



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

2nd Session

Day 48

12th Assembly

HANSARD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1992

Pagination reflects print edition

The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

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Page 971

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good morning. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statements On The Role Of M.A.C.A. In The Community Transfer Initiative

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I commented on my concerns with the directions currently being taken by the government, and its handling of the community transfer initiatives.

I do not like to sound negative all of the time, Mr. Speaker, so today I will offer a positive suggestion. Transfer the responsibility to M.A.C.A. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs should be the lead department in matters dealing with community transfer initiatives.

This department has over 20 years experience in consulting with community groups, and negotiating a wide range of agreements. It has the know-how, Mr. Speaker, it has the resources. Most important, it has a carefully established working relationship with hamlets, settlements, and regional organizations.

This was something that was recognized in the 11th Assembly, and I note, that a motion was even passed there stating that M.A.C.A. should be given the mandate to lead and coordinate devolution of responsibilities to the communities.

The current government responded by creating a Community Transfer Committee within the Department of the Executive. This, Mr. Speaker, is not where the responsibility lies. We should not be trying to re-invent the wheel.

Mr. Speaker, I said yesterday, that I realize that some communities and regions are going to want to deal with matters surrounding the inherent right to self-government, and perhaps, even models of government are alternatives to public government. I am fully supportive of their desire to do so and where the expertise of the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, and his officials, are needed to assist, I trust that his Cabinet colleagues will involve him, and give him a free reign to take on these difficult negotiations.

The mechanics of the process, the time lines, the negotiation of how responsibility areas are to be packaged for transfer and followed up, these should all be the prime responsibility of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

I say, transfer the initiative to M.A.C.A.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On The Government's Heavy-handed Tactics In Dealing With Northern Moving Companies

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my surprise, and disappointment, with the heavy-handed method used recently by the Departments of Personnel and Government Services, in the matter effecting local businesses.

Members of this Legislative Assembly have spoken often in the House about the value that we place on northern business. We have said that the development of the northern economy must be a priority. We want to see a healthy northern business sector, so that we can keep our dollars in the north.

Mr. Speaker, to me this means that the government should work in cooperation with northern business. We are not enemies. We all have a stake in the development of a strong economy, and a healthy business sector.

It seems lately, however, that the government is better at talking than at acting. Recently the government decided to review the rates that departments are paying for the movement of employees' goods. One would expect that the companies supplying the service would have been consulted, and that a process of negotiations would have begun.

In these difficult times, one might expect tough bargaining, but certainly there would have been a process of negotiation. Rather than negotiate, however, the government simply came up with rates, they decided they would pay for the services. The government did not discuss their new tariff system with any moving companies in the north. They simply released the rates, terms, and conditions, on a take it, or leave it, basis.

Northern moving companies were not initially asked for a response. In fact, when the initial rates were released, northern moving companies were specifically told by letter, that no responses were necessary, as responses would be submitted by their national offices in southern Canada.

This dictatorial approach, and unwillingness, to even enter into discussions on issues that will determine the survival of northern business, was not necessary, and is not acceptable from this government.

I welcome the Minister of Personnel's commitment to delay the implementation of the new tariff for moving. He is to allow northern firms time to react to the new tariff. I hope this will lead to the type of consultative process that should have been undertaken from the beginning.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Page 972

Member's Statement On Level Of Staffing At The Yellowknife R.C.M.P. Detachment

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am alarmed that the level of staffing in the Yellowknife detachment of the R.C.M.P. remains at the same level as it was in the 1970s. Yellowknife is still a very small city by Canadian standards, Mr. Speaker, but it has many big

city problems, and I am sure many Members are familiar with what I am talking about.

Twenty four hour a day policing is becoming increasingly difficult. Many citizens, including many of my constituents, question whether it is possible to even do that, with current levels of staff.

I have listened carefully to Members who make similar claims for increasing police services in their own communities. I am familiar with many of these communities, Mr. Speaker, and to their credit, they do not have a big city style of crime to contend with, at least not at the moment.

By contrast, on the growth of industries in the city of Yellowknife over the past dozen years, we have security businesses, and the sale of alarm and safety devices, as well as other areas related to the security business, which I will not go into at the moment.

The concern I have is not just simply the level of staffing, but the fact that they no longer can do the specialized kind of work that they did in the 1970s. I would not want to tip my hand to the criminal element that exists in every community. It is so bad, that if they were aware of it, I am sure it would be taken advantage of.

I would like to believe that governments respond to some objective standard of need, when they allocate resources. Increasing these, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid real measurable needs take a back seat to political whim, and the arbitrary exercise of power. I do not think that the government looks at the instances of crime as the basis for allocating resources.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Oral Question O689-12(2): Hiring Southern Summer Students

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mr. Nerysoo on June 29, 1992. Mr. Speaker, I have looked into the matter of the hiring of southern students, raised by Mr. Nerysoo.

As a result of the question, I have conducted a review of the hiring of southern summer students to determine whether qualified northerners were disadvantaged as a result of their employment.

A total of 416 students were hired this summer. Of these, 40 percent were long time northerners, 41 percent were aboriginal people, and 14 percent were northern residents. A total of 17 southern students were hired this year, making up approximately five percent of the total number of students hired.

I reviewed the list of southern students who were appointed to jobs, which we believed required technical qualifications not possessed by any available northern students.

Summer jobs, to which they were appointed, required qualifications such as advanced course work in geology, engineering technology, and mechanical engineering. In overall terms, Mr. Speaker, the summer student employment program was, I believe, extremely successful this year.

While restraint did place some limitations on departmental budgets, the government succeeded in employing nine percent more students than in 1991. This generated 416 jobs, which allowed students with supplementary incomes to go back to school. Departments and agencies conform to the rules for summer student employment, and I am satisfied that this program was a solid success in spite of the impact of restraint. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O798-12(2): Development Of Initiative For Training By-law Officers

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. Yesterday, I asked a question with respect to what initiatives the Department of Justice is taking regarding the development of local policing where we do not have R.C.M.P. I was not satisfied with the Minister's response when he said, "as I understand it, none of the communities without R.C.M.P. are asking for an auxiliary force, or a replacement type of officer."

I would suggest that Mr. Kakfwi check his mail, because I know that the community of Whale Cove specifically asked for that. My question to the Minister of Justice is, is the Department of Justice prepared to develop an initiative in consultation with those communities that do not have R.C.M.P., to consider training or expanding the role of the by-law officers, so they can act in a policing capacity?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O798-12(2): Development Of Initiative For Training By-law Officers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Members of this Legislature, if they wish, can give direction to this government to do whatever it is that they want it to do. That seems to be a political fact these days. Let me just say, I am prepared to look at it, but the fact is, other jurisdictions across this country have looked at setting up their own police forces, auxiliary forces, and it is understood right across Canada that everybody has come to the same conclusion. Dollar for dollar, you cannot buy a police force that is as efficient, and as well run as the R.C.M.P. That is a lesson well learned across jurisdictions in the country, as I understand it.

That does not mean that here in the north we could not do a better job, so I would be prepared to look at it, and advise the Member on what the initial assessment of that would be. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Page 973

Supplementary To Question O798-12(2):
Development Of Initiative For Training By-law Officers

MR. TODD:

I would like to give more clarification if I can. I would like the Minister to understand that I am not suggesting for one minute that we look at an alternative to the R.C.M.P. What I suggested yesterday, and I have tried to suggest again today, is where the communities do not have R.C.M.P., particularly in the small communities, will there be some consideration given to expanding the role of the by-law officers, so that they can provide some

minimal policing duties? That is all that I am suggesting. I am not asking for sweeping changes in the policing aspect. This is what has been requested by me from the small communities.

MR. SPEAKER:

Was that a question, Mr. Todd? I did not hear a question. There is really no question there. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question O799-12(2): Upgrade Of Cape Dorset Airstrip

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed towards the Minister of Transportation. In Cape Dorset, there is a major concern regarding the airstrip. I want to ask the Minister of Transportation if, in the very near future, he would consider upgrading the Cape Dorset airstrip? I know that there is upgrading going on at this time, but I am sure that this will not improve the airstrip as a whole.

During the winter it can get very icy, and this is very dangerous to the citizens of Cape Dorset. For that reason, can the Minister responsible for Transportation, in the very near future, respond to our concerns regarding the Cape Dorset airstrip? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O799-12(2): Upgrade Of Cape Dorset Airstrip

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the airport at Cape Dorset, there is some work underway, at the present time, to do some stockpiling of gravel in anticipation of resurfacing the runway. I received a letter from the Municipality of Cape Dorset, expressing their concerns with the present condition of the runway, and we are going to do everything we can to ensure that they have safe conditions this winter.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.24682

Supplementary To Question O799-12(2): Upgrade Of Cape Dorset Airstrip

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to my question. I want to ask the Minister if he could respond to us, as soon as he can, as to what kind of funding they will be allocating for the upgrading of the airstrip? We know for a fact, that funding is tight at this time, but I want a response from the Minister. Will he consider giving funding to that airstrip? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O799-12(2): Upgrade Of Cape Dorset Airstrip

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is already plans in the budget, the 1995-96 capital budget, but I will get some information to the Member on the amounts of dollars that they are proposing shortly.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question O800-12(2): Vaccinations For Puppies

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. Our people are starting to utilize dog teams again, and the dogs need to be vaccinated for rabies. Will the Minister respond to this question of whether they have looked into giving vaccinations to young puppies in the north?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question O800-12(2): Vaccinations For Puppies

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been informed, when female dogs get vaccinated, they tend to lose their milk, or when pregnant dogs are vaccinated sometimes they abort and lose the

puppies. However, the department's scientists will be looking into this matter to determine the effects. I will be informing the people who own dogs regarding this matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question O800-12(2):
Vaccinations For Puppies

