meeting on the 7th and 8th of May, I advised the Fort Smith Hunters' and Trappers' Association to hold appropriate general meetings and elections and to bring their organization into good standing with the registrar of societies. Until it is clear which organization represents the majority of the hunters and trappers in Fort Smith, I have instructed my officials to withhold core funding. In the meantime, the department will administer the harvester

assistance programs that Fort Smith hunters and trappers are eligible for. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question O238-12(2):
Assistance To Stabilize Fort Providence Church**

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan with respect to assistance to stabilize the Fort Providence church. The church in Fort Good Hope is one of the oldest, most historically significant structures in the Northwest Territories. It was designated as a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1977. On that basis, the federal Department of Environment agreed to a costsharing program and committed a minimum of \$100,000 toward the cost of restoration.

The old church in Pelly Bay is an example of early stone church construction on the Arctic coast. The building is now owned by the hamlet. It is no longer a church but is being restored as a community museum.

Because of their historic significance and fragile condition, the buildings in Fort Good Hope and Pelly Bay were identified as priority candidates for restoration. We plan to carry on with restoration of these two buildings. Because of cutbacks, we have not been able to proceed with the larger scale historic building program we first envisioned. However, responding to motions passed by this House, I am pleased to report that we have been able to identify some funds within the museums/heritage activity to also assist with the restoration of Our Lady of Fort Providence Church.

--- Applause

We have advised the community that we will be prepared to make a contribution of \$25,000 to help pay for repairs.

Further Return To Question O483-12(2): Teacher Education Program At Aurora Campus

Mr. Speaker, I have another return, if I may, asked by Mr. Koe on April 2, 1992. In December 1991, the Beaufort-Delta Divisional Board of Education and Arctic College, Aurora Campus, submitted a proposal to the Department of Education to establish a two-year teacher education program in Inuvik to begin in September 1992. The program proposal requested

\$908,981 for this two-year period. In addition to this amount, the department was expected to provide student financial assistance and/or education leave for approximately 15 fulltime students and 30 part-time students. Student financial assistance and education leave for those students represents an additional minimum of \$600,000 over the two-year period.

During March and April 1992, the department reviewed its fiscal position and informed the Beaufort-Delta Divisional Board and Arctic College that it could not support any new teacher education program initiatives at this time. The department had received one other new proposal to deliver a community-based teacher education program, and this proposal was denied as well. Support for the current community-based teacher education programs which are being offered in the Keewatin, South Slave and Dogrib areas will, however, be continued this year.

The department's capacity to expand the delivery of community-based teacher education programs is determined by the funding available for the development and delivery of teacher education programs and the funding available to provide financial support to teacher education students through the education leave program. The Department of Education is reviewing all training and support programs designed to develop northern

Page 622

educators and will be making recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of these programs this fiscal year.

Return To Question O499-12(2): Testing Of Children With Learning Disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I have one more return to a question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on April 2, 1992, in respect to testing of children with learning disabilities. For a number of years, Northwest Territories children have been referred by private practitioners and/or hospital staff for assessment at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. There is a pediatric rehabilitation team at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital who also assess children but who, at present, do not have the resources to carry out assessments in all the disciplines provided through Glenrose. Children who are initially seen may be referred to the Glenrose Hospital for further assessment.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O523-12(2): Power Corporation Layoffs In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of looking at the Minister's statement on New Directions, decentralization, I was somewhat pleased to hear what efforts this government is taking. However, yesterday in my constituency, eight employees of the NWT Power Corporation received indication for layoff notice within the NWT Power Corporation. I would like to ask the Minister of NWT Power Corporation to advise this House of the justification for these layoffs.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O523-12(2): Power Corporation Layoffs In Fort Smith

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, in regard to the layoffs, these positions and the unit at Fort Smith with the Power Corporation have been evaluated over the past 18 months. The positions were declared not needed, mainly because of the close-down of the Pine Point mining establishment. These positions had been carried over, and the company had gone to see exactly what should be retained and what positions should be released. So therefore the main reason would be that the Pine Point establishment is no longer there and the services are no longer required.