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, supplementary. If that is the case, if dogs who get vaccinated when they are pregnant miscarry, or lose their milk, perhaps you could inform the communities to be more aware of this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O800-12(2):
Vaccinations For Puppies

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we know for a fact, that dog teams are becoming more popular in the north, especially for hunters. If we do find out that this is the fact, this vaccination can destroy puppies when they are pregnant, and we will be informing the hunters through H.T.A.s in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Question O801-12(2): Lack Of Consultation With
Northern Moving Firms Regarding Tariff System

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Personnel. Earlier today, I explained my disappointment with the process used by the government to develop a tariff system for the movement of employee's goods. There was no consultation with the moving companies effected, merely a directive, that they must accept what the government had decided to pay. My question is, was the Minister aware that the process used by his

department to develop an attempt to institute a tariff system for the movement of employees' goods, included no consultation with northern business firms?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O801-12(2): Lack Of
Consultation With Northern Moving Firms Regarding
Tariff System

Page 974

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, my understanding of it is, that many of the movers are affiliated with southern firms, and national moving companies. There was an assessment done, the impact that it would have if we moved to adopting the federal tariff rates, and that there would be, of course, difficulties with implementing, such as, it would limit the amount of money that movers would get out of this government. That was the assessment of the department, but it is a period of severe restraint in this government, and if there is a market for moving people, somehow the market would take care of itself. When the Member asked the question last week, I said that if it is not adequate to move right now without some more consultation, that I was prepared to do that, and it is my hope that we can still move on this in the near future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question, supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O801-12(2): Lack Of
Consultation With Northern Moving Firms Regarding
Tariff System

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure that my direct question was answered, but I think I heard the Minister say that he was willing to embark on a process of negotiations. Just for further clarity, would the Minister please advise whether he is willing now to commit his department to the process of negotiation with representatives of the moving industry, and particularly the companies that are based in the north, so that a solution may be reached which is acceptable to both the industry and the

government, which will allow the industry to survive in the north?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O801-12(2): Lack Of Consultation With Northern Moving Firms Regarding Tariff System

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, when I agreed to the one month delay, I should have said that it was a commitment to make good use of that month, making sure that officials are speaking to the people affected. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O801-12(2): Lack Of Consultation With Northern Moving Firms Regarding Tariff System

MR. DENT:

Supplementary to the same Minister. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the announcement that the tariff would be delayed for a month. I was wondering if we could ask the Minister to assure us that if a month proves not enough time to reach a suitable agreement, if he will commit to ensuring that the tariff is not implemented until the process has had a chance to have an adequate time to be used?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O801-12(2): Lack Of Consultation With Northern Moving Firms Regarding Tariff System

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the month is to allow the government to substantiate the reasons why they feel this should be done, and to give some time for the business community to put together their position; their arguments and views that would change the views of the government. So, if there is not time for that to happen, then I would agree that we need more time. I said a month, because the Member suggested a month, but if more time than that is required, as long

as it does not stretch into a long delay, I think we would be prepared to accommodate that. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Marvin Bourque, who is the President of the Fort Smith Metis, in the gallery.

---Applause

Oral questions, Mr. Gargan.

Question O802-12(2): Status Of Fort Providence D.O.T. Compound

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works. There has been an advertisement in the Native Press regarding the D.O.T. compound in Fort Providence. The bids were submitted, and I do not know what the dates are, but the closing date was September 2 of this month. So, it has now been over two weeks since the closing date. I have asked the officials for information with regard to this project about a week ago, since I believe something should have been done by now. Could you give me a status on that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O802-12(2): Status Of Fort Providence D.O.T. Compound

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of this issue. The tender has been let for that project. All the bids are in. The bids are being evaluated now. Business Incentive Policy is being applied to those bids, and my understanding is that this project does exceed the estimated cost. It will be looked at now, and I will get back to the Member as soon as I have word prior to it being awarded. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question, supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O802-12(2): Status Of Fort Providence D.O.T. Compound

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Speaker, one of the requirements with regard to the awarding of the contract is that, I believe, the building should be finished by December 2, so we do not have that much time for the contractors to meet their obligation of that date. I would like to ask the Minister when he anticipates a decision?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O802-12(2): Status Of Fort Providence D.O.T. Compound

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will review it today, and make a decision today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Lewis.

Question O803-12(2): Increase In N.W.T. Investments Projected For 1993

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. I have had a chance to read what is going on with the money markets across this country, and I am a bit concerned about some of the information that was in the budget address, which I will reply to, Mr. Speaker. My question has to do

Page 975

with the projection on investments. We know that the economy is dependent upon the development of human resources, development of infrastructure, and also your ability to attract capital. According to this document, the government projects that, although there will be a decrease of two percent in investment in the Northwest Territories in 1992, that there would be an increase of six per cent in 1993. Everything I have read since I have been back over the last week and a bit, Mr. Speaker, indicates that investment is down all over the country, and things do not look good for the future. Where does the Minister get the six percent increase in investment in the Northwest Territories in 1993?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O803-12(2): Increase In N.W.T. Investments Projected For 1993

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, you can say that we are being somewhat optimistic, but the fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that there is a tremendous interest at the present time in the mining industry in the Northwest Territories, there has been an expression of interest in a gas pipe line in the Northwest Territories. There has been, to our pleasure, acceptance by aboriginal organizations, and I would stress, the Dogrib being receptive to proposals that are put before them, with regards to, as we have heard recently, the hydroelectric projects they are looking at right now. The climate is changing. People in the Northwest Territories are saying that they are open to business. We are getting a better climate for joint ventures. Consequently, we are forecasting that there will be more investment in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I should say that investment, although it may not all come from southern Canada, will be largely from the south, and it has been made clear to those companies that are anticipating benefits from the Northwest Territories, that it must be done on northerners terms. That northerners must be employed, that there must be spin offs to northern companies and that there should be some financial involvement of people in the north, in the large scale ventures.

Although we are forecasting a six percent increase, if those people who want to do business up here from the south, do not comply with our rules, we may not see that increase. Hopefully with today's climate, with everybody willing to sit around the table and discuss these things, we can go ahead, and we will get more investment in the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O803-12(2): Increase In N.W.T. Investments Projected For 1993

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that many native organizations have been advised by our consultants

that if you want to make any money, do not invest it here, invest it in Vancouver or Calgary where the rate of return is likely to be better.

My question to the Minister, since he is optimistic that we will be able to attract capital from the south, could he give me an indication of the six percent increase in investment, and what proportion of that does he estimate would be from southern Canada?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O803-12(2): Increase In N.W.T. Investments Projected For 1993

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I am flying on this one, Mr. Speaker, but I am going to say four percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O804-12(2): G.N.W.T. Contract Procedures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Government Services and D.P.W. With respect to the procedures used on contracting or tenders, can the Minister confirm that it is not standard government contracting procedures to invite tenders on work for which no scope or performance specifications have been developed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O804-12(2): G.N.W.T. Contract Procedures

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is standard to have a scope of work, and technical description of the project you want tendered. There is a tender document attached with every tender, for all interested bidders to look at, so that they know what they tendering on.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. New question. Ms. Mike.

Question O805-12(2): Tabling Of Service Contract Summary

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 29, 1992, I had asked the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism to table, in this House, a summary outlining the reasons why it was necessary on April 19, 1992, to award additional dollars on a contract to Co-Pro Ltd. as continuation of this retainer, and the procedures used to call for proposals for services provided under SC310802 and SC310807.

Mr. Speaker, to date, although I have received the response, I have not seen the tabled reply to these requests that I made on June 29, 1992. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

There was no question there, Ms. Mike. Would you care to pose a question?

MS. MIKE:

Will he table these two questions that I have asked on June 29, 1992, at this time, when we are sitting?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O805-12(2): Tabling Of Service Contract Summary

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, because the House was not sitting, I did write to the Member, and outline the contracts 801 and 807. I will table those documents in the House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O806-12(2): Coordination Of N.W.T.P.C. And Dogrib Nation Negotiations

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question would be for the Government Leader in her capacity as the Minister responsible for the N.W.T. Power

Page 976

Corporation. Like other honourable Members, I was most interested in the news, which my honourable colleague from North Slave brought before this House on September 9, 1992, about start up negotiations between the N.W.T.P.C. and the Dogrib Nation.

I am sure that we all hope that this process will lead to exciting new hydroelectric development in the Dogrib region, in the sense that it reflects on forward thinking about involving local and regional government, in research and development within the power sector, and this is a commendable exercise. However, I am also interested in the way the Power Corporation will allocate resources for its participation in the negotiation process.

Can the Minister responsible for the N.W.T. Power Corporation indicate whether there are plans to hire consultants to coordinate, or participate, in the negotiation process?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O806-12(2): Coordination Of N.W.T.P.C. And Dogrib Nation Negotiations

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, the answer is no, and whether that happens in the future, I can seek to find out what will happen, on how those negotiations are going to take place. The discussions are in the preliminary stages at this time, and the process, or the working relationship, has not been set up. I will keep the Member informed, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O806-12(2): Coordination Of N.W.T.P.C. And Dogrib Nation Negotiations

MR. TODD:

Thank you. Can the Minister assure this House that she will make sure that any such contracts for consultants or negotiators involved in this initiative, will be advertised through the standard tendering or proposal call, procedure before a sole source contract is considered?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O806-12(2): Coordination Of N.W.T.P.C. And Dogrib Nation Negotiations

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O807-12(2): Amount Expended On Flood Damage

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, if he could provide, and table in this House, the total amount of dollars expended in response to the flood damage in Fort Liard, Hay River, and the Hay River Reserve?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O807-12(2): Amount Expended On Flood Damage

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O808-12(2): Maintenance Of Fort Simpson Highway

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. Recently, I drove from here back to Fort Simpson, and I noticed that the conditions of the highway from the Fort Providence turn off to Fort Simpson has deteriorated quite a bit. In speaking with some engineers, since the application of this new oil that they put on the highway, it seems to me that the highway people do not really know how to work this stuff.