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

Supplementary To Question O523-12(2): Power Corporation Layoffs In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask if there are layoffs in other communities for NWT Power Corporation, or is it just isolated to Fort Smith because of the closure of Pine Point?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O523-12(2): Power Corporation Layoffs In Fort Smith

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: To my knowledge there are two other layoffs in Arctic communities, and I can bring that information. I do not recall which communities. But as new technology and new ability

to look after the plant are put in, the staff positions are evaluated. I can let the Member know which communities.

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

Supplementary To Question O523-12(2): Power Corporation Layoffs In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Taking into consideration the Minister's statement on work force adjustment program for GNWT employees, recognizing that NWT Power Corporation is not directing GNWT employees but somewhat similar, has the Minister responsible advised the NWT Power Corporation employees that consideration for work force adjustment program would affect those particular employees that have received layoff notices?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O523-12(2): Power Corporation Layoffs In Fort Smith

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will make the commitment to talk to the chairman of the board and relay that question to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O524-12(2): Inuvik Regional Health Board Issues

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Health. On May 21 st the Minister of Health was at a meeting that included my colleague, Mr. Koe, and Inuvik Regional Health Board members, and there were a number of issues and concerns that were raised at that meeting. Has the Minister met with the executive director of the Inuvik Regional Health Board to discuss those issues and concerns that were raised at that particular meeting?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O524-12(2): Inuvik Regional Health Board Issues

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the concerns that were raised at the meeting were given to the executive director, and they were relayed through the department. I personally did not meet with the executive director. I do intend to, but I just did not have the opportunity. Thank you.

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

Page 623

Supplementary To Question O524-12(2): Inuvik Regional Health Board Issues

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, at the meeting there were several commitments that the Minister made. I wonder if the Minister has dealt with those matters and resolved several of them, including the matter related to the speech specialist.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, all the issues and commitments in trying to resolve some of the concerns that the Inuvik Health Board had are in the process. I would be pleased to give an update on it. I will take that as notice and provide the response.

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been taken as notice. Mr. Antoine.

Question O525-12(2): Northern Aircraft Maintenance Facility

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. I was aware of the aircraft maintenance facility. I realized that the cabinet made the decision while you were in Rio de Janeiro. I wanted to know the status of the Minister's plan to establish a northern aircraft maintenance facility.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Return To Question O525-12(2): Northern Aircraft Maintenance Facility

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government Leader has just announced that the decision was to put the hangar facility in Fort Smith. But it is my understanding that the process is going to take a while to see the results from this. I know I will be meeting with the honourable Member from Fort Simpson on the 22nd of this month. We will be able to talk about this matter in detail, and I will be able to give the Member more information on this.

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

Supplementary To Question O525-12(2): Northern Aircraft Maintenance Facility

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister confirm that a feasibility and socio-economic study of this project was submitted to the department by Reindeers Northern Ltd., a consulting firm, on August 29, 1990?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O525-12(2): Northern Aircraft Maintenance Facility

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The report was submitted to the department before I took over the department. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O525-12(2): Northern Aircraft Maintenance Facility

MR. ANTOINE: Could the Minister find out when this study was submitted to the department? And if he does not know now, can he come back to me on that later? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O525-12(2): Northern Aircraft Maintenance Facility

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I believe the report was submitted to this department on the date that is stated on the front cover of the report, August 29, 1990. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O525-12(2): Northern Aircraft Maintenance Facility

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister table this final report on this study? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O525-12(2): Northern Aircraft Maintenance Facility

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O526-12(2): Time Period For Creation Of Government Jobs, Yellowknife

MR. LEWIS: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. It concerns part of her statement under New Directions and the claim that close to 80 jobs will be created by growth in government spending in Yellowknife. Would the Minister indicate over what period she is calculating the increase of 80 government jobs in this city?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, that was part of the formation of the budget, and I would defer to the Minister of Finance.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O526-12(2): Time Period For Creation Of Government Jobs, Yellowknife