As a result, the highway has deteriorated. I was wondering if the Minister could tell me if he would have his people review the application, and the maintenance, of this highway, from the Fort Providence junction to Fort Simpson, and down to the B.C. border, as well? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O808-12(2): Maintenance Of Fort Simpson Highway

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, in efforts to improve the highways, and especially in the area of dust control, there are two different applications on the surface. One is calcium chloride and the other one is DL10, and that is the oil that the Member is referring to. It is a substance concocted of an oil base, detergent and water, and it binds the fine material together, like dust.

In most cases it works really well. There are conditions, if there is not enough fine sand, that it does not work quite as well, and the roads, in some spots, lack fine material and those may be the places that the Member is referring to. Hopefully, they are relatively isolated situations, but I will have our department look more closely, and perhaps consult with people in that area and try to find some of the problem spots. Generally, Mr. Speaker, it works well.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O808-12(2): Maintenance Of Fort Simpson Highway

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Minister. The oil, the DL10, you are talking about, I understand that two Members of the engineering department went into Alberta two years ago to see how this chemical works, and my understanding is that you are supposed to work it quite a bit so that it will bind. I was wondering if the Minister could find these two engineers that he has in his department, and see if he could meet with his maintenance crew out in Hay River to see if they could do the job properly? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O808-12(2): Maintenance Of Fort Simpson Highway

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will endeavour to get more information on it and the Member is quite correct, that it does need some working on in certain conditions, with water, for example. If it rains too much, it creates a problem, but it requires some maintenance as well, it is not the final solution. We will review what studies have been done on the application, and get this information, so that we can better improve our highways.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Page 977

Question O809-12(2): Lack Of Contract Specifications

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Communications. Since the Minister of Government Services indicated that it is standard to have specifications prior to tenders being done, I had a concern expressed to me, Mr. Speaker, from a constituent in respect to a contracting tender which was awarded by Arctic College, Thebacha Campus. This tender was awarded back on September 18, 1991 when Thebacha Campus published an invitation to tender on a contract, to provide janitorial services "as and when" required.

Apparently, this contract was to provide periodic cleaning services primarily to accommodation units for students with dependants. Mr. Speaker, when I looked at the tender information package there were no specifications as to the type of work that would need to be performed under the terms and conditions of the contract. Can the Minister explain to the House, how his Arctic College management can expect firms to submit tenders on the cost of services, when there are no details in the tender package about what services the College wants to purchase? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question O809-12(2): Lack Of Contract Specifications

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get a copy of the tender document and let the Member know what is in there by giving her a copy.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O809-12(2): Lack Of Contract Specifications

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister is aware of the concern that I have expressed because I have written to him, I think well over two weeks ago. I would like to ask, when will he be able to look into the tender procedure? I want to indicate to this House, that after this "as and when" contract was awarded, contracts for additional cleaning requirements at the campus were sole sourced to another firm. So, I would like to ask the Minister when will he be looking at this issue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O809-12(2): Lack Of Contract Specifications

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have looked into this. Arctic College checked with Government Services and Public Works to ensure that the firms had the necessary equipment for the job. The college was advised that only one local firm in Fort Smith, Ray's Steam Cleaning, had the necessary equipment to complete the job. With the established contract regulations used by the college, a sole source contract was awarded to Ray's Steam Cleaning, for the work in the amount of \$4,100. The work was completed in mid-August.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O809-12(2): Lack Of Contract Specifications

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the college did not even take into consideration consulting with the "as and when" successful bidder to see if he had the proper equipment. They outright did a sole source contract with an existing firm. I would like to ask the Minister, does the Minister recognize that the unusual and inappropriate contracting procedures used in this case, has resulted basically in confusion to the successful bidder, and the risk of preferential treatment, which I believe is not proper contracting procedures? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O809-12(2): Lack Of Contract Specifications

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, I did not get the last part of the question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, would you re-state the question?

Supplementary To Question O809-12(2): Lack Of Contract Specifications

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, does the Minister recognize that the unusual and inappropriate contracting procedures used in this case, has resulted in confusion, and the risk of preferential treatment, particularly when there was a successful bidder to provide the service? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O809-12(2): Lack Of Contract Specifications

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, no I have not, but I will certainly look into that, and act upon it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question O810-12(2): Levels Of Inuktitut Examinations

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. Education in Inuktitut and cultural affairs, presently is becoming more enforced, and is being enjoyed by both smaller and larger communities. It is enjoyed by both students and parents. Now, I have heard that the kindergarten levels being taught in Inuktitut, are usually examined to see if they can be elevated to the next grade, and I have been told that some of the Inuktitut examination is not thoroughly up to date. Does the Minister of Education know whether there are levels used for examining higher levels for examination in Inuktitut? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O810-12(2): Levels Of Inuktitut Examinations

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The curriculum there is taught in Inuktitut, in different cultural ways, in traditional languages, and that is why they do not have a standard procedure of examining levels of knowledge on how much they have learned. This is integrated individually by the school boards themselves, so it varies. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Page 978

Supplementary To Question O810-12(2): Levels Of Inuktitut Examinations

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. I have been told that the instructor, I will not say where or who, was adamant against

having Inuktitut taught in schools. I suppose there is a way of advancing in the school system, but I wonder if there can be better standardized examination of Inuktitut, because they are being taught in Inuktitut. The attitude was, because I am English, and I am the principal, I do not agree with Inuktitut being taught. Can you find out if this is happening in some schools? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O810-12(2): Levels Of Inuktitut Examinations

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the M.L.A. and I can speak in private as to who is concerned here, and which of the employees are related to this matter. If there is that attitude within the school system, or any other attitudes such as that, there is potential for removing that person from employment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Antoine.

Question O811-12(2): Use Of Funds Provided For Trout Lake Office Building

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of M.A.C.A., and perhaps D.P.W., and it has to do with Trout Lake. There is going to be a community office constructed at Trout Lake. There were some changes to the original plans, and now we are getting a large H.A.P. house, they call it, converted into offices. The community would like to know if, since the material is going to be coming in only on the winter road, could they use these funds to use local logs to build this office building? That way, it would employ people in the community, as well as provide the type of building that they want to see in their community, rather than something that has been imposed upon them. They would like to use those funds. I was wondering, I do not know which Minister, M.A.C.A. or D.P.W., if they would consider such a change in the plans at this stage? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 0811-12(2): Use Of Funds Provided For Trout Lake Office Building

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Department of Public Works, as a department of the government, is out to assist the communities, to try to build what they want to build, and make the best use out of the local resources. I would be quite willing to sit down with the Member, and have departmental people go in to Trout to meet with that community, and try to design and build what would best suit their needs.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Pudlat.

Question O812-12(2): Divisional School Board Funding

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, thank you. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. I realize we have not gone to the educational budget, but there will be money allocated to boards using a separate formula financing. Now, we know that these funds are used for the teaching of curriculum, for providing curriculum, and for the staff that develop the curriculum. Will the government be providing the same amount of funding for each school year to the school boards? It is very important that this type of funding be continued. Perhaps the Minister of Education can answer this question, to see if this funding will be continued within this school year budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question O812-12(2): Divisional School Board Funding

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am fully aware of what the M.L.A. is speaking about. It is a concern with different school boards as well, since they too have lost interest on the quarterly funding that was provided. The school boards are reviewing this with the territorial government, trying to find out how best they can resolve this, to come up with a solution, and once an agreement is reached, I will inform the M.L.A. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Ningark.

Question O813-12(2): Review Of Hamlet Employee's Salaries

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. The hamlet council has employees, different kinds, as we are all aware. The employees occasionally attend courses as their job requires, and they become more knowledgeable in their field. I have been told that they do not often get raises as hamlet employees, and for what reason, perhaps because of a shortage of funding, or maybe because of lack of recognition by the hamlet. I am interested in finding out whether there can be some review as to M.A.C.A. employees, and whether they are actually being paid adequate salaries, according to abilities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question O813-12(2): Review Of Hamlet Employee's Salaries

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the hamlets, villages, cities, and towns, we do not impose upon them as to how much they should pay their employees. They are local governments within their communities. However, if the Member would like me to review his community municipal government, I can find out how much is being paid for secretaries, carpenters, and sewage and water truck deliveries. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question O813-12(2): Review Of Hamlet Employee's Salaries

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for the response. In reviewing the duration of employment, as well as the salary being

paid, can he also include the duration of the employee during his review? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O813-12(2): Review Of Hamlet Employee's Salaries

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can look into the duration of employment for each

Page 979

individual, and just to add, some of the hamlet employees belong to a union, while some do not. The union and municipal governments hold negotiations to determine the pay levels. These agreements become legal agreements, which we do not have authority over. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question O813-12(2): Review Of Hamlet Employee's Salaries

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) I am wondering is the Minister saying that if the municipalities and the employees who are part of the union, the Department of Community and Municipal Affairs has very little power to try and control the system within the municipalities, is that what the Minister is telling me? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O813-12(2): Review Of Hamlet Employee's Salaries

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is true.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question O814-12(2): Amendments To Vital Statistics Act

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. On February 21, 1992, I asked the former Minister of Justice a question about the fact that there are a number of people in the Northwest Territories who, because of delays in the custom adoption process, have been unable to obtain birth certificates. The former Minister stated that he would bring forward amendments to the Vital Statistics Act, as quickly as possible, to allow birth certificates to be granted, even before the formal processing of a custom adoption is finalized. I noticed that there is no sign of any such amendments on the horizon. Can the current Minister of Justice indicate whether this delay is caused by the problems that his department has had, in completing the family law review project, which is supposed to be dealing with, among other things, the custom adoption process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O81-12(2): Amendments To Vital Statistics Act

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that would come under the Vital Statistics Section of Safety and Public Services. I did not get all of the question, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to hear the question again, or take it as notice, and deal with the Member to get the specifics of it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Whitford, you can do one or the other. Your choice.

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You see how generous we are, you know we can give many options. I will take it as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question O815-12(2): Stage Of Family Law Review

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This again, I believe will be directed to the Minister of Justice. My question is, while I understand that there was a family law review, which I asked about in my former question. I am wondering at what stage is the family law review at? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O815-12(2): Stage Of Family Law Review

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Family Law Review is very close to being complete. I understand, in response to the Member's questions, that there are recommendations that are contained within this document that when implemented will simplify this whole process, sort of right in hand with custom adoption.

There is a whole bureaucratic process that is very frustrating for communities, for Members, and for the different government departments. It is just about complete. In a matter of days, it will be handed to me.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question O815-12(2): Stage Of Family Law Review

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

From the review, I assume that there will be a report. I would like to know if the Minister will table the report when it has been completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O815-12(2): Stage Of Family Law Review

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, yes, the report will be tabled.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question O815-12(2): Stage Of Family Law Review

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The other question is, whether the Minister anticipates that the report will be completed and tabled during this session? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O815-12(2): Stage Of Family Law Review

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, if we can get the report printed in sufficient numbers, and translated in time, we will table it. Otherwise, we will make it available, informally, to the Members of the Legislature. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O816-12(2): Payments For Flood Damage

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to indicate to the Members of this House, if any financial resources were paid out for flood damage in the Mackenzie Delta?

Page 980

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O816-12(2): Payments For Flood Damage

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, I could provide that information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O816-12(2): Payments For Flood Damage

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I also ask if the Minister could provide me with a copy of all the submissions made from Aklavik and Fort McPherson, for financial support as a result of flood damage?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O816-12(2): Payments For Flood Damage

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O817-12(2): Negotiation Of Alternate Program For Northern Public Housing

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question would be for the Minister responsible for constitutional negotiations, Mr. Kakwi. It is my understanding that under the new Constitution, should it be signed, that the responsibility for public housing currently held by C.M.H.C., will be transferred to provincial jurisdictions.

What steps, if any, has this government taken to ensure that we negotiate an alternative program for northern public housing?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question O817-12(2): Negotiation Of Alternate Program For Northern Public Housing

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution has not been ratified at this time. In our discussions at the federal level, it was very clear that the ongoing syndrome of off-loading was thoroughly discussed. The federal government is very aware, not only in the Northwest

Territories, but also other jurisdictions are very concerned that in transferring, with the division of powers and taking over new responsibility in those negotiations when they go on, it is not an automatic assuming of responsibility, but one that each jurisdiction will be dealing with the federal government. It has been made very clear by all jurisdictions, and particularly from the Northwest Territories' point of view, that we do not have the revenue and the options that the provincial jurisdictions have in terms of raising extra revenue. It is very clear that the division of power in taking over responsibility, is not of interest to the Northwest Territories, if the benefit is zero. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The time allotted for question period has lapsed. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. We will take a short recess at this point. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 9, replies to budget address. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make some comments, and take this opportunity in the agenda to make a reply to the budget address that we heard last week. As an M.L.A., one of my first concerns, when I was elected, was dealing with the budget of the Northwest Territories. My immediate concern is that here we are in September, five and a half months after the start of the new year when 50, 60 and in some cases 70 percent of the departmental budgets are spent, and we are being asked to approve the operations and maintenance budget of the government.

There is a projected deficit for two years, of approximately \$50 million. The Minister has announced his intentions and plans to reduce, and balance the budget in two years. In the documents that were tabled, the Minister announced cuts and reductions of \$25 million for this fiscal year, and another \$25 million for the next fiscal year.

I have doubts if these are realistic, and whether or not we can achieve a balanced budget in two years. Several issues come to mind. One is, yesterday, we

talked about the reduction in social housing. Another issue, that I heard this morning, is that the federal government is cutting off family allowance payments to everyone in Canada.

The social concerns, the economic concerns, the health concerns, and the dispute with the federal government also comes to mind. I have raised issues throughout this Assembly, as to whether or not the \$40 million that is projected is a real, true figure. There is also a focus on the salary and PY reductions of the civil service. In this statement that the Minister made, they are eliminating 160 positions. When I look at the details that have been tabled here, the Summary of Total Continuing PY Requirements, I note that there is a change from 1991-92 Main Estimates to 1992-93 Main Estimates of only 15.2 PYs.

Now I have been around in government for a while, and I know that a PY does not equal a position, but I am not sure how you can reduce staff, if the overall change in the PY budget is insignificant. I will be very interested in the next few weeks to find out where these reductions are going to be made.

The Minister also made reference to increasing alcohol prices. I have no problem with that, however, the statement that this increase will help our battle to lower consumption rates, and hopefully reduce some of the damage done to our society, I have some problems with that statement. An assumption has been made that by increasing the rates, we are going to reduce the levels of alcoholism in the Northwest Territories, and I think some debate is needed on that reference, in that statement.

An announcement was also made of a payroll tax of one percent, and I am very curious to find out how this government intends to collect this tax. I have been made aware by business people in the north, that the cost to collect this tax will be more than the benefits that they are going to receive. It always seems that we impose the extra costs on the small businesses to achieve these types of programs.

I agree that we should allocate, or allot, and collect taxes from seasonal employees, but I hope that careful consideration is going to be given on how we administer, and how the collection process is going to be developed.

I have some suggestions for improvement on how to balance the budget, how to do some of the

government work, and a lot of these are raised by people in the business community and more

Page 981

recently by a publication by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. Small businesses in the north, and in Canada, support government's commitment to eliminate deficits. Saying that, they also want the Government of the Northwest Territories to do more than balance the budget.

While the government's efforts to restrain spending have been rated substantially better than those in the federal or provincial governments, substantial cuts in spending will have to be achieved, in light of the new realities of federal cutbacks and off-loading. The budget must undergo the kind of restructuring that continues in industry to deal with new fiscal realities.

The government should define and commit to a realistic, aggressive plan to balance the budget. I mentioned before, the government has announced a two year program to balance the budget, I think that a more realistic approach would be a three year program. We must look at realistic projections of revenue sources, and specific, meaningful restructuring and down-sizing, based on clearly defined priorities, or on limits to government spending.

A balanced budget will provide the foundation on which to build a stronger, and more competitive, economy in the north, avoiding the excess tax burden and weakened government services that deficits and debt servicing costs force on the economy. Deficits and debts are merely deferred taxes. A major element in the balanced budget plan should be a freeze on the total amount allocated annually to pay for all public sector pay and benefit plan costs. A motion was passed earlier this week making those recommendations.

Unfair competition in the labour market from excessive public sector pay and benefit levels, is a major problem in the north for independent businesses trying to attract and retain good employees. The loss of valuable and key personnel to the public sector, sets off a vicious circle that undermines the economic viability, and the ability for business to provide competitive pay and benefits.

These excess pay and benefits are paid for, in part, by the owners and employees of small businesses; the double whammy of lower pay and higher taxes.

The public's private sector adjustment to hard economic realities continues unabated. Small business owners and employees have faced these realities. Many have implemented restraint measures in their businesses due to the current economic situation.

Lay-offs and pay cuts for employees, and even many shutting their doors. These continue to be wide spread measures that face the private sector. There is an unfair standard between public and private sector employment. With government employees still enjoying substantially more security, well paying jobs, and generous benefits, than those who work in small and medium sized businesses.

Public sector enumeration should follow, not lead the private sector. Businesses strongly support the amalgamation of departments to reduce waste and duplication. Hopefully to increase efficiency, and cut costs. Restructuring will force a review of the myriad policies, programs and administration, that was inevitably built up over they years.

As part of this program, the G.N.W.T. should launch a review of the program duplication, redundancy, and inefficiency. Sunset clauses should be included as a standard element when establishing programs, to ensure that they do not become self-perpetuating.

Government should also develop a system where departmental managers are given monetary, or other incentives, for identifying additional budgetary reductions, or for maybe coming in under their budget.

There is still a pervasive spend it, or lose it, approach engrained in public servants. This creates a surge of questionable spending patterns at year end. It is good for some small businesses, but for the budget balancing process, it is not good for this government.

The N.W.T. should also aggressively expand the purchasing of products and services from the private sector, whenever possible. Including direct purchase from business suppliers, contracting out provision of services and supplies, reducing direct and indirect competition from public agencies, or government subsidies to competitors, and selling of government operations to private ownership.

Maximizing private sector supply whenever appropriate, and cost effective, will pay tremendous dividends in both spending and tax restraint, and in stimulating the economy.

In some discussions, and especially in public accounts, this government has over \$3 billion worth of assets. Equipment, buildings, et., maybe a fire sale should be held to increase the revenue side of the budget.

Primary objectives, and ongoing objectives of economic policy, should strengthen the economy through broad measures, which enhance business growth in general. Tremendous job creation of small business indicates the powerful economic potential of reinforcing general business growth.