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the net impact to Yellowknife was one position. The gains were 74.8 positions in Yellowknife through forced growth, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O526-12(2): Time Period For Creation Of Government Jobs, Yellowknife

MR. LEWIS: The statement in this document, Mr. Speaker, refers to the creation of 80 jobs which have been created as a result of growth in government spending. Does this mean that these are jobs, then, in the public sector or in the private sector, where these jobs have been created?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O526-12(2): Time Period For Creation Of Government Jobs, Yellowknife

HON. JOHN POLLARD: These are government positions in Yellowknife, as I said before, Mr. Speaker. They may be with school boards, but nevertheless they are all funded by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Page 624

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O527-12(2): Enforcement Of Local Hiring By Contractors

MR. GARGAN: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, one of the requirements with regard to contractors in my constituency is that they are required to utilize local facilities and local business and, wherever possible, local people. I noticed on my way to Yellowknife for the session that companies are still hiring people from outside the communities to be flagmen and for other jobs that do not require much skill. I would like to ask whether or not the department is enforcing the northern preference policy and the local hire.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question O527-12(2): Enforcement Of Local Hiring By Contractors

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just before the session started this afternoon, I was talking to my deputy minister with respect to this specific job that the contractor is doing in the Fort Providence area. I have directed him to talk to the primary contractor to make sure that the subcontractors adhere to the policies and the guidelines in the contract which is given out to them. They will have to comply with their contract obligations. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O527-12(2): Enforcement Of Local Hiring By Contractors

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation if he might be able to provide me with information regarding local hire as well as northern hire.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alloofoo.

Further Return To Question O527-12(2): Enforcement Of Local Hiring By Contractors

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be able to provide that to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Government Leader on the statement on New Directions. Mr. Speaker, the Government Leader has omitted two particular regions from the focus of government decentralization. Mr. Speaker, these two regions that I am making reference to are the Kitikmeot and the North Slave regions. Mr.

Speaker, these two specific regions have been the poorest regions in the Northwest Territories for a number of years now. In reference to the North Slave region, Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions I have stood up in this House with statistics in regard to social assistance, in regard to the economy, the unemployment rate, and so forth.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Zoe, if I could ask Members of the Assembly that if they ask a question, would they please ask the question without making a statement? Thank you.

Question O528-12(2): Kitikmeot And North Slave Regions Omitted In Government Decentralization

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government Leader why the government has omitted these two specific regions from government decentralization.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea. Mr. Pollard, are you going to handle that one?

Return To Question O528-12(2): Kitikmeot And North Slave Regions Omitted In Government Decentralization

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, the decentralization was brought about by the effects of budget cutbacks, and as everybody knows, the budget is before the standing committee on finance; and hopefully it will come to the House in September. But when we evaluated all the PY losses across the Territories, Yellowknife gained one position, and a lot of the other communities lost positions. That was not the intent of budget cutbacks, Mr. Speaker, and so we took into consideration what would happen with some decentralization to those communities that had been affected. Quite frankly, to Mr. Zoe's constituency, because of forced growth in his area, his constituency gained 13.8 positions, Mr. Speaker. Lac la Martre gained one; Rae-Edzo gained 11.3 positions; Rae Lakes gained half a position; Snare Lakes gained half a position, Mr. Speaker. So you can see that there was considerable forced growth in that particular area.

The Kitikmeot, I think, was the other part of the question, Mr. Speaker. The Kitikmeot stayed virtually the same. There was no great impact from the budgetary cutbacks. Besides, in the Kitikmeot, Mr. Speaker, we are very excited, as Madam Premier has said, about the mining potential there. I was recently in Coppermine, and the people there are saying that if

local jobs accrue to them, local opportunities business-wise accrue to them, then they are favourable towards that mine. As Madam Premier has said, there are good assays; and we understand there is a lot of exploration in that area this year, and we believe in future years we will have to be investing in the Kitikmeot in that particular area of Mr. Bernhardt's infrastructure that will assist in the way of roads, or perhaps hydro companies, to begin mines there, employ local people and support local businesses. So we think that is going to assist that area, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O528-12(2): Kitikmeot And North Slave Regions Omitted In Government Decentralization

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I make reference to the comment from the honourable Member for Nunakput on page five of her statement, that they are focusing, regarding government decentralization, on three regions. That was the main point I was trying to get across to the government. Why have the other two been excluded from government decentralization, not specifically on PYs? So my question is still, why have these two regions been excluded?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O528-12(2): Kitikmeot And North Slave Regions Omitted In Government Decentralization

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry if I was confusing. The budget indicated losses in some communities across the Northwest Territories. Decentralization was implemented to offset those losses to those communities. Where there were no PY losses or where there were gains, there was nothing decentralized to those areas, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Page 625

Question O529-12(2): Interim Rate Increase By NWT Power Corporation

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. On April 6 of this year, the Power Corporation announced a six per cent interim rate increase for power consumption, and this increase

was retroactive to March 31. Mr. Speaker, this announcement was conveniently made after this Assembly recessed on April 3, and I am sure we are all aware of the impact such an increase has on residents and businesses. My question is, on what basis or rationale was this six per cent increase based?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea. Mr. Pollard will take the question.

Return To Question O529-12(2): Interim Rate Increase By NWT Power Corporation

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, the Public Utilities Board is my area of responsibility, and the Power Corporation, beginning April 1 of this year, came under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board. Mr. Speaker, that is an arm's length board from the Government of the Northwest Territories. Applications have to be made to that board, and the board has the power to make decisions with regard to rate increases. They sanctioned the rate increase for the Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O529-12(2): Interim Rate Increase By NWT Power Corporation

MR. KOE: I still did not get an answer on what rationale the increase is based on. Is it because of higher costs, or more employees, or fewer employees, or whatever? What is the rationale for having an interim rate increase?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O529-12(2): Interim Rate Increase By NWT Power Corporation

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I will get the Public Utilities Board to send the information over to Mr. Koe. I do not have that information available. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O529-12(2): Interim Rate Increase By NWT Power Corporation

MR. KOE: The announcement stated that this was an interim rate increase. Are power consumers in the Northwest Territories expected to get another increase sometime this year?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O529-12(2): Interim Rate Increase By NWT Power Corporation

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak on behalf of the Public Utilities Board, so I cannot answer that question. We will have to wait and see what their decision is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O530-12(2): Emerging Market Communities As Locations For New Government Facilities

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. In my earlier statement, I expressed concern that the government was moving away from the economic development strategy principle that emphasizes the need to assist emerging market communities realize their full economic potential. Will the Minister assure this House that the Department of Economic Development does not support the notion that emerging market communities should be penalized when feasible locations for new government facilities and institutions are being considered? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O530-12(2): Emerging Market Communities As Locations For New Government

HON. JOHN POLLARD: I think each of those things, Mr. Speaker, has to be looked upon on its own merits, but certainly this government would not penalize any community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O530-12(2): Emerging Market Communities As Locations For New Government Facilities

MR. ANTOINE: I have a supplementary for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Recognizing that in the feasibility study for the location of the fire aircraft maintenance facility a major factor in recommending against Fort Simpson as the favoured community was that its local economy lacked the same sophistication as Fort Smith, is the Minister willing to undertake an examination of whether recommendations in this feasibility study run

contrary to the government's economic development strategy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O530-12(2): Emerging Market Communities As Locations For New Government Facilities

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to look at the report to look at the concerns Mr. Antoine raises, but certainly I am not willing to look at the report with any idea of making a recommendation to Madam Premier that we change our decision, which is that the base go into Fort Smith; but I will endeavour to look at that concern of Mr. Antoine's. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O530-12(2): Emerging Market Communities As Locations For New Government Facilities

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you. Supplementary to the same Minister. What assurance can the Minister give this House that this government will not turn its back on the needs of emerging market communities to support and further develop contracting and supply sectors within their local economy?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O530-12(2): Emerging Market Communities As Locations For New Government Facilities

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Public Works and the Housing Corporation have done a great deal this year to use local contractors in communities. There have been

Page 626

more negotiated contracts in these emerging communities. It has been stated in this House by this government that it is our intention to try to spend more of our money, or as much of our money as possible, in the Northwest Territories and in those communities. We are trying to encourage companies who are working in the Northwest Territories to hire locally. We hope that by doing this there will be an emergence of an economy in some of these smaller communities, but we also recognize, as in Simpson's case, and I think Madam Premier also mentioned Rankin Inlet,

that they need a bit of a boost to get over the top, Mr. Speaker, to reach that critical mass it takes to make those communities go. So again, the decentralization policy is playing some part in assisting those communities to get over the hump. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O531-12(2): Executive Secretary For Inuvik Regional Health Board

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Health. I noticed in the Saturday, June 13, Edmonton Journal, a job advertisement for an executive secretary for the Inuvik Regional Health Board. I am wondering if the Minister believes, or the government believes, that we do not have any qualified executive secretaries in the Northwest Territories, or whether or not we are not training them properly in the secretarial arts program in Thebacha Campus at Fort Smith?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O531-12(2): Executive Secretary For Inuvik Regional Health Board

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the advertisement in the paper. However, I will make it a point to check to see whether it was necessary to advertise and whether it was advertised also in the Northwest Territories, in News North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo, do you have a supplementary? Mr. Pudluk.

Question O532-12(2): Funding For Search In High Arctic

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader. As I mentioned a little while ago about the person that the people had to search for when he went out to venture to the North Pole, the search cost over \$200,000. Did the territorial government have to assist in the way of funding for that search that they had to do in the High Arctic? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O532-12(2): Funding For Search In High Arctic

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes. Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the search the Member is referring to cost a total of approximately \$200,000. The territorial government's share of those costs was approximately \$70,000 which was incurred by the RCMP in their part of the search. Of that \$70,000 the territorial government would be paying about 70 per cent, under the RCMP Agreement. The other 30 per cent would be paid for by the federal government. The remaining moneys were incurred by agencies like the Department of National Defence, Environment Canada, and other federal agencies. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O533-12(2): Funding To Operate Safe Shelter, Rankin Inlet

MR. TODD: We may be small, but we will be heard. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. I am sure that the Minister recalls the submission made to him by members of the Kataujaq Society when he visited Rankin Inlet last February. Since 1987, this organization has provided a safe shelter for Keewatin women and children victimized by family violence. Recently the safe shelter moved into a larger and newly constructed facility. In February, the Minister subsequently heard from Ms. Bev Hill, the president of the Kataujaq Society, who pointed out that the commitment received from the department with respect to the O and M funding was less than 25 per cent of what is necessary to operate the facility. On May 25, in a letter from the executive director, he points out a similar situation.

When the Minister was in Rankin Inlet, he indicated he would be willing to review this matter. Can he tell us how it is now? Has he reviewed the matter to ensure there are adequate levels of funding to operate this safe shelter'?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O533-12(2): Funding To Operate Safe Shelter, Rankin Inlet

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have reviewed that matter, and the department has put forward a submission to the FMB, Financial Management Board, which must be discussed by cabinet. We will have an answer a little bit later on, as the budget is being discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O533-12(2): Funding To Operate Safe Shelter, Rankin Inlet

MR. TODD: Supplementary to the Minister of Social Services. Will he provide this House with an answer prior to the House closing?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O533-12(2): Funding To Operate Safe Shelter, Rankin Inlet

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will provide the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question O534-12(2): Increase In Rents For Government Owned Houses, Inuvik

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Recently I have been informed by a government employee in Inuvik that he moved into a government-owned house around April 1 of this year and was assigned a specific rental rate. Within the last couple of weeks, another employee moved into a house of similar size and similar structure and was assessed a rent about \$132 lower than the first employee. That is about a 12 per cent difference. My question to the Minister of Personnel is, were rents increased on government-owned houses on April 1, 1992?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I take it as notice. Thank you.

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

Page 627

Question O535-12(2): Encouraging Community Involvement In Justice System

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Madam Premier's statement, page seven, states, "it will also encourage community involvement in the justice system." My question is to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. With that statement, what has the Minister done so far regarding that paragraph on page seven?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O535-12(2): Encouraging Community Involvement In Justice System

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the Government Leader's statement points to the plan to transfer corrections to the Department of Justice from the Department of Social Services so that there can be kind of a one-window approach on justice issues at the community level. Mr. Speaker, that transfer has not, as of this date, taken place; but when it does, I believe it will give myself, as Minister of Justice, a number of different tools and resources in order to respond to the growing interest of communities in taking more responsibility for dealing with justice issues. Thank you.

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

Question O536-12(2): Ownership Of Water Bomber Hangar Facility, Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all I want to take time to commend the government on their decision to locate the hangar base for the water bombers in Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, for many years I remember those water bombers coming every year up to Fort Smith, and I do not recall them going to be located in other communities. And every fall, I recall them going back south. So I am glad that we are trying to look at ways of maximizing dollars and avoiding their going down south.

I would like to ask the Minister, though, Mr. Speaker, whether or not he is going to be considering this facility as a government project facility, or whether he would allow for consideration for groups, for organizations, to build this facility as a lease concept facility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O536-12(2): Ownership Of Water Bomber Hangar Facility, Fort Smith

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that this was part of our decentralization plan, and Madam Premier said in her speech that she encouraged MLAs, mayors, chiefs, and chambers of commerce to get involved and give us some suggestions. In this regard, there has been already some discussion with the territorial forestry group, so we would be looking at others building this facility, Mr. Speaker. The government does not want to participate in the building and operation of it. We would be more pleased if it was done by the private

sector or by some other group. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Bernhardt.

Question O537-12(2): Lack Of Government Decentralization To Kitikmeot Region

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Finance. Since the

Kitikmeot Region is seen as a poor cousin to other regions of the government, could the Minister tell me, why must we go the route of mines and not government decentralization and to an economy based on our renewable resources? Surely your former deputy minister and your acting deputy minister liked our fishing so much. We have lots to offer. And yet, where do we stand with this present government? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O537-12(2): Lack Of Government Decentralization To Kitikmeot Region

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot did benefit some years ago from the previous government's decentralizing and creating a new region there, so it has been the recipient of a decentralization program in the past. This time, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, the decentralization process was tied very closely to the budget impacts, and we were trying to mitigate the effects of budget impacts on communities and also, as I said before, try to beef them up a little bit. Why would we be talking about mining in the Coronation Gulf area in the Kitikmeot Region? Because, Mr. Speaker, in the Northwest Territories we have to use everything that is available to us to develop our economy. In Norman Wells it was oil because oil was there. You will find not a whole lot of government people in Norman Wells. Mr. Speaker, in Hay River it was fishing and it was transportation, and there is not a lot of government in Hay River. So the Kitikmeot is coming on stream mining-wise. Local people are feeling better about it because we are going to be supporting them in getting those jobs and getting those economic benefits, Mr. Speaker, and we are just using that as a natural thing in that particular area to boost that economy. As I said before, it has received decentralization in the past, and we are hoping that mining will cause us to spend money in that area with regard to infrastructure, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O538-12(2): Basis For Economic Development In NWT

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Since our first fully elected government under Mr. George Braden, this government has taken the position that our economy has to be based on something that is sustainable and renewable, so that all communities could find themselves a niche, if you like, a little area that they could develop. So I would like to ask the Minister, since I have heard recently during the Prospects North conference that our government has indicated that our economy would be based upon non-renewable resources, oil and gas, mining and so on, whether this represents a new vision, a change in the way government is going to look at economic development in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O538-12(2): Basis For Economic Development In NWT

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been no change. I guess you might say that this government is going to be opportunistic, and if those opportunities exist for ventures in the Northwest Territories that are going to be owned in the Northwest Territories, preferably, where the jobs are going to be maintained in the Northwest Territories, if it is joint ventures in the Northwest Territories with development corporations or local businesses, if it is renewable resources, if it is fishing, if it is mining, if it is oil and gas, if it is coal, if it is manufacturing, if local people agree with that kind of

Page 628

business going on in their particular region, if they are happy with the spinoffs from that particular business and they tell us that, then we will support them, Mr. Speaker. So there has been no change in our direction whatsoever. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question O539-12(2): Varied Utility Prices In Communities

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of NCPC, and she replied to me in written correspondence in regards to

utility prices being varied in different communities. She told me she would look into this matter further, so I am asking the Minister of the Public Utilities Board. She stated in her letter that she was going to look into this matter. Has she looked into this matter as of late? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O539-12(2): Varied Utility Prices In Communities

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the rate structure review has been completed, and I believe it is presently being reviewed by the Public Utilities Board as it has been presented, so they have not done an analysis of it to reply to what has been submitted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions.

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W33-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike and replied to by the Minister of Culture and Communications, concerning the location of the Inuit Cultural Institute collection of Inuit fine art.

W33-12(2): Location Of Inuit Cultural Institute Collection Of Inuit Fine Art

Hon. Titus Alloo'loo's return to Question W33-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike on April 2, 1992: In 1989 the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs transferred ownership of 1653 art pieces to the Inuit Cultural Institute. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre has received 1618 pieces, all of which are being stored within the heritage centre where they are being cared for until the Inuit Cultural Institute has facilities to store and display them. The Inuit Cultural Institute has received 12 art pieces which they are housing. Twenty-three pieces have not yet been shipped to the Northwest Territories by Indian and Northern Affairs. The delay in receiving these 23 items is due to problems with records kept by Indian and Northern Affairs. We have been assured that these problems will be cleared up in the near future.

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

Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 10-12(2): Report Of The Special Committee On Constitutional Reform On Multilateral Conferences On The Constitution

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 1992, the special committee on constitutional reform tabled an interim

report which outlined a multilateral negotiation process involving constitutional Ministers and leaders from the federal, provincial and territorial governments and the four national aboriginal organizations. The objective of the multilateral meetings on the constitution was to produce the best efforts on a constitutional reform package based upon reports prepared by governments and aboriginal organizations. The package would provide Quebec and all other participants in what has been termed the "Canada round" with a comprehensive approach to national constitutional reform.

Mr. Speaker, the special committee's April 1 interim report also included five principles and objectives which would guide our delegation in the negotiation process. They included: 1) ensuring territorial participation in public and private meetings and conferences on constitutional, economic and aboriginal matters; 2) constitutional entrenchment of an inherent right to aboriginal self-government; 3) changing the amending formula to return responsibility for the creation of new provinces to Parliament; 4) territorial recognition and participation in Canadian economic union proposals and mechanisms for decentralization of the federation; 5) territorial participation in Supreme Court nominations and a reformed Senate.

The multilateral process included 22 days of meetings from March 12 to June 11. With one exception, I represented the special committee at all of the sessions. I want to acknowledge and commend Mr. Gargan, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell and Mr. Bernhardt for their capable assistance during the last four meetings.

Mr. Speaker, on June 12 federal Constitutional Affairs Minister Clark, who also chaired the sessions, announced that while negotiations had produced some significant agreements, the process should be concluded, in part, because of fundamental differences over Senate reform. I cannot yet report to the House on what the next step in the process will

be, although I expect there could be a decision sometime this week on whether another multilateral process or a First Ministers' conference should be convened. Another option the federal government is considering would involve proceeding unilaterally with their own constitutional reform package.

The special committee's report outlines our participation in the process and the agreements which were reached on territorial principles and objectives. At the end of my presentation today, I will move that the report be considered in committee of the whole.

I want to say on behalf of all my colleagues that the agreements reached through the MMC represent a significant achievement and further progress toward the realization of aboriginal and territorial constitutional objectives which our government, Legislature and aboriginal organizations have been working on for the last decade.

For example, the process produced agreements to entrench the inherent right to aboriginal self-government and also to return the authority for creation of new provinces to parliament and to recognize a role for territorial institutions in future constitutional reform initiatives. The special committee's report will provide further details on these achievements. However, the process is far from complete. Outstanding issues include Senate reform, Quebec's response to the proposals and their veto over changes to national institutions. These remain to be addressed before this phase of the Canada round is complete.

To be blunt, the potential still exists for these achievements to be modified or removed from the final constitutional reform package. Given these circumstances, the special committee remains committed to representing this House and northern residents for the remainder of the process.

Page 629

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record the special committee's appreciation for the significant contribution which northern residents have made to the national reform process. These leaders include: Rosemary Kuptana, the president of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada; the head of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Roger Gruben, chairman; Mary Simon, the chairman of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference; John Amagoalik, negotiator with the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada; and the president of the Metis Nation, Gary Bohnet, and his advisor, Rick Hardy.

Their presence at the negotiating table, I believe, contributed significantly to the northern and aboriginal achievements in the process.

I also want to acknowledge the dedicated service by officials from my office from Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, from the Department of Justice and the Department of Finance over the last three months. Thank you.

Motion To Move Committee Report 10-12(2) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the report of the special committee on constitutional reform on multilateral conferences on the constitution be received and moved into committee of the whole.

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

--- Carried

Committee Report 10-12(2), Report of the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform, will be put into committee of the whole. Reports of standing and special committees.

Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: I would like to deal with that tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 48-12(2), 37th Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Liquor Commission. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 49-12(2), Emerging Market Communities. These communities were previously targeted for economic activity, and I would like to table it so that government will have a look at which communities they should be concentrating on it when they are devolving some of the projects and programs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to inform the House that pursuant to section 164(2) of the Elections Act, I wish to table Tabled Document 50-12(2), Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the NWT General Election on October 15, 1991. I also wish to table Tabled Document 51-12(1), the summary of votes cast by electoral district in the NWT general election, October 15, 1992, prepared by the chief electoral officer. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 57(10), I wish to table Tabled Document 52-12(2), Response to Petition 4-12(2), tabled by Mr. Allooloo and responded to by the Minister of Culture and Communications.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 13, notices of motions. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on June 18, 1992, I shall move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the Ministers' Statement 61-12(2), New Directions, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Just to inform the House that a Minister's statement can be moved into committee of the whole at any time, and it is not necessary to give notice of motion -- but very polite. Notices of motions, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Notice Of Motion 18-12(2): Government Leader's Authority Regarding Ministers

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are just being flexible with the rules that are being provided for us. I give notice that on Thursday, June 18th, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that this Legislative Assembly request the Government Leader to immediately address the concern of Members regarding the lack of confidence in her Ministers; and furthermore that the Government Leader exercise the responsibility given her regarding reassigning, disciplining or acceptance of resignations of Ministers; and furthermore that the Government Leader report to the House by June 24, 1992, on what measures and actions she intends to take regarding the expressed concern and discontentment toward her Ministers by Members of the Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motions.

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

Item 15, motions. Motion 16-12(2). That motion has been stood down until tomorrow.

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: Motion 6-12(2), Discussion on Sobriety Clause in Contribution Agreements; Committee Report 10-12(2), Report of the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform, 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. There are four items we could deal with this afternoon. Which item does the committee want to deal with? Tabled Document 9-12(2) and Tabled Document 10-12(2), Motion 6-12(2) and Committee Report 10-12(2). What does the committee wish to deal with? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

Page 630

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come to order. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 9-12(2), Tabled Document 10-12(2) Motion 6-12(2) and Committee Report 10-12 and wishes to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

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

--- Carried

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the standing committee on legislation at 4:00 p.m. this afternoon; tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions; and at 10:30 of the ordinary Members caucus.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 17, 1992.

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

Document 10-12(2); Motion 6-12(2);
Committee Report 10-12(2)

19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 17, 1992.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1992