Government should focus on reducing barriers that unnecessarily impede the success of business start ups, and expansions as a first priority before turning to special support, or selected industries or projects.

Government should also have initiatives on an ongoing review, an audit program to identify, target and eliminate some of the excess regulation, paperwork and administrative requirements.

Government departments and public agencies, institutions, and Crown corporations would have to report annually to the Legislature on their progress on how this is done.

They create problems, and are one of the most widespread concerns of N.W.T. businesses. The regulatory paper burden problem has the potential to explode. Bureaucratic attempts are made to design solutions to such huge issues as environmental protection, transportation, workplace health and safety, municipal government control, and now a new payroll tax.

Priority of governments procurement policy should be to make the process of selling to government as easy as possible, for small and medium sized businesses.

More open tendering, especially when tenders are lost, and, information should be given as to why they did not meet the grade, or meet the bill. Smaller volume contracts, instead of huge large multi-dollar contracts. An improved payment policy, so that businesses can get quicker payments in the smaller communities.

Government should also apply a more stringent policy providing subsidies to any commercial activity, that competes with businesses in the local economy.

No real progress is made when government subsidies create unfair competition that serves to destroy

existing jobs or businesses, in the name of helping others. There are probably many effective ways

Page 982

of encouraging local economic development, but this does not seem to be one of them.

Priority of training programs should continue to meet the needs of small and medium sized businesses. The G.N.W.T. should lead by example, in ending the unfair competition by the public sector, and very tight and critical Northwest Territories labour market, by reducing the overly generous pay and benefits, which bleeds skilled people away from the private sector.

In many cases, the government uses the private sector as a training ground for people who then move into government jobs. The government should also continue to develop new, and innovative ways, to aid better financing for independent business.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the Minister expressed his optimism on future investment opportunities. He stated that the discovery of diamonds in the vast area between Rae-Edzo and Coppermine, has unleashed the greatest staking rush in the history of Canada.

This is good news. More probably for the people who are involved in the mining industry and many investors in southern Canada. However, I wonder what the local residents, the Dogrib think, who have recently initiated land claims talks. What is left for them? How can they be land owners, on their own land, if every bit of available land is being claimed by third party interests?

From my prior knowledge of negotiating land claims, I know that government negotiators have very little sympathy for aboriginal arguments on land selections. I wish the Dogrib Nation, Sahtu Dene, Metis and the Nunavut people all the best in their land selection negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, I was asked to try to sum up the budget in one word. My response is, that this is a cautious budget. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Item 9, replies to budget address. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the last Assembly, I was the only Member to reply to the budget, and I did so on four occasions. I intend to do the same thing over the next three years, Mr. Speaker.

My major concern this year, has been that it is almost a year now since legislators were elected, and this is an unusual thing to happen. It is the kind of thing that does not happen in democracies. Usually what happens is that the public is aware of government options that are available to it. They decide to vote on the kind of government they think would best serve the people of their society. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in our system, the public is not involved at all, really, in deciding what kind of government we have. We do not have any kind of platform which has to be translated to a budget, so that people know politicians are being straight and honest in what they intend to do.

That is one of the weaknesses of our system, Mr. Speaker, although I admit that it has other strengths to compensate to some degree. It has been a very frustrating year for many of us who really feel that we are dealing with a phantom. We do not really know what it is doing, or what it is trying to do, as they decide how many chips should go there, and whether this constituency should have this, or whether this constituency should have that.

It is almost like a game of dividing the pie, after we have been elected, we sit down to decide where all of the bits and pieces should fall. I appreciate that Mr. Pollard, our new Minister of Finance, has inherited a difficult fiscal position, Mr. Speaker, and he deserves credit for planning a return to a balanced budget over the next two years.

However, I would like to say something about the whole issue of balanced budgets. One of the big weaknesses of governments in our time, is that they have responded to peoples' needs in a way that was beyond their capacity to raise the revenue to meet those needs. As a result, we have got governments all over the world that are deeply in debt. I believe that there are many, many occasions when you should go to the banks and borrow money, and there are times when we say, "well, we do not have the resources to do it." If we do not do this then, we are not being responsible, because these are needs that just have to be met.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that we can liken the whole issue of balanced budgets, to something that I used to do when I was very young. It was called rock

climbing. What you did was, you looked for a hold, before you put your weight on that little ledge, once you had committed yourself, whether you could put your weight back on the foot that you just left. You have to be sure that you can make the next step after that.

I would like those governments, Mr. Speaker, that have borrowed too much money to the guy who has committed himself to putting his weight on one foot, he cannot go forward, he cannot go back, and he needs help. He needs to be rescued. There are occasions, I think if we plan properly, that we can say, "well, we need to do this" but we have to be sure that when we make that decision, we know a way of getting out of it.

Canada, I believe, has reached a position now where everything we do we still stay in the same position because we have over-borrowed. We have lived far beyond our means, and we cannot get back on that foot that we were on before we began to borrow. The debt of the United States is so huge that it will never get back on that foot, it will always be in debt, and most economists believe that.

So, although I am very pleased to know that in two years we can get back to a balanced budget, I think as a rule of thumb, any Legislature in our kind of system should plan in such a way that if it is going to borrow, they know that within the four years of its mandate it can get back to a balanced budget. That, I think, should be the rule of thumb, not to borrow so much that you are never, ever going to be able to pay it back. We should plan it in such a way that you know that you can get back to a responsible, balanced budget, within a definite timeframe, with proper planning.

I would suggest that is the kind of thing that we may have to do, as it relates to housing, and I will get to that when I reply to the Commissioner's address. Mr. Speaker, I no longer serve on the Finance Committee, but I did help Mr. Pollard for a four year period, and recognize that when you are a Member of that committee, you do get first-hand information, and insights, on the current fiscal position of the government.

However, having listened to everything that has gone on over the last few days, things do not change much. We are dealing with the same issues now, as we were dealing with in the last four years, and if you read Hansard, for the four years before that, many of

the problems remain. The world looks very, very similar through the pair of glasses I am wearing today.

Page 983

Mr. Speaker, there have been some concerns about the burden that the Minister of Finance has in running two departments. I have looked at the nature of his responsibilities, and find that the departments that he is responsible for, consumes 5.8 percent of the territorial budget. That is not a big management job, to manage that kind of budget. I agree that he has responsibilities that are all-encompassing, but in terms of a management responsibility, it is not huge.

I also do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that there is a conflict between a Minister of Finance carrying the economic development portfolio. The biggest challenge to any government in this generation, Mr. Speaker, is that we need revenue, and everybody knows that one of the ways of getting revenue is to make sure that you get all kinds of economic activity taking place. The more of it that happens, the greater the opportunities to generate the kinds of monies that governments need to provide the services to people.

So, I think that it does provide the flexibility, and insights, and gives the Minister a responsibility, which is not incompatible, I believe. Mr. Speaker, in this budget, one of the controversies has been the one percent increase in taxes. Many people, in the public services feel that they have already gone to the wall, they have cooperated fully with government by asking for a zero percent increase, or agreeing to a zero percent increase, and a 1.8 percent increase in the second year of the contract.

This means, I suppose, Mr. Speaker, that some people consider that an extra imposition of a one percent tax, is a bit of a betrayal of the trust that they have placed in this spirit of cooperation. Despite the fact that many of constituents, Mr. Speaker, have indicated to me that they are not happy, and not pleased to see the government take this position. I believe that the payroll tax that is being proposed in this budget to capture employees who do not live in the Northwest Territories, but who are employed here is, in fact, a good move.

Simply applying that tax to that group only, makes no sense economically, Mr. Speaker, because you cannot justify setting up a tax regime just to capture that group of people, and not everybody else. I support it, despite the opposition some of my constituents have indicated that I should make today.

There are disappointments obviously, Mr. Speaker. One of the concerns that I have had for some time is the amount of investment money that is available in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, in this budget address the Minister has indicated that he has a very, very rosy outlook, as it relates to investment in the future. Yet, this Minister has decided that the \$8 million, will be sufficient for the Economic Development Corporation.

In fact, it has been reduced every year since we started it, and that, to me, is an anomaly. Investment is a big problem, yet, our own instrument to invest money was reduced, and we expect the Metis, the Dene, and the southern investors, to pour money into this area when our government does not do it. I think that is a shame. Investment is critical, Mr. Speaker, and as I said, I will deal with the issue at a later date when I respond to the Commissioner's address.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, because I did promise to be brief today, a disappointment to me has been the removal of several government functions from Yellowknife. I never made a huge fuss about it, because we are all grown up people, and we know that sacrifices have to be made here and there.

However, I should point out, Mr. Speaker, that several Members, and they know who they are, who wanted to be in the Cabinet last fall, went around talking to individuals and pledged how much they would fight to make sure that Yellowknife would not suffer, that Yellowknife's interests would be protected, and that people like myself, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Dent, and Mr. Whitford, would never have to worry about anything, because all of these talks that you hear about really wanting to devastate the place is really garbage. We really would do our best to make sure that this city does not suffer.

I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, when you look at this budget, that is exactly what did happen, and I did not see much scrabbling and fighting to live up to those commitments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Item 9, replies to budget address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document, tabled document 91-12(2). It is a copy of the tender package that was made available for persons, or firms, interested in responding to a September 18, 1991, invitation to tender for the contract of janitorial services to be provided at Thebacha campus, of Arctic College, in Fort Smith. Honourable Members' will notice, that there are no specifications as to the nature of the work to be performed in this tender package. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions.

I understand we are not proceeding with this motion today.

The motion has been stood down for two days, and it will be dropped from the order paper.

Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, 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, Discussion on Sobriety Clause in Contribution Agreements; committee report 10-12(2), Special Committee on Constitutional Reform Report on the Multilateral Conference on the Constitution; tabled document 62-12(2), Report on Northwest Territories Operations at Expo '92 as at May 31, 1992; Minister's statement 82-12(2), Update on National Constitutional Reform Negotiations; committee report 17-12(2), Report on the Review of the 1992-93 Main Estimates; Bill 33, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1992-93; Bill 9, Insurance Act; Minister's statement 90-12(2), Social Housing Budget Cuts; committee report 18-12(2), Multilateral Meetings on the Constitution and First Ministers' - Aboriginal Leaders' Conferences on the Constitution; tabled document 89-12(2), Housing Needs Survey 1992. Mr. Pudluk in the Chair.

ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

This committee will come to order. Yesterday, we were dealing with the Ministers' statement 90-12(2), and also the tabled document 89-12(2). We were on general comments. Are there any further general comments on this issue? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since I reported progress last night, I would like to make a few additional comments to the Minister on this issue. Mr. Speaker, I would

Page 984

just like to summarize what I stated yesterday, in that I believe the implications are devastating to the territories, and that they are also totally unacceptable. I would like to indicate to the Minister that I believe it is very critical that he use whatever measures he can, in addition to the Premier's office, in respect to additional political support that he needs, and indicate to the federal government that this government cannot afford to pick up any additional units. To lose 219 units is not acceptable to the territories, taking into account the high birth rate, the difficulty of individuals being able to build their own houses, and that it is the federal government's responsibility to provide housing. We cannot in any way, shape, or form, be considered to be like the provinces. I believe this point has to be stressed. We just do not have the funding available, and we cannot make the funding available to be able to build the units that they have cut. The units are badly needed. The other point that I want to bring to the Minister's attention is, to advise that it was under their direction, and that they felt there was substandard housing in the north years ago, and they have raised the expectations from territorial people that a certain quality and standard of housing should be expected in the north. It is totally unfair, unethical, that they decide now to take away the funding that they stressed to us was once so important for providing a standard of housing. I cannot emphasize enough, and I believe the Minister recognizes that he has to use every measure he can politically, use all the assistance that he can politically, to indicate to the federal government that this Legislative Assembly will not just accept the reduction that the federal government is proposing on housing, which is a critical need of many of our constituents across the north. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will continue to make arguments to the federal government, and I will continue to stress the point that you cannot compare the territories with the southern jurisdictions. We do not have a housing market. Our percentage of people eligible for social housing is well above the southern standard. The majority of our people are in social housing, so it is completely different. Our conditions are different, our living conditions are different, and I will continue to do that. We will use every method available including pictures, lobbying, native organizations, as well as ordinary Members of this Assembly. I will continue to work with the Members in the next few weeks to develop strategies, and see how we can convince the federal government of the injustice they are doing to the Northwest Territories, by cutting the federal funding for housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for not being able to sit through some of the discussions yesterday during the committee of the whole. I am one who has made a statement in the last sitting as to the housing needs, and the problems that we have with housing in my constituency. I am very concerned about the number of houses, or social houses, that are being reduced. I would like to ask the Minister if he could outline what the basis of our strategy has been to convince the federal government to reinstate our funding and to do everything possible to educate the federal government, as well as Ministers from provincial jurisdictions, of our uniqueness and our special needs in housing?

We have been quite successful in doing that. I myself, was able to obtain a meeting with the Honourable Elmer MacKay in Ottawa, and no other jurisdiction was able to do that. We were also able to get the provincial Minister's to support, giving the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon, special consideration because of our uniqueness on our housing problems.

We were also able to have the Minister of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation take to the Treasury Board, a submission to reinstate our

housing. We will continue to use that same strategy, as well as add to it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

From what I understand, it sounded like you had convinced the Minister in the federal government to accept the reasons, your reasons, and bring it to cabinet. I am wondering what was the reasoning behind the Cabinet declining the request made by the Minister at the federal level? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

In very simple terms, the federal Treasury Board's reaction was, sorry no money.

I myself, am not willing to accept that answer, because like yourself, and every Member of this Assembly realizes, our people are in very dire straights for social housing. We cannot lay down and accept a "no" from the Treasury Board, as well. We have to continue to try, and whatever door is open, and get our money reinstated, or our people will be in very bad condition.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the houses in the Arctic, they are very essential, and with the housing that we have had, we cannot go back to that. We cannot go back to living in igloos, we have been using houses, and we are used to living in houses. When there is not enough housing, the Inuit want houses, and there is not enough housing available.

I know they are going to start turning towards more money and assistance, and it will be costing us more. The federal government would be using more money. Why would we be using more money if we do not have enough housing available for the people of the north? We all know that when there are too many people in one house, there are a lot of diseases that

come up. In the physical sense and mental sense, and when there are not enough houses available, and one house is too crowded, there is a lot of violence. When a house is too crowded, it will deteriorate, and when there are school children in one house, they will not be able to continue their education. Even if they bring their homework to that house, they will not be able to complete their assignments, because there are too many people in that house.

They will not be able to think properly if the house is too noisy. We would have to use more money, because of those students who are not being able to continue with their education. We have to pay for our children's education. These are all costly. We all know that the government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government of Ottawa, have to try and understand that, because they are in fiscal restraint right now. They cannot give us any more houses, they decreased the houses, we will be using more money as a result of it. (translation ends)

We realize that we have a very big problem with housing in the past. Mr. Chairman, we realize that we have a problem. This is something that every Member of this House, as long as I have been a Member of this House for the past three years,

Page 985

has brought up, regarding the problem of not getting adequate social housing for the people of the N.W.T. within the small communities. Even in the larger centres of the territories.

We know the situation is bad. We know the government does not have money to provide the obligation to provide shelter for the people of Canada, especially the people of the N.W.T. The situation is going to get worse, Mr. Chairman, if the federal government should cut the allocation to the N.W.T., under the housing program.

I say that, because I know there will be consequences. There are already consequences under the system. When I say consequences, I am speaking of overcrowding of social houses in the small communities, and larger communities, across the territories. When you talk about overcrowding, you are talking about people who are not happy, as a result of overcrowding.

You have social problems, and you have mental problems, you have health problems in the overcrowding situations. Even the students are going

to be affected by this problem. I have seen that in my community, and I am sure in the other communities across the territories, that when there is the situation of overcrowding in the household, kids have to come home and do their homework at the end of the day, and they are not able to do that, because of this situation that I stated. How can a child do their homework, when you have people running all over the house. You have people in the bedrooms, you have people in the livingroom, you have people in the kitchen, you have music in the livingroom, music in the bedroom, television in the livingroom, and television in the bedroom. How can we, the government of the N.W.T., and the government at the federal level, not see the future consequences?

As I stated, Mr. Chairman, if we are not able control this situation within this time, we are going to see some consequences. The consequences are going to be far greater than they are now. We are going to be devastated by this, but I think we know that every Member of this House is concerned. Every Member of this House knows the situation, of the social housing problem, in each community, in each region. I know that there is a sense of working together on this issue, if we do not, we are accountable to the public.

I can tell you, my colleagues, we can do something about that. It is not too late, we can send the message to the federal government, and other jurisdictions, that the north is unique. Social housing is one of the essential programs. The federal government has an obligation to provide social housing for the people of this country, especially the people of the north.

We live in a harsh climate. We live in an unforgiving climate. Although we live in a beautiful part of Canada, the weather, the climate, can be very unforgiving.

Mr. Chairman, I know the honourable Minister is sincerely trying very hard to do something about this situation. He has to be, he told us that yesterday. I would like to commend the honourable Minister for discussing the matter with us. I recognize that we do not have the money, in this government, to deal with every problem. This one situation is something that we cannot let go without fighting for it. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Are there any other general comments? Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, thank you. Since yesterday, we have been working on this issue dealing with the shortage of housing. While we are aware, that there will be continual shortage of funding, and continual lack of housing, as Mr. Ningark used in his example, I too, can come up with an example in ways that we can approach the federal government for further assistance.

We have to be well organized. For example, last April, when we held our meetings here, people who were dropping by, passing through, would stay at our place. At that time, there were so many children, that some of them almost got sick. That has not been the only incident that has affected my family due to overcrowding.

Our lifestyles are very different from what they used to be. Particularly for those of us who are elders, it is very different now as far as diseases go. You are more susceptible in this day and age. We used to live in crowded igloos, but we were not, it seems, as susceptible to diseases in those days. It is different now. I have been in a crowded home, in 1989 and 1990, and if there is a family of 10, even when they are related, it will cause you to break down mentally, because of constantly being in a crowded home.

We can use these as examples, while realizing that Canada is in a time of fiscal restraint, be that as it may, we have to come up with concrete solutions. We need to express our need for more housing. As I stated yesterday, this is a unique problem.

There is also a growing population, happening at one of the fastest rates in the north. Our students are going to have to have adequate shelters. We have homes that we will be eventually leaving behind. We have to ensure that we can provide adequate housing, for the people that will stay.

It is a beautiful country, but it does have harsh climates, very cold weather. It affects you, especially if you do not have proper housing. We have to make these conditions known to the federal government.

We are aware of our shortage of housing, and this will probably be the case for a while. We have to have some solutions, and we cannot just pay lip service. We have to start building something, to ensure that proper housing is provided. I think we all know how

our lifestyles are, but trying to get housing is something that is very difficult to obtain. There are many people without housing in the territories. I am not sure what the statistics are, but there are still many people who should have housing, but are unable to.

We have to come up with more concrete solutions, and not just talk so much about it. We have to make sure the federal government understands how unique the problem is in the north. By working together, the Minister should consider trying to come up with solutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Housing has to be commended, first of all, for being able to meet with the Minister of the federal government responsible for housing.

However, I also want to say, that I remember clearly in the early 1960s, the federal government came to our community, and began building houses. The rent was payable at \$2.00 per month. This is not the first time that you have heard this in the House, as M.L.A.s. I remember clearly, we used to live in qammaq, sod houses.

When we were told that we had to move into houses, we left my father behind, and we moved into a house. Back then, my father did not want to move into a

Page 986

building, I am not sure what his reasons were. Now, I understand why he did not want to move to a house. Perhaps he had a better idea of what the future held, than we did.

In our community there are social problems. There are very few bedrooms in a house with many people living in it. This is practically standard across the territories. I also want to tell this, William Parry... (translation ended)

...back in the 1500s. He estimated the population of Cumberland Sound was about 1000. Between the 1500s up to 1950s, the population had dropped down to 500. It has taken from the whaling times, with the diseases that were brought in that the Inuit had no

immunity from, for the population of Pangnirtung to come back up to what is just about 1000, a little over 1000 now.

We keep talking about our high rates of birth in the north. We also forget the fact that there were factors for the population dropping among aboriginals due to the diseases that they had no immunity to. As a result of that, the federal government had the obligation, and acted on providing housing to eliminate some diseases that they figured were from overcrowding, or lack of housing, which were qammaqs.

To me, to hear that there is a cutback for the N.W.T. is not acceptable. I feel that the federal government has a responsibility and an obligation to continue to provide housing for the aboriginals. For those very same reasons, Mr. Chairman, I just said that the Inuit themselves never initiated, or ever asked for housing, and these are the arguments that Mr. Minister is going to have to use, if he does go back and meet with the federal Minister.

We can only do so much with the amount of budget that we have for the housing within the N.W.T. We also cannot be treated like one of the provinces in Canada because we do not have provincial status and if we are going to get treated just like any other province in Canada, then I think it is about time the federal government should start thinking of transferring us other responsibilities to us like minerals, mines and resources, fisheries, and other things that we do not have right now.

This way they can substantiate their arguments, and their reason, for treating us just like any other province. I would like to commend the Minister for the efforts he has made to get the number of houses that we had, before the cutbacks were done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Any other general comments? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one of the main concerns I have with regard to the issue of housing, is that we still do have two standards, one of which is for aboriginal housing, and the other is for the

public service, which are provided with housing subsidies.

We spend over \$17 million a year, Mr. Chairman, on housing subsidies. I do not know how involved the Minister is with regard to negotiating the C.A.P., and trying to maintain the level we have now with regard to housing, but if you allow the civil service, or the bureaucrats to also negotiate, I wonder how serious they would be?

You have bureaucrats meeting with bureaucrats addressing a housing situation, in which they really have no problem with, themselves. They have subsidies, and they are on salaries so I have much difficulty if the breakdown is as a result of not enough effort being done on the part of the bureaucracy, then the Members should know about that.

The other thing, Mr. Chairman, is that before the housing transfer occurred in the Northwest Territories, the responsibility for housing was with the Department of Indian Affairs, for Indian and Inuit housing. After the transfer happened, it was a housing program for everybody, and a lot of people that are even non-residents up here, have benefitted from those programs.

I think we should really also be directing our questions, not only to C.M.H.C., but also to the Department of Indian Affairs, with regard to their obligations to Indian and Inuit people. Because the money that goes to those communities, now goes to C.M.H.C. The other problem is that if we cannot find a solution, then the Minister should also seriously think about having the program transferred back to Indian Affairs, so that under that regime, perhaps we might be able to get ministerial guarantees to build non-profit housing, as it is called in the south.

The Minister would then guarantee C.M.H.C. that, in the event of a default on non-profit housing, then the department would cover that cost. Mr. Chairman, the Minister asked for some suggestions on how they might be able to address it, and I think that these are some of the suggestions that I have. I do not have any other, except to say that we do have a large, housing subsidy for civil servants which is about \$17 million, but there are a lot of other benefits that we spend on civil servants.

I think we should really look at where the dollars are going with regard to that and, whether or not we might be able to make changes to the benefits. I know that there is a collective agreement on that, but I think we

should really seriously look at whether or not, at this point in time, we are affecting the people. Does the service directly affect the communities and the people, the aboriginal people in particular? We should seriously consider ways in which we might be able to look at the existing budget, and whether or not we might be able to make some compromises. In my opinion, I feel that communities are the ones that are being short changed, and as much as I hate to say it, perhaps there is concern by the bureaucracy about it, but as long as they are the ones who have all the luxury as an employee of the government, I think we missed having to deliver programs to the communities, and I think the sacrifice should go both ways. I mean right now, the penalties are on the communities, the programs are suffering, but nothing else, the persons who are delivering those programs are not suffering as a result of that. I would ask the Executive, not only the Minister himself, but the whole Executive, to look at that, too. We have a situation where we are \$20 million dollars short, and the Minister did say that he cannot find it in the existing budget. I think one of the big things that happened during the constitutional process, was that we took a leap of faith, as it was called, and I think this is one in which that is not the best thing to do, but I think that might be the one solution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been in contact with the honourable Minister of Indian Affairs. Earlier on in this, after we had found out about the reductions from the federal government, we did talk to him in Yellowknife, person to person, and we followed up with letters. For the Members information, I believe that the Minister was somewhat supportive. How supportive he was in Ottawa, I do not know. I think that is the avenue that has continued to be explored

Page 987

through Indian Affairs. What is their responsibility, if they have any dollars to commit to help us out in this time of need? I assure the Member that I will do that. I am not too sure about a ministerial guarantee of non-profit housing; I am not sure about what the Member is referring to, but I will follow it up. If it is that the Co-op Housing Program, that is another thing that was affected in the cuts. There is no longer a Co-op Housing Program. That program was cut

completely. That is the program they used in Fort Smith. Maybe I can follow that up. As far as housing subsidies and other benefits employees of this government receive, firehalls, arenas, water and sewer, all kinds of things that we make decisions on this House to spend money on, I think we have to revamp this, because this is the direction that I have always got, and this is my fifth year. The number one priority of this government is housing, and I have always taken that just for the way it is said, "it is the number one priority of this government, and we have to do whatever possible." We have a chronic housing shortage in the Northwest Territories, and we have to do whatever possible to address it. I would like to assure the Member that the civil servants that I have been involved with, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation have assisted us, represented the Northwest Territories through me, assisted me with my briefing notes, and they are very sincere in helping solve this problem. They have put in many, many hours of work to solve this problem, so when they deal with C.M.H.C officials, and other jurisdictions, their officials, they are quite sincere, and they put a lot of work into it. So, I would not agree that it has not got the right exposure, because bureaucrat is negotiating with bureaucrat. That is not the way it is. Our people are very committed to trying to get our funding re-instated, they have been very supportive, done a very good job, and they should be commended.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, the only point I was trying to make was regarding the public service, as opposed to the programs that are delivered, is that it is a two way street with regard to sacrifices. Now, it is unfair for only the communities to be the ones to bear the brunt of this deficit. I think it is up to the public service to also do their part, this is all I am suggesting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Further general comments? I have Mr. Koe on my list.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. In the statements made yesterday, impact on housing, the Minister mentioned that the federal Treasury Board made the decision.

He also mentioned that he had been working, and as my colleague put it, you had a leap of faith put into several federal Ministers that they will consider the arguments you made, and approve funds. However, that did not work, and my knowledge of the federal Treasury Board is that it is made up of federal Ministers, and I think it is chaired by the Minister of Finance, so something is not getting through at that level. I think more effort needs to be made, to lobby not only one or two, but a whole range of different Ministers. There is also a huge ripple effect of this, and it is going to impact this territory. This ripple effect is on our capital budget, and our O & M budget, because not only is the housing affected, but any plans for new roads, new lots, all municipal services, the revenue, proposed taxes, construction of new houses, and, of course, the huge impact on local labour, local services, and local contractors is also effected. I think it has been raised several times, but I will raise it again, there is a need now for this government to identify what the cost impacts are, what the cost impacts are today, what are they going to be tomorrow, and next year? We are going through an O & M budget now, and the proposal is that it is paving the way for next year's O & M budget. In several months, we are going to be dealing with the new capital budget, and if nothing is done quickly, it is going to have severe impacts. The effect is not only on single dwelling family sized units, but many of the multiple type buildings that have been going up across the north for single parent families, seniors' housing, and single person units. All of these are going to be affected. I have a couple of suggestions, that I think the Minister, and the government, are looking for on how to deal with this. We just went through an exercise with all the aboriginal leaders, and the constitutional process, here in the territories, and Canada wide, and they combined forces and efforts to deal with that issue.

I think, immediately, we should be getting these same leaders together, and put an organized lobbying effort on all federal Ministers. That should be done very quickly.

Another suggestion, in terms of how we are going to spend the money, how are we going to get maximum value for the dollar, or get the best bang for the buck, is several of the aboriginal organizations do have some investment money, through their claims, and I think that some deals can be made. We can at least think about it, talk to these people. Maybe there is something, from an economic point of view, since we are looking for new investments. The native

organizations, and business people, are looking for investment opportunities, and I think there is a big opportunity here to explore, in detail, and vigour, this avenue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have thought of different ways that we could appeal to the Cabinet. I am sure that you have taken notes on many of the different ideas that the Members have stated. Some of them are good ideas.

I know that any stories that we give you about the housing situation anywhere in the Northwest Territories, you are aware of those problems. Now to try and convince the Cabinet, as a whole, would be difficult. In the report that you gave to the Assembly, you indicated that you had convinced the Minister, Honourable Elmer MacKay, that there is a unique situation in the Northwest Territories.

To be able to talk to these people individually, you probably would be able to convince them, but to do it collectively, is something that I do not know if you can do.

When you have a Treasury Board that comes out and says, no, and this is the indication that you gave me earlier, directly to a request made by a Minister, I do not see how you could convince them to vote otherwise.

Certainly when we, as Members, try to convince the Cabinet, we have difficulty, and they say, no. It becomes difficult. As a last resort appeal to all the people in Canada, to southern Canada, by working with the southern media. Certainly when you look at the news today, you will hear that the federal government is dealing with the Constitution, and is giving lots to the aboriginal people. They are coming to agreements with a lot of aboriginal people across Canada.

On the other hand, something that is not being said at all in the media, is that we are also being cut in a lot of different places. As far as social programs are concerned, such as family allowance, we are just hearing on the news that family allowance will be reduced for those people who have higher incomes, but it will also be removed completely from families

who are on social assistance. It will make it even harder in the Northwest Territories, because so

Page 988

many of our people are on social assistance.

Any time that the media, in southern Canada, takes a look at the north, they usually portray a romantic, nostalgic, type of destination, such as what we saw from Iqaluit around Christmas time, on Midday News.

We are striving to help those people, but once you remove them, there will be others who will be moving into those shacks.

I do not know how else to appeal to the federal government, other than to do a mass media appeal to Canadians. I think that might be one of the ways that we could lobby the federal government. That might be something that you could consider, as a last resort.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am concerned about some of the comments that the Minister has made in respect to funding, or alternatives. Looking at the capital budget, and seeing where he can find the money.

As we have stated collectively, this is going to be a concern for all Members. We have to try to convince the federal government, to ensure that they adhere to some of their responsibilities.

I do not like hearing comments from the Minister that we may have to revise things in the capital budget, such as, whether firehalls, arenas, or any type of municipal buildings are needed. I will tell the Minister unequivocally, as a Member, if you have to look for \$22 million, it is not going to be by revising capital projects, such as firehalls, which are an essential need. Particularly, when there are many people in the north that do not get a \$450.00 a month housing allowance. What you should look at, is the cost of the housing allowance to civil servants, which cost this government \$27 million a year, that is where you can find your shortfall to address your housing needs, not

infrastructures that are essential to the communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me assure the Member, that we will make every effort to get our money re-instated from the federal government, every effort available to us.

Let me also assure the Member that if we do not get it, we are going to have to look at everything that we do as a government, everything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo is the last one on my list. Mr. Nerysoo. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

The point I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the Minister is able to absorb the point, but the problem is, that in the territories we have some individuals that have more than others. There are inequities in the system. I believe that in order to address some of the fundamental needs, we have to really look at what causes these inequities. The housing allowance is causing one of these inequities.

To indicate to this House that he is going to look at fundamental infrastructure needs for the communities, is totally unacceptable, without looking at the civil servants, who have more than what many other people in the territories have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was quite able to absorb what the Member said. I can comprehend what she said. What I am saying is that you have to look at everything when you are looking for \$22 million, and you have to look pretty hard, and dig pretty deep. It just does not float to the surface that easily. You also have to remember, which I have said earlier in this House, when we are looking at housing for our own people in the Northwest Territories, we have to do everything possible for our own people in the

communities, to encourage homeownership. I will continue to do that. We have to encourage people to try to be self-sufficient on their own. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

General comments? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot argue against the idea of considering what options there are, or could be considered by a government, and I assume that is part of the work that is necessary. I have to agree on one point with my colleagues on this side of the House, and that is this, we cannot support, at this particular juncture, the removal of other capital projects that are essential in our communities.

We do not take it for granted that firehalls are going to be available next year to protect those houses that you now have in the communities, or that capital infrastructure that is already there. Now, most southern Canadians can take this for granted, it is available to them now. In our situation, that is just not the case.

We cannot take it for granted that we are going to have a new fire truck, or arena, where people can vent their frustrations, or participate in healthy events. I think that it is wrong for us to take the view, that is an initiative that we are going to have to consider. The same way that I do not think, at this particular juncture, and maybe I take an opposite view that we should be looking at reducing benefits to our public servants.

The argument here before us, is simply that the Government of Canada is withdrawing from a normal responsibility that they have to provide housing to the people of the Northwest Territories, especially, and I say this with respect to all people of the north, to the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories, both the Inuit and the Indian.

It is frustrating sometimes when you get into a debate like this that we lose sight of the fundamental principle that we are trying to get at. Leave all of the other issues out right now. The fact is, our argument right now is that the federal government must provide the ongoing responsibility that they, themselves, agreed to. That is the key.

I know that we all, in the end, probably will try and find solutions in terms of the negotiating process. We have to make sure that the Government of Canada is

responsible for their legislation and, in our opinion, some of the constitutional responsibility that they have. We cannot allow them to get out of that, that is clear.

One other fact that I want to say, and I do not oppose the argument that has been proposed to, that aboriginal people use their claims money to invest in housing, but that is still no substitute for the responsibility of the Government of Canada to provide money to this government, and to the people of the

Page 989

north for housing. How you use it in the end is your business.

If you agree that the aboriginal people, the aboriginal organizations, can invest in real estate, and you will rent from them those units, that is your business. That is the business of the government. To suggest for one moment that investors should substitute the responsibility of government, particularly the federal government to provide housing, is totally wrong. It is a good initiative and we all support it, we all do. Let us not use it as a way in which the Government of Canada can get out of what we consider, a responsibility, that is theirs.

Our fight is with the federal government right now, it is not internal. I think that the aboriginal leaders will accept that challenge, they will support us, I think that the Members of Parliament will support us, and I think that even the national native leadership will support us. I know one thing, that all of the Members in this House support the argument that we are not happy, and we condemn the efforts that the Government of Canada has undertaken, to reduce their responsibility for housing.

We can all agree with that, but let us not allow them a way to get out of their responsibility. Our fight is with them, and let us fight that fight together. Let us not find ways of allowing them to get out of their responsibility, that they are legally responsible for. How we do it is our business, and I think that it is a matter that we have to develop.

Unfortunately, we are trying to talk about what might be the strategies here, or the options available to us, and my argument is that I am still mad at the federal government for trying to get out of their responsibility for providing housing to the Northwest Territories. That is my fight, that is my argument, that is a

concern that we all share, and I think that we should go after the Government of Canada.

One thing we do not want to do, as I said, is allow them the opportunity to get out of their responsibility. It may, in the end, be less than what we are asking for, but we cannot let them get out of their responsibility. I agree with some of the arguments and concerns that have been raised by my colleagues, but, at the same time, I am not going to let the Government of Canada get out of this issue. I do not think that our government, our Cabinet should ever allow them to get out of this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. At this time the Chair would like to recognize the visitors today. We have nine students from Rimouski, Quebec who are in Yellowknife as part of the Canada 125 student exchange. They are accompanied by their supervisor, Mr. Joel Long and their host students from St. Patrick's High School. Welcome.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Are there further general comments? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion, but I wanted to introduce it as soon as all the Members had an opportunity to speak on this particular matter, and made their general comments. I am prepared to move the motion now, if it is concluded.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Yes, proceed, Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

WHEREAS housing is a major priority of the government and of all people in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS virtually every resident in the majority of northern communities in the Northwest Territories is an eligible candidate for social housing,

as they do not have access to housing that is affordable, suitable or adequate;

AND WHEREAS the 1992 housing needs survey has identified the need for 30,584 units of new social housing, an increase of over 14 percent over the 1990 levels;

AND WHEREAS the population in the Northwest Territories is growing at twice the national average;

AND WHEREAS the federal government will reduce, by 59 percent, the federal funding for cost shared social housing in the Northwest Territories by 1993;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has historically been responsible for fostering, and assisting, aboriginal persons who choose to relocate from life on the land to housing in permanent communities;

I MOVE that this Assembly condemns the actions taken by the Government of Canada of reducing the federal funding for cost shared social housing in the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHER that the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the Honourable Don Morin, should vigorously continue his efforts to resolve the issue of funding for cost shared social housing, by immediately developing a strategy to pursue this issue with the Government of Canada, including the Prime Minister, for the reinstatement of federal housing funding in the Northwest Territories to the 1991 level;

AND FURTHERMORE that such a strategy should include the following:

1. Ensuring the input and involvement of M.L.A.s, the aboriginal leadership of the Northwest Territories, National aboriginal leaders, and M.P.'s for Nunatsiag, and the Western Arctic, and to research the legal responsibility of federal government to provide housing to residents of the Northwest Territories, including housing for status Inuit, and Indian.

Motion 155-12(2): Reduction In Federal Funding For Cost Shared Social Housing

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. The motion is ordered. To the motion. Are you ready for a question? Question has been

called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Our government agrees. Now Minister's statement 90-12(2) and table document 89-12(2) are concluded. Thank you. What does this committee wish to do now? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we report progress. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

The motion is in order, it is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

Page 990

---Carried

I will report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 20, report of the committee of the whole, Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Minister's statement 90-12(2), and table document 89-12(2), and wish to report that Minister's statement 90-12(2), and table document 89-12(2) are concluded, with one motion being adopted unanimously. Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Ningark. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting of the Ordinary Member's Caucus at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning; orders of the day for Friday, September 18, 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. Replies to Budget Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 9-12(2)
 - Tabled Document 10-12(2)
 - Tabled Document 62-12(2)
 - Motion 6-12(2)

- Committee Report 10-12(2)

- Committee Report 17-12(2)

- Committee Report 18-12(2)

- Bills 9

- Bill 31

- Bill 33

- Minister's Statement 82-12(2)

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Friday, September 18, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT