



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3rd Session**

**Day 5**

**12<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

**HANSARD**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1992**

Pages 51 - 80

Page numbers reflect printed Hansard

**The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):**

Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On The Review Of The W.C.B.

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express some serious concerns over matters dealing with the Workers' Compensation Board. Honourable Members will recall that in June of this year, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions tabled a comprehensive report on the review of the Workers' Compensation Board. The report included a total of 27 recommendations.

The key recommendations focused upon a legislative review process which would result in the legislative action paper to be completed by December 31, 1992. This would eventually lead to some very necessary and long overdue amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. The standing committee was assured, during its public hearings, that both the Minister and the board were fully aware of the need to amend this outdated statute. The Minister stated clearly that he agreed with the process laid out in the interim and final reports of the standing committee and that he would be proceeding with the legislative review as quickly as possible. He also indicated that the Workers' Compensation Board has identified sufficient funding for the legislative review.

I have become increasingly concerned about the apparent lack of progress that the Minister has been making with respect to implementing this legislative

review and the other recommendations including the standing committee's report. Let us not lose sight of the fact that the committee found that although the Workers' Compensation Board staff are hard working people, some definite problems exist with regard to the way Workers' Compensation services are being delivered in the Northwest Territories.

The situation with the W.C.B. has become even more critical with the absolutely shocking rate increases being forced upon employers next year, especially during a period of serious recession. There is also an investigation into the misappropriation of funds which appears to be stuck in the mud.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed, Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, their interim appointments, which expire in January, and the board has also announced a public forum in Yellowknife this Wednesday. Why is this being held if rate setting decisions have already been made? Will similar forums be held anywhere other than in Yellowknife? These are critical issues for both the workers and employers in the Northwest Territories. They cannot be left to back room discussions and closed door briefing sessions. They must be discussed on the floor of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, today my colleagues and I will be asking the Minister questions on the issues and concerns of the Workers' Compensation Board and Mr. Speaker, I trust the Minister will be forthcoming with his answers. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Todd.

Member's Statement On Legislative Review of the W.C.B.

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to elaborate further on some of points made by my honourable colleague from Inuvik regarding the N.W.T. Workers' Compensation Board. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that I have commented on this troubled and inefficient agency on several occasions in the past. It has now come to the point where the situation is becoming ridiculous.

The Workers' Compensation Board is a monolithic adversarial board which, in my opinion, in the current terms, is out of control. The 12 per cent average increase in employers assessments, which it announced a short time ago, is totally unacceptable. In fact, it would take a special type of being short sighted to even contemplate a decision that would so terribly tax the private sector businesses throughout the Northwest Territories.

Notwithstanding the hours of time and effort that were devoted by Members of this House to a public review undertaken by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, there apparently has been no improvement. Like my honourable colleague from Inuvik, I am concerned that a badly needed legislative review, which was recommended by the standing committee will not be finished by December 31, 1992.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Minister to show a sense of leadership that has been sorely lacking to date on this issue. He must assume responsibility for assuring that there is an appropriate second opinion on the actuarial analysis of the employers assessments in time to implement rates which are not as punishing as the ones the board has tried to push on to northern businesses at this time. He must act immediately on the legislative review process recognizing that a legislative action paper is expected as a matter of confidence by December 31, 1992. He must implement standing committee recommendations which call for him to take a more active role

Page 52

and ensuring board accountability and to establish a stronger regional presence and he must give strong consideration to whether all current members of the board are committed to seeing that W.C.B. change and evolve to better serve all northern workers.

I am sure that I will have more to say during question period later today, thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Nerysoo.

Member's Statement On Trap Replacement Program

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a very important concern regarding the Trap Replacement Program. Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that there is a serious miscalculation in the matter of the number of trappers. As a result of this miscalculation, the Trap Replacement Program cannot continue. In other words we have run out of traps for the trappers of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say to this House that this is causing many trappers not to participate in their economic livelihood, especially during the most crucial time of the year which will bring the best results to trappers. Mr. Speaker, the economic circumstances have caused problems for many more trappers, in fact there are no jobs for which many qualify. Mr. Speaker, in the Mackenzie Delta the oil and gas industry has literally left. The economic recession is affecting every region, where there are very few jobs available in any industry.

Mr. Speaker, the trappers who have requested traps for replacement must now wait. This waiting period is during the most important crucial period for trappers across the Northwest Territories. I cannot understand, Mr. Speaker, how this miscalculation took place. Worse yet, I cannot understand how trappers cannot, at this particular juncture, access other trapping mechanisms. Mr. Speaker, I want to recommend to the Minister and to this House that we consider using the conibear 1-10 traps as a replacement trap.

On another matter, we should seriously consider a compensation program for trappers who are not trapping as a result of a serious miscalculation on the part of this government and the Department of Renewable Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Strike At Giant/Royal Oak Mine

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is now exactly six months since the strike at Giant/Royal Oak began. Mr. Speaker, it makes me very sad to see the industry which made this city prosper for five decades is in danger of collapsing around us. The strike at the Royal Oak Mine is the most bitter and violent strike we have ever had in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, one of the great victories of the union movement was winning the right to collective bargaining. This is supposed to be the alternative to violence and to confrontation. It is supposed to be the civilized way to do business. In this case, Mr. Speaker, the two parties have clearly failed to bridge their differences and it is not my place, or any other M.L.A.s place to attribute blame. We have been told it is not appropriate for M.L.A.s to become involved in industrial disputes. When we did become involved this summer we were told quite bluntly by the Minister of Labour that we were out of line, we are interfering and making it more difficult for an agreement to be struck since the parties to the dispute would expect us to do their work for them, or at least to take sides.

What is appropriate though, Mr. Speaker, is for M.L.A.s to express the concern of their constituents. People in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, are outraged at the level of violence that they see taking place around them. Weekends in a frontier mining town often in the past saw brawls on a Saturday night, Mr. Speaker, but friends were always around to intervene and differences were quickly patched up. The violence we see today, Mr. Speaker, is of a different magnitude. It is as a result of hatred and desperation. Citizens are beginning to live their lives differently as a result of what they see going on around them. They have gone into their shells, they do not socialize, they do not go out so much.

The city was quiet this weekend but, below the surface, there is a deep disquiet. People are disgusted that no one seems capable of bringing the vicious dispute to an end. Outside the parties to this dispute, Mr. Speaker, only one man, Hon. Marcel Danis, the Minister of Labour, has the power to resolve the crisis.

I worry about the future of the mining industry, Mr. Speaker, the future of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories and the future of this city.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the vast majority of constituents in this city have spoken in a way that reflects the public concern. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Accountability Regarding Funds For Training Judges

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the government's position which believes compromise as public accountability and our commitment to open government.

On February 25, 1992, my honourable colleague from Kitikmeot asked some important written questions from the Minister of Justice. He requested a list showing the participants and dates of all training initiatives undertaken by Judges of the Territorial Court. The response received from the Hon. Dennis Patterson was not satisfactory. The former Minister stated that, "training is something with which the judiciary administers by itself."

On September 30, 1992, I rose this issue myself with the current Minister of Justice, the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi. At that time, the Minister stated that all we do is provide monies for them to run a justice system. I think we provide an amount of money for them to take training and those things they deem, for themselves, necessary to carry out their judicial duties.

Mr. Speaker, I fully understand the principle that the judiciary must be independent from the Legislative Assembly, at least in terms of its ability to make judgements on matters of law.

What we are talking about here, Mr. Speaker, is not the same thing. We are talking about an expenditure of public money and I believe that the public has a right to know how all its money is being used by government and that includes knowing where, and what amounts, the Department of Justice has spent on training activities for each of the judges.

Page 53

I can neither understand, nor agree with the prevailing position in the Department of Justice that

expenditures in this area must be kept secret from the Legislative Assembly and the public.

I want to state clearly that I have no evidence, at the present time, that these training funds are being abused by the judges but I think it is an important principle that information about expenditure made in this area should be available for review in order to assure accountability.

I want to give you notice today that, unless this House is provided with a list showing how previous year's training dollars have been spent, I will oppose further appropriation for judges to attain...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Gargan, your allotted time has elapsed. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. I want to give notice today that, unless this House is provided with a list showing how previous year's training dollars have been spent, I will oppose further appropriation for judges to attend workshops, courses or training institutes when we deal with the 1993-94 budget in February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Bernhardt.

Member's Statement On Government Policy On Grade Extensions In The N.W.T.

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education is an issue of great importance to all the people of the Northwest Territories. Certainly, this Legislative Assembly has stated, on many occasions, that the goal of improving our education system and getting more of our young

people through the system with a good education is one of our top priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I am a strong proponent of this goal. I believe that only by increasing the education level of our people and providing people with job skills needed in today's world can we begin to ease some of the severe economic and social problems that presently exist in the Northwest Territories.

My statement today concerns the current policy of this government to put grade extensions in most communities across the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this policy at this time. While, on the surface, it seems to have many benefits, I believe it ignores some of the more basic problems with the current system. In my opinion, the extension of grades simply adds to an already flawed education system that presently exists in many of our smaller communities.

By following a policy of extending classes into smaller communities, we are stretching our already limited resources too thin. I am concerned that we simply cannot maintain a consistent quality of education for all of our students. For example, can we provide high school students in Coppermine with the same level of facilities and the same range of course selection that some students already have? I doubt it.

It is my belief that we should be focusing all of our money and resources on kindergarten to Grade 9 and improving the school system that is already in place in many of our communities. In addition, we should have regional high schools that can provide our students with the type of facilities and services that we have access to in the highest quality of education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Ms. Mike.

Member's Statement On Government Treatment Of Regional Councils

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am rapidly losing confidence in this government's approach to dealing with the regional associations and committees that have served our communities so well for many years. There seems to be a headlong rush to implement an

untried process of community transfer and to experiment with models of district government that, at the present time, attract the interest of only one or two areas of the north. In the process, the regional and tribal councils comprised of local elected representatives are being ignored.

I was particularly concerned to learn today that the Baffin Regional Council is again experiencing severe financial difficulties, not as a result of current management decisions, but because of long standing issues from previous years' funding arrangements with this government.

I am concerned that the departmental officials are not supplying their Ministers with accurate and timely information about financial matters related to B.R.C. and I am dismayed that even the Baffin Regional Director appears to be powerless in the face of this government's apparent decision to allow our regional council to fall away.

The underlying model is clear. The Beatty Report deliberately overlooks the significant role for our existing regional council and advocates eliminating consolidation and downsizing boards and agencies that allow our people to have input into government decision making. We should not lose sight of the fact that the so-called "Strength at Two Levels" report has never been endorsed by this House and I wish you to know, Mr. Speaker, that I will oppose the implementation of any model of relation between communities and the G.N.W.T. that undermines the legitimate role of our regional councils.

I believe that this concern not only applies to the Baffin Region, but to this government...(inaudible)... represented in this House today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Member's Statement On Ben Hannak and Jason Curley from Arviat

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a lighter note, until we get to discussion period, I would like to speak about two boys who are here with us for the rest of this week. They are Ben Hannak and Jason Curley, who are beside the Sergeant-at-Arms. These boys are both from the grade 12 classes of Qitiqliq school in Arviat. Jason, who is the president of the students council and Ben, who is president of the sports

council. Both gentlemen were in Yellowknife last year to participate in the territorial debate workshops. Both are student participants/observers on the Arviat Hamlet Council. In other words, they both have an interest in serving their community in

Page 54

a leadership capacity. Both have been active volunteers with the Minor Hockey Association for Sivullinut, the elders group in Arviat, and for Sapuniaqtiit, the alcohol and drug prevention program.

Ben also serves on the Youth Justice Committee and last summer he was chosen from the Keewatin to take the Department of Personnel's Human Resource Management Training Program here in Yellowknife. He has participated in leadership conferences both in Fort Smith and in Brandon, Manitoba at the annual Canadian leadership conference. Ben also participated in an environmental exchange which took him to Vancouver, B.C. in September. He has not decided on his career plans as yet, he is considering several possibilities for a post-secondary education.

Jason has also had a taste of Vancouver when he represented the N.W.T. at the Canada-wide science fair with his project on the insulating factors of igloos and at the environmental exchange in September. Last summer, Jason attended a D.P.W. course on architecture and engineering in Yellowknife. He is pursuing a career in engineering and would like to return to U.B.C. next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Adequate Funding For The Baffin Regional Council

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a statement about B.R.C. Since they have been into a lot of financial difficulties, ever since I became a M.L.A. I have attended the B.R.C.'s meeting to see what they do. Today, we know that they are in a lot of financial difficulties and we have to give them support. They have a lot of expenses that they have to take care of and I would want them to have adequate financing. We know what their mandate is, whether we attend their meetings or not. We have been working very hard to represent the people and they are in dire straits with their finances.

Mr. Speaker, we should give them more adequate financing if possible. We do not have to wait and not give them any financing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Allooloo.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 18-12(3): Apology From Military

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Ms. Mike on November 20, 1992 concerning additional renewable resource officers. After reviewing the transcripts I believe that the Member was asking me two questions. First, was I or my deputy minister briefed by officers who were out on patrol about the hunting that took place several weeks ago on the Ingraham Trail?

Second, did the Department of Renewable Resources have plans in place when caribou appeared in large numbers along the Ingraham Trail?

Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is, no. I have not been briefed by officers who were out on patrol. I also did not discuss enforcement activities with the officer who I accompanied when I flew out to Ross Lake to monitor the caribou movements. I rely on my deputy minister to provide me with information on any enforcement action that departmental staff may have taken. My deputy minister received this information from the regional superintendents who are directors to whom officers report.

The answer to the second question is, yes. Since the no hunting corridor came into effect in 1988, the department has had plans to respond to the appearance of a large number of caribou along the Ingraham Trail. These plans include bringing extra staff, doing extra road patrols, setting up check stations and conducting aerial flights to monitor caribou movements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 36-12(3): Legislative Review Of The W.C.B

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This question will be for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. On June 18, 1992 the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions tabled a report which recommended that the Minister prepare a legislative action paper outlining proposed amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. This recommendation was passed as a motion of this Assembly. The motion called on the Minister to complete his legislative review and have the legislative action paper ready for tabling by December 31, 1992. My question is, will the Minister now update this House on whether he will comply with the committee recommendation and the House motion by December 31, 1992?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 36-12(3): Legislative Review Of The W.C.B.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, yes, I will certainly endeavour to do so. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 36-12(3): Legislative Review Of The W.C.B.

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. You will recall that the proceedings of the standing committee's public hearings were provided to the House as Tabled Document 67-12(2). On May 13, 1992 the Minister appeared before the standing committee and talked about his plans for this legislative review. He stated, on page 100 of the proceedings that "first of all, that the board has agreed that they will largely underwrite the cost of such a review. I feel it is appropriate and something that could be underwritten by the board." My supplementary is, will the Minister confirm his earlier statement that funds for the review of the Workers' Compensation Act have been made available by the Workers' Compensation Board since last May?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 36-12(3): Legislative Review Of The W.C.B

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, since last May there have been a number of difficult events occurring with the Workers' Compensation Board. A general manager was released and has left the board. The board was struggling with the difficult matter of rate increases which some honourable Members have referred to earlier. As a result, Mr. Speaker, the board was preoccupied with those issues following the tabling of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and

Page 55

Commissions' report. The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is notwithstanding those demands, I have recently met with the new Chair of the Workers' Compensation Board -- that was another thing that happened, the Chair was replaced -- I have been assured that the board has made some funds available for the legislative review. They are under a very tight financial situation and they had to look hard to identify some funds in this very difficult year but I have been assured, just recently, that some funds will be made available for this legislative review. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 36-12(3): Legislative Review Of The W.C.B.

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing that the Minister stated on May 13, and I quote "clearly the legislative review is a major issue that should be dealt with." Recognizing that the Minister assured the standing committee that he made a commitment that the Workers' Compensation Board would underwrite this legislative review, will the Minister explain to the House exactly why there has been a lack of significant progress on this initiative?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 36-12(3): Legislative Review Of The W.C.B

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I have been apprising the standing committee through its chair of some difficulties that I have encountered in getting this process moving expeditiously. The chairman knows that I had developed, early on, terms of reference for the legislative review and I believe he also knows that I had identified a person who I believed was well qualified to undertake that review.

In fact, the preliminary work began on the legislative review and the review of background material. Unfortunately, recently, I was informed this particular individual would no longer be available.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, I have had to scramble to identify another qualified person and have received a recommendation for a very highly qualified individual who, unfortunately, to this date, has not been able to confirm availability due to possible other commitments elsewhere. So, Mr. Speaker, at the moment, I have a second highly qualified person who is possibly going to soon be available to commence that work although I have yet to receive the final word on that.

These are the factors, Mr. Speaker, that have prevented the review from actually starting to date. But I can assure the Member that, because of the previous major reviews of the Workers' Compensation Board, because of the excellent work done by the A.B.C. Committee through its hearings, I think that the completion of the legislative review by the deadline required by the committee is still possible and that a great deal of the background work has already been done and it is simply, in my view, putting together work that is already in place in consultation with labour and industry. So I am confident, even though we will be starting late, that the committee's deadline can be met or come close to being met. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question 37-12(3): Restructuring Of W.C.B.

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister Responsible for Workers' Compensation. On June 29, Mr. Speaker, this House passed several motions recommending that the Workers' Compensation Board be restructured to better present all the people of Northwest Territories rather than only



the interests of organized labour and certain employers' organizations.

The Minister made a number of interim appointments to the board which, I believe, are due to expire some time in the new year or before January 31, 1993.

My question to the Minister is, will the Minister make a commitment to ensure that the new organizational structure is established, as recommended by the Legislative Assembly, before these appointments expire?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 37-12(3): Restructuring Of W.C.B.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee recommended that the size of the board be enlarged. I think that recommendation was made before any of us knew that there would, in fact, be sizeable rate increases with significant negative consequences to rate payers in the Northwest Territories and I do believe that when it comes time to consider the recommendations of the committee on the board, that we are all going to have to scrutinize and consider carefully the costs of the operation of the board itself because I think the ratepayers, who are expected to pay increased rates, are going to want to be satisfied that the Board is as lean and as cost effective as possible and that may mean reconsidering, in fact, the size of the board. However, I can assure the honourable Member that I will take into account the recommendations of the committee as far as the composition of the board goes, whatever size the board turns out to be. I want to assure the honourable Member, as well, that I will work with the A.B.C. Committee and other honourable Members in restructuring and re-appointing members to the board when the appointments come up, as they are coming up shortly. Members will know I have solicited M.L.A.s and other interested parties for recommendations on appropriate people to serve on the board and as Chair. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 37-12(3): Restructuring Of W.C.B.

**MR. ZOE:**

Supplementary. Mr. Speaker, on the exact point that the Minister is referring to in regards to the board, the standing committee recommended that the size of the board should be increased from seven to nine members to allow for greater representation from a broader range of interests rather than specific labour organization and employer organizations. Now, how is the Minister going to be able to do this in time to make the January appointments, now that he has allowed the legislative review process to become stuck in the mud?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 37-12(3): Restructuring of W.C.B.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Well, Mr. Speaker. I believe I have the authority under the present act to appoint the board and to constitute it as recommended by the committee without

Page 56

legislative change, so I think that matter can be dealt with fairly expeditiously with the legislative review not necessarily being complete. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 37-12(3): Restructuring Of W.C.B.

**MR. ZOE:**

Supplementary. Mr. Speaker, the Minister also made reference to the terms of reference developed for the legislative review process. Could I ask the Minister if he will table those terms of reference in the House today?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 37-12(3): Restructuring Of W.C.B.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I should apologize to the Member. In reading the act, I do see that the present act only allows for the appointment of no more than seven members, so the nine member board recommended by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions would require a legislative change. I stand corrected on that, Mr. Speaker, but I would say that as long as we are dealing with a seven member board it would still be possible to constitute the board proportionately having regard to regional representation and the other factors mentioned by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions in the next round of appointments.

Mr. Speaker, to answer the Member's second question, yes, I will be pleased to table those terms of reference. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 38-12(3): Fair Representation On W.C.B.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a question for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. During the public hearings held on the Workers' Compensation Board by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, an organization calling itself "northern employers council on workers compensation" argued that the drive to make board appointments based on political considerations of ethnicity, regionalism, or gender can result in a board lacking the skills and understanding to adequately perform its duties. The standing committee rejected this position completely and in its June 26 report pointed out the advantages of having a board which adequately reflects diverse regional and aboriginal perspectives.

Will the Minister also reject this position and confirm that he has established a principle that appointments to the board should in fact be made in a way that ensures the perspective of all regions and cultures are represented?

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 38-12(3): Fair Representation On W.C.B.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

I guess I know how to answer that question, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

I think it is possible to meet the recommendations of the standing committee at the same time as having competent, qualified people. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 38-12(3): Fair Representation On W.C.B.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In order to make it clear that appointments will be made according to the principle of fair and equal representation for all regions, will the Minister communicate to the so-called "employers council" that he disagrees with their position that a regional based board with aboriginal and women representatives lacks adequate skills. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 38-12(3): Fair Representation On W.C.B.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I guess I would be a bit concerned about having to make comments about every submission made to the A.B.C. committee including the submission of that particular group. With the help and support of M.L.A.s I am confident that the new round of W.C.B. appointments, on which I will welcome assistance and advice from M.L.A.s, will in fact be of a calibre and a representative, culturally sensitive, gender conscious, nature that those appointments will speak for themselves, Mr. Speaker. I do not feel the need to respond to specific submissions. I think the appointments will show that group and the public what criteria this Legislature and this government will pursue in making appointments. They will speak for themselves. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 38-12(3): Fair Representation On W.C.B.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Speaker, recognizing that the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommended that the Workers' Compensation Board membership should reflect regional and aboriginal representation, and recognizing that terms of the current board members are due to expire in January, 1993, can the Minister explain why he has been so reluctant to write to municipal governments, H.T.A.s, and band councils to recommend nominees to the board? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 38-12(3): Fair Representation On W.C.B.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I sent out over 60 letters to various interested parties in the Northwest Territories who I thought should be appropriately consulted on W.C.B. appointments, regional councils and Members of this Legislature included. Mr. Speaker, I believe -- and the Member for Baffin Central has spoken eloquently about this earlier today -- that the regional councils are an appropriate way of reflecting the views and voices of the regions in consulting with the regions. I thought it was adequate to direct my request to those regional councils and that is what has been done rather than writing individual municipalities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Ms. Mike.

Page 57

Question 39-12(3): Number Of Women Appointed To W.C.B

**MS. MIKE:**

I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. The report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and

Commissions dealing with worker's compensation, recommends that greater attention should be paid to ensuring all workers are better represented on the board. The Minister may be aware of the 1989 N.W.T. Labour Force Survey completed by the G.N.W.T. Statistics Bureau. This study reported that of the 20,328 people who were employed at the time of the survey, 8,815 or 43 per cent were women.

Mr. Speaker, recognizing that just under half of all workers in the N.W.T. are women, will the Minister indicate to the House how many women he has appointed to the Workers' Compensation Board since assuming his portfolio over a year ago?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 39-12(3): Number Of Women Appointed To W.C.B.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

None, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 39-12(3): Number Of Women Appointed To W.C.B.

**MS. MIKE:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends) ...for wanting to avoid having a board with a balanced representation from both genders?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 39-12(3): Number Of Women Appointed To W.C.B.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

No I cannot, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 39-12(3): Number Of Women Appointed To W.C.B.

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary to the same Minister, the Minister must know that when the primary wage earner is injured and cannot work, it creates significant hardships for the spouse and family. The Workers' Compensation Board policies have not taken this into account. Support for the spouses and families of injured workers, either through additional compensation or rehabilitative services, has been sorely lacking. Why has the Minister not considered making appointments which reflect the needs of these stakeholders rather than trying only to cater to the wishes of the industry association and organized labour?

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 39-12(3): Number Of Women Appointed To W.C.B.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, that is a good question.

---Applause

I have made two appointments in my short time as Minister responsible for this board. They certainly were not women. I can only assure the Member that yes, I am responsible for that, and I will take responsibility for that. It is unfortunate that the board has not represented women for many years before I was Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure the honourable Member that I have actively solicited the N.W.T. Status of Women for recommendations for appointments and I am pleased to also inform the Member that I have already received some excellent recommendations from that council. I have also solicited nominations from M.L.A.s and I am sure that I will be receiving recommendations which include women from Members of this Assembly, judging by the support and Member's concerns expressed here today.

So, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is mea culpa for the past but, one thing I can be given credit for is for not having made long term appointments. We have very short term appointments in place. It means that these deficiencies in representation, which the Member has referred to, can be corrected within the next couple of

months. So I will look forward to assistance from Members of the Assembly and my Cabinet colleagues in making the W.C.B. more representative than it has been to date in its history.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 40-12(3): Absence Of Women Representatives On W.C.B.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to witness that women are not forgotten in this area of workers' compensation representation, I will ask the question directed to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows the council and the Women's Directorate have been making efforts to encourage adequate women representation on boards and agencies across the N.W.T. Will the Minister ask the council to look into the recent absence of women representation on Workers' Compensation Board? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 40-12(3): Absence Of Women Representatives On W.C.B.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 41-12(3): Review Of W.C.B. Workers' Advisor Role

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, when the Standing Committee on Agency, Boards and Commissions carried out its review of the Workers' Compensation Board, it became very clear that there is a need for better regional presence. One of the recommendations was to make better use of the workers' advisor position as a means of informing and communicating with

communities about the ways of the workers' compensation system.

Since inception of the position, however, there appears to have been resistance at the board level to having the advisor work with any communities other than Yellowknife. The Minister was supposed to be carrying out the review of the workers' advisor position and make any appropriate changes.

Page 58

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, can the Minister advise the House whether, in his review of the advisor's role, he has addressed using the position to make communities better informed about the Workers' Compensation in the Northwest Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 41-12(3): Review Of W.C.B. Workers' Advisor Role

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, the review of the workers' advisor position and the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions have resulted in the creation of a permanent position within the government for the workers' advisor. This was recommended by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions since the workers' advisor had, up until recently, been an ad hoc, month-to-month contractual arrangement that was certainly less than satisfactory in view of the important role of that position.

Mr. Speaker, that review also resulted in a revised job description for the workers' advisor and I think maybe the best way to answer the Member's question would be to commit to providing Members with the revised job description of the workers' advisor which has been developed since the standing committee met. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 41-12(3): Review Of W.C.B. Workers' Advisor Role

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although public information has been one of the stated responsibilities of the workers' advisor for some time, it is absolutely incredible that neither the board nor the Minister has set aside a specific budget for this purpose. Will the Minister indicate whether or not the arrangement has been made to provide adequate funding to support the public awareness mandate of the workers' advisor?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 41-12(3): Review Of W.C.B. Workers' Advisor Role

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, up-to-date, the workers' advisor has been supported by a commitment of approximately \$100,000 per year from the W.C.B. I am told by the present workers' advisor that there have not been requests for that person to travel to regions. There have been requests made to me and I have worked with W.C.B. staff to ensure that those requests for assistance in the regions have been dealt with and sometimes they have not been requests on appeals or matters that the workers' advisor would ordinarily address.

To answer the Member's question, the budget of approximately \$100,000 has been provided to the workers' advisor and, as far as I know, there has not been a specific allocation from that budget to cover travel to the regions. However, the new job description does address that issue and I am also working actively with the board to have a funding agreement in place which will spell out more precisely the financial support to be given to that office and may identify a separate budget to deal with that particular concern. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Item 6, Written Questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you. I am seeking unanimous consent to return back to Item 5, Oral Questions, please.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Nerysoo.

**REVERT BACK TO ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 42-12(3): W.C.B. Establishment Of M.O.U.s With Regional Health And Hospital Boards

**MR. NERYSOO:**

I did have my hand up there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions expressed concern, serious concern, about the failure of the W.C.B. to establish a profile outside Yellowknife. You know, the Standing Committee realized that the volume of claims generated from outside the Fort Smith Region would not justify the establishment of regional offices but the committee did recommend a novel approach which was subsequently supported by a motion of this House.

The committee recommended that the W.C.B. should establish agreements with the health and hospital boards to identify a health care official who could act as a regional resource person in dealing with Workers' Compensation matters. To date, this particular matter has not been dealt with, nor has the Minister made any announcements about steps they have taken to implement this recommendation. So, could the Minister indicate what action has taken place since the June, 1992 report that recommended that the W.C.B. should establish M.O.U.s with the regional health and hospital boards to provide resource and support of services to clients outside Yellowknife?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 42-12(3): W.C.B. Establishment Of M.O.U.s With Regional Health And Hospital Boards

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, the matter of a presence of the Workers' Compensation Board in the regions is of concern to me. I am pleased to inform the Assembly that I have actively been working with the Department of Safety and Public Services and the staff of the W.C.B. to develop a protocol which will allow the field presence

of the Department of Safety to be better utilized in providing safety education and training in cooperation with the W.C.B. in the field. I recognize that I am avoiding the Member's specific question about protocol with regional health boards, but because of the rate increases, the increases in accident severity in the Northwest Territories in recent years, it has been recommended to me that safety training and education and improved safety inspections are a critical matter that must be dealt with even in advance of anything else. As far as the Department of Health is concerned, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Member that the department's first priority is to work with the W.C.B. on the recommendation that there be northern based rehabilitation services provided for injured workers, and that we stop the expensive practice of sending injured workers to the south for this kind of treatment when we could probably offer this kind of service in the north. That has been actively worked on, Mr. Speaker. As far as the matter that the Member specifically referred to, I have no progress to report to date for the reasons I outlined. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Page 59

Supplementary To Question 42-12(3): W.C.B. Establishment Of M.O.U.s With Regional Health And Hospital Boards

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It only seems natural that health or occupational therapy matters would be a matter dealt with by the Department of Health and not the Department of Safety and Public Services. I would like to ask the Minister if he, being responsible for both the Workers' Compensation Board and the Department of Health that surely the process for building these agreements should be easy to facilitate, so can he say clearly in this House why he has failed to take any significant action in responding to this important committee recommendation?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 42-12(3): W.C.B. Establishment Of M.O.U.s With Regional Health And Hospital Boards

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the crisis regarding accident severity and the rates of the Workers' Compensation Board has been a predominant preoccupation of both myself and the board since the A.B.C. committee's report was laid down. As I said, the emphasis on safety and inspection, safety education and safety initiatives has been the prime focus because of the rates, cost and severity of accidents. I do not want to give the Member the idea that nothing is happening with regard to health. As I said, the department has been working actively with the W.C.B. on repatriating a rehabilitation service. That will save the board money. It is being worked on, Mr. Speaker. I just do not have any final result to report in the short months the matter has been under way.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question 42-12(3): W.C.B. Establishment Of M.O.U.s With Regional Health And Hospital Boards

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My one concern, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the matter of considering repatriating services or occupational health services and rehabilitative services is the notion that Yellowknife is the only area that is going to provide the service. I think I would categorically argue that if you are going to build other hospitals in the Northwest Territories, this government and this Minister should be utilizing those services. The closer to home for these patients the better it is. I want to ask the Minister if he is prepared to send out memos or letters to the health boards to ask for their advice as to how they might in a proactive matter respond to this particular recommendation?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 42-12(3): W.C.B. Establishment Of M.O.U.s With Regional Health And Hospital Boards

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am certainly prepared to do so. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 43-12(3): Number Of W.C.B. Meetings Outside Yellowknife

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of W.C.B. I had a report of the concerns of the residents of the Northwest Territories for the Workers' Compensation Board. They did not know the differences with the different boards. They did not know the residents of Yellowknife and outside Yellowknife accordingly the committee recommended that the board should develop a strategy for meeting outside Yellowknife on several occasions over the course of the year. Can the Minister advise the House how many times the board has, in fact, met outside Yellowknife since June, 1992? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 43-12(3): Number Of W.C.B. Meetings Outside Yellowknife

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

The board has not met outside Yellowknife once since June, 1992, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 43-12(3): Number Of W.C.B. Meetings Outside Yellowknife

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the board has not been bothering to meet regularly outside Yellowknife as the standing committee outlined, will the Minister indicate whether the recommended strategy for future regional meetings is complete and available for tabling in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 43-12(3): Number Of W.C.B. Meetings Outside Yellowknife

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that through the good offices of the Chairman of the caucus of this Legislature a meeting has been arranged for Wednesday of this week with the Chair of the Workers' Compensation Board to brief Members on the rate increases and other matters of concern. I would suggest this matter appropriately be raised with the new Chair of the board. I do not know if the board has developed a policy for meeting outside the capital. I will encourage them to do so, but I do not know the answer to that question and it is the sort of thing that could very well be properly brought up in the briefing I have arranged for two days from now. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 44-12(3): Development Of W.C.B. Policy Guidelines

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Board. The Minister knows that in 1989 an independent review committee recommended the Minister should be empowered to take a more active role in monitoring and management of the Workers' Compensation Board. This position was again supported when the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions carried out its comprehensive review. The position was further supported by a motion in this House on June 29, 1992, yet it seems as though the Minister has had less to do with the management of the board rather than more. Will the Minister indicate to the House what he has done to develop policy guidelines of the increased ministerial role recommended by the 1989 review committee as well as by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Page 60

Return To Question 44-12(3): Development Of W.C.B. Policy Guidelines

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, the matter referred to by the Member is a matter which requires legislative change. I think it is very clear that the present legislation constitutes the Workers' Compensation Board as a very independent corporate body which has "exclusive jurisdiction" to quote the act in a number of areas. So, until the legislation is changed, Mr. Speaker, I do not think anything could be done about the authority of the Minister to take a more active role in the day to day activities of the board. However, I do want to assure the honourable Member, that I have had more to do with the Workers' Compensation Board than any other Minister in recent years. I would inform the Member that my contacts with the Chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Board in recent months have been frequent and often daily and I am working very closely with the board through the Chair. Legislative or no legislative change, that is now happening. I will look forward to recommendations of the legislative review on how that matter can be dealt with in a more permanent way through possible legislative change. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 44-12(3): Development Of W.C.B. Policy Guidelines

**MR. KOE:**

Given the statements, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister make a firm commitment to bring about the legislative and policy changes that will finally allow him to exercise and assert influence that this organization so badly needs?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 44-12(3): Development Of W.C.B. Policy Guidelines

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Member knows in our system of government that power does not alone rest with the Minister. What I am committed to doing is presenting to the Standing Committee on Legislation, a legislative action plan which would deal with that issue among other issues. I think the process next would call for hearings, submissions from the public, and input from Members of this Assembly to determine the final shape of the legislative package.



However, Mr. Speaker, I will commit to recognizing that this is a very important and sensitive issue which must be addressed, and I am well aware of the Members views and the standing committees views that there should be a more active role permitted legislatively by the Minister. This will be addressed in the legislative action plan, but where that will go from here, I cannot guarantee. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 44-12(3): Development Of W.C.B. Policy Guidelines

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Clearly the Workers' Compensation Board is carrying out its mandate according to its seemingly narrow priorities, with seemingly little consideration for the way its decisions are impacting workers and employers in the communities across the north. The average 12 per cent hike in assessment rates and failure of the board to bother developing a workable definition for hunters and trappers coverage are examples. It seems the Minister is reluctant to take the direct role in the management and decision-making of this agency. Will the Minister consider a process through which Members of this Assembly are more directly involved in providing guidance to the Workers' Compensation Board?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 44-12(3): Development Of W.C.B. Policy Guidelines

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, of course two days from now the Members of the Assembly will have an opportunity, directly, to hold the Chair of the board accountable, for their actions at a caucus meeting. As far as an ongoing process to involve M.L.A.s in the operation of the board, I think the route that has so far traditionally been followed in our Legislature is that M.L.A.s have input into the operation of government departments, and boards and agencies, by holding the Minister responsible for that board and agency accountable for the operations of that board and agency. I think this is the route to go. I cannot see a way in which the Legislature could have a direct relationship with the

board. I think our system calls for the accountability to be exercised through the accountability of a Minister to this House. I am a bit puzzled by the Members question. I think the route is for Members to have a Minister accountable to them and for the Minister to have the tools to hold the board accountable. That latter device, the ability for the Minister to hold the board accountable is something that is obviously going to have to be reviewed in the case of the W.C.B. because right now the tools are very limited. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 45-12(3): Minister's Briefing on W.C.B. Appointments

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the W.C.B., since his is the accountable Minister to answer questions in this House, and they relate specifically to his responsibilities. The Minister should be aware by now that the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, the Assembly and even the 1989 review committee appointed by the W.C.B. itself, have all recommended that the Ministers involvement in the Workers' Compensation should be increased. The Minister should also be aware that Mr. Hill, the person he has appointed to act as Chair for the Workers' Compensation Board has made public statements that the Minister and ordinary M.L.A.s have no business in monitoring the boards activities. In fact he went on the radio and stated that the ministerial or M.L.A. involvement in W.C.B. would be anathema and that word means that it would be something to be detested or condemned. His new chairperson has made it clear he will actively oppose a more active ministerial role in board decisions. So, my question to the Minister is, recognizing that Mr. Hill's views on this matter are so obviously contrary to the will of the House and the recommendations provided to the Minister, did the Minister brief Mr. Hill clearly on all these issues before making this appointment?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 45-12(3): Minister's Briefing On W.C.B. Appointments

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Page 61

Supplementary To Question 45-12(3): Minister's Briefing On W.C.B. Appointments

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the briefing was not a very adequate one, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister whether he will assure this House that prior to making further appointments to the Workers' Compensation Board he will show the proper leadership to brief people in a way so they fully understand exactly what the feelings of Members are on the issue of the operation of the Workers' Compensation Board?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 45-12(3): Minister's Briefing On W.C.B. Appointments

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I will certainly endeavour to do so. I believe there is ample evidence of the views of Members of this Assembly on the appropriate role and responsibilities of the Workers' Compensation Board, reflected principally in the very comprehensive report of the A.B.C. committee, and as well reflected in the transcripts of this Legislature. I will certainly endeavour to do so. I should say, Mr. Speaker, that sometimes, once appointed, members develop their own views on a board and their own corporate approach, but I will certainly, within the powers that are available to me, make it clear in making appointments the views of Members on the accountability as outlined very eloquently in a number of statements made in this House today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral Questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 46-12(3): Tabling Of W.C.B. Corporate Plan

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. As the Minister knows, section 91 of the Financial Administration Act requires all territorial corporations to submit a corporate plan to the appropriate Minister. The corporate plan must include the following information: the objectives for the period covered by the plan; the strategy to be used in meeting objectives; the expected performance of the territorial corporation as compared to its last set of approved objectives; and, an evaluation of the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of the territorial corporation. Mr. Speaker, recognizing that this would be a valuable tool in ensuring the accountability of the Workers' Compensation Board, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommended that this corporate plan should be tabled. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise us why he has failed to comply with this recommendation by refusing to table the W.C.B. corporate plan?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 46-12(3): Tabling Of W.C.B. Corporate Plan

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the new Chair of the Workers' Compensation Board about this very issue and I can inform the House that it was only a few days ago that the board finalized its budget for the forthcoming fiscal year. I think it is a very responsible budget that has been developed, I might add. I am informed by the Chairperson that both the budget and a strategic plan of the W.C.B., which will be part of that budget, will soon be in my hands and I can inform the House that I will immediately table that document upon receipt. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral Questions. Mr. Bernhardt.

Question 47-12(3): Receipt Of W.C.B. Strategic Plan

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Since 1990 the Workers' Compensation Board has completed a strategic plan as a yearly planning exercise. Apparently it has been the practice of the board to forward a copy to the Minister. My question

is, can the Minister confirm whether he has received the board's strategic plan for the current 1992-93 fiscal year?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 47-12(3): Receipt Of W.C.B. Strategic Plan

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I received the board's annual report for the last fiscal year and I tabled it in this House. That is all I have received other than the budget information that was presented to the Standing Committee on Finance. I have received nothing else.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Bernhardt.

Supplementary To Question 47-12(3): Receipt Of W.C.B. Strategic Plan

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The standing committee report also recommended that the Minister should make legislative changes to ensure that the Workers' Compensation Board's strategic plan was received for his approval and for tabling in this House on a yearly basis. Will the Minister make a commitment to ensure that this amendment is outlined in the legislative action paper he is supposed to bring forward by December 31 of this year?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 47-12(3): Receipt Of W.C.B. Strategic Plan

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, that recommendation makes very good sense to me and I will commit that it will be part of the legislative action plan presented to this House. It makes eminent good sense. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 48-12(3): W.C.B. Policy Of Referring W.C.B. Claimant Files To Workers' Advisor

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. When the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions reviewed the appeals process within W.C.B., it noted that the former practice of referring claimant files for review by the manager of claims service had been discontinued. The standing committee felt that reinstating this procedure would avoid some of the cumbersome, intimidating and adversarial interaction that seemed to characterize the appeals process. The workers' advisor for W.C.B. had also recommended reinstating the earlier process in the policy. Can the Minister inform the House whether this recommendation had been complied with?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Page 62

Return To Question 48-12(3): W.C.B. Policy Of Referring Claimant Files To Workers' Advisor

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that that procedure has been reinstated. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Todd.

Question 49-12(3): W.C.B. Policy Changes To Acquire Information

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also for the Minister of the W.C.B. Mr. Speaker, the Minister should be aware that the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommended that he should undertake a major review of the office of the workers' advisor who is responsible for helping injured workers navigate their way through the workers' compensation process. During public hearings, it became apparent that the W.C.B. was making it difficult for the workers' advisor to access the full range of material she required to carry out her duties. Can the Minister advise the

House whether the necessary policy changes have been made which allow the workers' advisor better access to information?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

I had better take this one as notice, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question has been taken as notice. Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 50-12(3): Increase Of W.C.B. Legal Counsel

**MR. PUDLUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the W.C.B. During public hearings held by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions it was revealed that whereas W.C.B. used to have a contract with a single law firm in Yellowknife, this year it contracted with three firms to meet the same legal requirement. Could the Minister indicate whether this decision has been based on legal assessment of board needs, or is it simply an attempt by the W.C.B. administration to build a case for in-house legal counsel in further year's budgets? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 50-12(3): Increase Of W.C.B. Legal Counsel

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, the tender for the provision of legal services to the Workers' Compensation Board was a decision made by the board itself and not the administration. I am certainly not privy to the reasons why the matter was handled in that way. I can tell the Legislature that I have had discussions with the new Chairperson of the board about this matter. He informs me, and I agree, that the present situation is unsatisfactory, that there are sizeable amounts being spent on legal advice by the Workers' Compensation Board, and that the option of obtaining the capability

in-house certainly seems a viable option in light of the sizeable amounts which have been spent with various firms in getting legal opinions. I think this is an option which the board is looking at and probably should look at. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 50-12(3): Increase Of W.C.B. Legal Counsel

**MR. PUDLUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The territorial Audit Bureau might be in a position to review contracting procedures with government agencies. Will the Minister consider asking the Government Leader to include this matter in the bureau's internal audit plan for 1993-94?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 50-12(3): Increase Of W.C.B. Legal Counsel

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 50-12(3): Increase Of W.C.B. Legal Counsel

**MR. PUDLUK:**

Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary. At a time when assessment rates are skyrocketing and the Y.M.I.R. is barely sufficient to meet the basic needs of injured workers, is the Minister willing to take responsibility for assuring the House and the public at large that the most economic, efficient and effective administrative procedures are being used by the W.C.B. to meet their requirement for legal services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 50-12(3): Increase Of W.C.B. Legal Counsel

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, both myself and the present Chair of the Workers' Compensation Board are, frankly, not convinced that the sizeable monies spent now on a yearly basis for legal advice are producing good value for money. I therefore have no difficulty in responding, yes, to the honourable Member that I am certainly willing to take responsibility for seeing that a review of the present situation is undertaken. It is a matter which has already been brought to the attention of the Chair and it is a matter in which we can obviously improve on. I have no hesitation in answering, yes, to that question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Todd.

Question 51-12(3): Minister's Role In W.C.B. Rate Increases

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the W.C.B. Mr. Speaker, the board has announced that there will be an average 12 per cent increase in the rates which employees will have to pay commencing January 1, 1993. Some industries and primarily the construction sector will increase by about 25 per cent over the 1992 rates. It is absolutely incredible that during times of recession, which has been harder on people of the Northwest Territories in business than ever before, that the Workers' Compensation Board should be in a position where it places this additional burden by escalating these rates. Will the Minister indicate to the House what his own role has been in allowing these rates to go through?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Page 63

Return To Question 51-12(3): Minister's Role In W.C.B. Rate Increases

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish that I had the power to allow the rates to be approved or not approved, as the Member

may know that power for better or for worse lies exclusively with the Workers' Compensation Board. I can assure the House, Mr. Speaker, that I have been involved to the extent possible through the Chairperson of the board in scrutinizing and ensuring the maximum possible scrutiny of the process used to set the 1993 rates. I have been involved as actively as possible in ensuring that the rates are as low as possible given the accident frequency and severity in the Northwest Territories in recent years. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question 51-12(3): Minister's Role In W.C.B. Rate Increases

**MR. TODD:**

The Minister should be aware that while this years increases have been capped at 25 per cent, that the rates for northern building construction industry has increased by 141 per cent since 1988. The painting, decorating and flooring firms have experienced a 250 per cent increase since 1988. How can the Minister honestly expect business people in the north to be able to stay in business when pressures like this are added to this government agency? Can he explain it to me, please?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 51-12(3): Minister's Role In W.C.B. Rate Increases

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the hardship on certain classes of employers in the Northwest Territories economy. I can tell the honourable Member that I have written the Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board recommending, and I think this was a recommendation of the A.B.C. committee review, if I recall correctly, that the definition of employer sub-classes be reviewed with a view to ensuring that there was as much equity as possible in place in defining employer sub-classes. I have also written to the board and suggested that a penalty assessment and a merit rebate process should be implemented to reward work places where there have been safe practices and a reduced accident record, and penalize those who have caused problems. Mr. Speaker, since I was apprised of the

rate increases, and on the advice of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions I have seen to it that the Workers' Compensation Board undertake a second opinion from another independent actuary to determine whether the rate setting process and the resultant rates are necessary for the coming year. I expect the results of that review by the end of the month. I would like to assure the honourable Member, Mr. Speaker, that I too share his great concern about the impact on northern businesses. I fully understand that this additional blow will be something which will make the line for survival even more difficult in these times. I suppose in hindsight now it might have been wiser in previous years not to have capped rate increases because rate increases were capped in the last couple of years and the consequences are now being visited on us when the recession is even deeper. Mr. Speaker, those are some measures which I have asked the board to undertake and we will soon have the benefit of a second actuarial opinion as to whether those rates were calculated in the most effective way possible with a view to the employers' interests. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 52-12(3): Impact Of Fraudulent Claims On W.C.B. Financial Status

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. I have been absolutely dismayed by the announcement that the W.C.B. employer's assessment will be increased by an average of 12 per cent, effective January 1. The board has stated publicly, and I quote the full page advertisement that appears in the November 4 edition of the Yellowknifer, "the major reason for this increase is the higher cost of accidents and subsequent treatment costs."

Mr. Speaker, that may be part of the reason, but I think it is also necessary to look within the administrative framework of the board itself to understand the full basis of the rate hike. For instance, can the Minister advise the House whether the board has carried out the potential impact of fraudulent claims on the overall financial status of the Workers' Compensation Board?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 52-12(3): Impact Of Fraudulent Claims On W.C.B. Financial Status

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I am informed that the board has decided to establish an internal audit process to address this issue and also to address the issue of the many employers who fail to report their activities in the Northwest Territories which also costs the board significant revenue. So the board has made a decision to develop a process to deal with those matters, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 52-12(3): Impact Of Fraudulent Claims On W.C.B. Financial Status

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The overall costs of Workers' Compensation has spun out of control, partially because of the additional expenditures now being made in the area of rehabilitation. In the W.C.B.'s 1991 Annual Report, the rehabilitation unit spent \$2,517,490 and serviced 337 cases of which only 34 per cent were listed as resolved cases. That is roughly \$21,702 per resolved case. Is the Minister willing to accept that northern businesses are carrying the load for inefficiencies within the Workers' Compensation Board, rehabilitation section?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 52-12(3): Impact Of Fraudulent Claims On W.C.B. Financial Status

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the honourable Member explaining, or revealing the significant monies that have been spent on rehabilitation by the Workers' Compensation Board in recent years. I think that this does go to show that, amongst the criticism levied against the W.C.B. today in this House, spending on rehabilitation should not be one of the criticisms. In fact, there has been a significant expenditure in that area and it is a new program and it has increased significantly since it was established.

However, the Member properly questions whether we are getting value for our money in this area. Mr. Speaker, I can inform him that I have had discussions with the board chairperson about this area. It is an area of concern, and the board has undertaken an independent review of the whole rehabilitation area with a view to determine whether it is getting

Page 64

value for its dollars and, if not, what changes should be put in place to ensure a more effective program. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 52-12(3): Impact Of Fraudulent Claims On W.C.B. Financial Status

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Minister should be ashamed of the fact that northern businesses are subsidizing southern fly-in operators. The Northwest Territories Chamber of Commerce has pointed out many southern based firms send workers to the Northwest Territories for brief periods of time, then leave long term Northwest Territories businesses carrying the burden of the W.C.B. costs.

In fact, the Minister should be aware that 70 per cent of the rehabilitation case load which cost roughly \$2.5 million reside outside of the Northwest Territories.

What is the Minister prepared to do to ensure that northern businesses do not go under solely to keep transient workers coming north?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 52-12(3): Impact Of Fraudulent Claims On W.C.B. Financial Status

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, the board has the capability to audit these very companies that the Member refers to, to ensure that they pay their share of assessments for their sometimes fleeting term of operation in the Northwest Territories and I am informed by the board that the person or persons engaged in this area

earned their salary many times over by finding and pursuing these transient operators.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons, for better or for worse, that many of the employees on compensation do not reside in the Northwest Territories is that the cost of living is cheaper in the south and they can make their compensation and their pensions go further.

One way of possibly addressing that matter and perhaps providing more of a benefit to the economy of the Northwest Territories, would be to look at a two-tier YMIR such that there would be a rate paid for workers on compensation who are living in the north and a different and a lesser rate paid to those who are residing in the south. Whether this would generate savings overall is not clear but it is an option that should be examined and it would address the concern the Member expressed. I think that this is something that should be looked at in the context of the legislative review being proposed.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 52-12(3): Impact Of Fraudulent Claims On W.C.B. Financial Status

**MR. KOE:**

My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The Workers' Compensation Board has attributed the huge increase in assessment rates to cost of accidents in 1991. I wonder if the board has considered looking at its own office complex, the glasswork palace in Yellowknife Centre Square Mall which is probably the most classy and over decorated office space in the city. Will the Minister immediately review the board's \$1 million expenditure for office lease and renovations in 1991 and explain why that figure increased by \$300,000 over 1990?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 52-12(3): Impact Of Fraudulent Claims On W.C.B. Financial Status

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker. I have been actively trying to address that issue with the Workers' Compensation Board since I have received this appointment. Mr. Speaker,

the board was on the verge of sub-leasing space that Members will know is presently unused. They were on the verge of signing a lease recently and, unfortunately, the tenant received a better offer and reneged on the planned tenancy just at the last possible minute. So, some \$160,000 per year of potential revenue has slipped out of our hands.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the board has just undergone an intensive budget setting exercise and I am informed that significant reductions in the operating expenses of the board itself have been achieved in the budget exercise, which I will be presenting to this House, in due course. So I think the board has already scrutinized the cost of its own operations as the Member asks for. However, his question asks if I will continue to pursue that and I can assure the honourable Member that I will do so. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 53-12(3): Public Forum On W.C.B. 1993 Rates

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it has been a long day for the Minister but I have one more question for the Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation. Mr. Speaker, recently the Workers' Compensation Board announced an increase in rates and it has been mentioned by several other Members today, the rates on an average of 12 per cent and up to 25 per cent in increases.

Last Friday, the board advertised a public forum to be held November 25 in Yellowknife which it says will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to discuss the setting of 1993 rates. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister is, given that the Workers' Compensation Board has announced all interested parties to discuss the setting of 1993 rates. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister is, given that the Workers' Compensation Board has announced that the 1993 employer assessment rates have already been set, can the Minister advise what the board hopes to achieve by staging this opportunity for the public to discuss rates which have already been set without any public participation?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 53-12(3): Public Forum On W.C.B. 1993 Rates

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, this is an annual practice of the Workers' Compensation Board to hold a public information session to inform the public of the process used to set rates. I agree with the honourable Member that it may be seen as a frustrating exercise in that the rates have been announced and set. I think I could without holding out much hope that this can be amended, I could tell the House and the honourable Member that the setting of rates is always a provisional matter and that should circumstances change it may be possible to reconsider those rates. They are not completely set in concrete and we are awaiting the opinion of a second actuary which may shed some light on this situation, so there is possibly room for revision if some facts should come to light if no one was hither to aware of them. So it is not a complete fait accompli, Mr. Speaker, although I agree with the Member that on the eve of the new year, it is difficult to say there is a way around the present situation. Thank you.

Page 65

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 53-12(3): Public Forum On W.C.B. 1993 Rates

**MR. DENT:**

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform the House who will be present at this forum on November 25? Will it be Workers' Compensation Board members, actuaries, auditors, or will the Minister also be there?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 53-12(3): Public Forum On W.C.B. 1993 Rates

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, the actuary who assisted the board in preparing the 1993 rates will be present along with the Chair of the board and officials. I am not sure if other board members will be present, but I know the



Chairperson will be the prime spokesperson for the board. I will probably attend the session, but it will be as an observer. I think the prime accountability rests with the Chairperson and staff in light of the board's exclusive authority to set rates out of the present legislation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 53-12(3): Public Forum On W.C.B. 1993 Rates

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This rate increase will seriously affect employers not only in Yellowknife and the Fort Smith region, but also employers in communities around the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister advise whether the Workers' Compensation Board will provide the same opportunity for a forum in different regions of the north?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 53-12(3): Public Forum On W.C.B. 1993 Rates

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the Chairperson of the board has some plans to travel outside the capital to make himself available to members of the public and the business community who wish to discuss the issue. I am not aware of precisely where and when he plans to travel, but I know there have been some plans made for consultations. I also know that there are some sectors such as mine managers from mines across the territories who are taking it upon themselves to come here to consult with the board and its Chair. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 53-12(3): Public Forum On W.C.B. 1993 Rates

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary. I am pleased to hear that the Minister advised that the Chairman is planning to travel to different regions. Would the Minister undertake to provide this House with a listing of the communities and a schedule for that travel?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 53-12(3): Public Forum On W.C.B. 1993 Rates

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will be pleased to do so. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Todd.

Question 54-12(3): Inconsistency In Minister's Statements

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the W.C.B. All we have been talking about this afternoon is ministerial authority and accountability. What I am a little confused about is, why is it that during the A.B.C. public hearings the Minister took such pains to debate with my honourable colleague for Thebacha that he had the power to influence board decisions, even though the act gives the W.C.B. exclusive jurisdiction. He referred to his own authority to act under section 91 of the Financial Administration Act and he talked a lot about his authority over board appointments. Now he seems to be saying that he cannot take a direct role until after the legislation is amended. Why has there been such inconsistency in what he is saying now as compared to what he has said to us in May, 1992? If I may, I would like to request an extension of question period, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are no nays, question period will be extended. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 54-12(3): Inconsistency In Minister's Statements

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I recall the debate in the previous session of this Legislature, and as I recall it the point I was making to honourable Members is that quite apart from the strict letter of the law, and there are differing opinions in hand about the extent of the Minister's role in the management or direction of the W.C.B., quite apart from those legal opinions and legal interpretations about which even good lawyers seem to have different views, the point which I was trying to make is that a satisfactory and a close working relationship between the Minister and the Chair should provide the kind of communication, accountability, and influence that Members of this House are pressing for in their various recommendations about the W.C.B. I pledged that I would use my good offices with the Chairperson to attempt to have that influence, in fact if not in law, but through a good working relationship. I have worked mightily on that, Mr. Speaker, not with success in all areas but I have worked mightily on that and I think I have developed a close working relationship with Mr. Roberts and Mr. Hill that has lessened the critical nature of legislative reform in that area because the influence has been there. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 55-12(3): Review Policy On Replacement Traps

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question ends the issues related to the Workers' Compensation Board. I am going to ask my question to the absent Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, I will direct the question to the Government Leader. Could the Government Leader review the policy with regard to the traps which are being used for replacements and consider using the conibear 1-10 as a replacement trap in the Trap Replacement Program? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 55-12(3): Review Policy On Replacement Traps

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, yes we will do that immediately.

Page 66

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 56-12(3): Cost Of Expo '92

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So that another Minister does not feel left out, I would like to address this question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Since the beginning of the 12th Legislative Assembly, Members on this side of the House have heard the Minister give us gloomy forecasts on the financial state or our participation at Expo '92 at Seville. I think I in fact refer to this as "shortfall in Seville".

Mr. Speaker, since Expo '92 has now ended and our participation is now finally and probably painfully complete, could the Minister inform the House what the total bill in Seville will be? Or as they might say in Spanish "quantas questa", what is the cost?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Senor Pollard.

---Laughter

Return To Question 56-12(3): Cost Of Expo '92

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We still do not know what the total cost is. There will be an interim statement provided to the House before the end of this session. Mr. Speaker, there are also some claims upon us by people who said we made commitments to buy products from them and we are investigating those claims and I would not want to present the Legislative Assembly with half the story. When I do come here with the final bill, I would like all the pain to be at one time, Mr. Speaker. If I can make a commitment to do it by the end of this session, I will do so. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Ms. Mike.

Question 57-12(3): Effects Of Tranquillized Polar Bear Meat

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources. I do not want to sound petty but it is important because the majority of my constituents are hunters. There is a C.B.C. news transcript which says "the Minister of Renewable Resources indicates that eating the meat of polar bears, which have been tranquillized, could have a harmful effect on people but he also says there should be no harmful effect if people wait until three days after the bear was drugged before they eat the meat". I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, what does he mean by that?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 57-12(3): Effects Of Tranquillized Polar Bear Meat

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My response to the Member for High Arctic was taken as a negative one by C.B.C. What I meant was that if there are activities by scientists who are studying the polar bears, we discourage people from eating the polar bears for up to one week. The doctors tell us that the traces of the drug which is used to make polar bears sleep cannot be traced after three days. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 57-12(3): Effects Of Tranquillized Polar Bear Meat

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How is the hunter supposed to know when the polar bear was drugged, whether it be a day, two days, a week, or four weeks ago?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 57-12(3): Effects Of Tranquillized Polar Bear Meat

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally if there are polar bear studies taking place anywhere in the Northwest

Territories, the closest communities are informed. If there are going to be any activities, we go into the communities and inform the H.T.A. and the public that there are going to be these activities taking place near their communities. In the event that a hunter gets a polar bear with an ear tag and tattoos on the polar bear's lips, the scientist or my department are able to inform the hunter when that tattoo or ear tag took place. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 57-12(3): Effects Of Tranquillized Polar Bear Meat

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a date on the ear tags or the tattoos on the lips?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 57-12(3): Effects Of Tranquillized Polar Bear Meat

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

No, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 57-12(3): Effects Of Tranquillized Polar Bear Meat

**MS. MIKE:**

I am concerned because most of the hunters, as you are one Mr. Minister, many times when they are out hunting, they will consume some the meat on the spot or a few hours later. If there is no way of telling whether the polar bear has been tranquillized, how is the hunter supposed to know besides waiting until he gets back to the community and hand in the tag and then try and find out when the polar bear was tranquillized?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 57-12(3): Effects Of Tranquillized Polar Bear Meat

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

If there is going to be any scientific studies on polar bears we let the communities know. By then the hunters who are going after the polar bears should know if there is going to be any activity near their community. This normally takes place in the spring usually around April, May and June. Also, sometimes in the Northwest Territories there are studies of the polar bears during the summer. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Page 67

Question 58-12(3): Relocation Of South Slavey Interpreter/Translator Position

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday of last week I asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs if he was fully committed to the decentralization initiative of this government. The Minister responded by saying yes and then question period expired. I have another question to the same Minister, Mr. Speaker, in particular in my statement of last week, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs have been reluctant to make a decision to relocate the South Slavey Interpreter/Translator position from Hay River to the Hay River Reserve, to establish an office for this position on the reserve. Since decentralization is a policy initiative of this government and the relocation of this position has been strongly supported by the band council and the Dene people of the Hay River Reserve, could the Minister please tell me when he will give due consideration to the request by the band council to relocate this important position?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question 58-12(3): Relocation Of South Slavey Interpreter/Translator Position

**HON. JAMES ARVALUK:**

Mr. Speaker, we are not making immediate plans to move any of the language bureau offices stationed in

Hay River to anywhere in the N.W.T. However, I can inform the Member that this does not mean it will not be considered during the bigger decentralization program which we are conducting. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 58-12(3): Relocation Of South Slavey Interpreter/Translator Position

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have served in this House long enough to know that if you do not get a definitive commitment from the Cabinet you do not have much. I would ask the Minister again, when can the Band Council of the Hay River Reserve expect a decision to be made on the relocation of the South Slavey Interpreter/Translator position?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question 58-12(3): Relocation Of South Slavey Interpreter/Translator Position

**HON. JAMES ARVALUK:**

Mr. Speaker, I thought I was clear by stating that there are no plans for the purpose of moving the Hay River Office elsewhere right now. Everything else is under review for the decentralization program whether it is in the east or elsewhere, then that can also be considered. But, right now, as I said, I am not making any plans to move the Hay River office and Language Bureau position outside of Hay River.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 58-12(3): Relocation Of South Slavey Interpreter/Translator Position

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Speaker. The Minister, in his response to my request, did say that there is a need to review and analyze the programs and services that the department provides and to develop plans for the future programs and services. Due to that, the Minister has indicated that no decision will be made at this time. I would like to ask the Minister then, when

does he expect his department to complete the development plans for future programs and services?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question 58-12(3): Relocation Of South Slavey Interpreter/Translator Position

**HON. JAMES ARVALUK:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not think my department is isolated from this transfer program and some of these transfers are scheduled to be complete within the year and there was also discussion in that some of the Interpreter Corps may be transferred to divisional boards. Then, wherever the divisional board office is at the time for some particular areas, then these will be considered.

So the decentralization is not only that they would stay in the same department, but some of the Language Bureau may be transferred to the divisional boards to serve that region and some of the Language Bureau will still be serving the main programs, such as Legislative Assembly and other departments. So this is part of the whole review, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 58-12(3): Relocation Of South Slavey Interpreter/Translator Position

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you. If I am clear on what the Minister is suggesting, and in response to what the Minister has said then, he does support regional governments taking on that responsibility?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 58-12(3): Relocation Of South Slavey Interpreter/Translator Position

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Speaker, I think we have a little misunderstanding here. I said divisional board. There is a consideration for the divisional board to take on some of the Interpreter Corps and some will be retained by the

government as a whole. This is part of the decentralization program that we are undertaking that will be completed some time within the year.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I think you have had your three supplementaries, Mr. Gargan. Item 5, Oral Questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 59-12(3): Principle Residence Of W.C.B. Chairman

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Workers' Compensation Board. I would like to ask the Minister, the Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board, if he could advise this House as to the principle residence of the Workers' Compensation Board's Chairman? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 59-12(3): Principle Residence Of W.C.B. Chairman

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions, Mr. Dent.

Page 68

Question 60-12(3): Reason For E.D. & T. Staff Travel To The Far East

**MR. DENT:**

I have a question again for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Speaker, I have been given to understand that at least one of the Minister's departmental staff is travelling in the Far East and, knowing that the next Expo is planned for Korea, excuse me, considerable concern that anybody from that department might be getting anywhere close to Korea. Although I have heard that this person is probably travelling in Japan.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise this House as to the purpose of his staff travelling in the Far East?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 60-12(3): Reason For E.D. & T. Staff Travel To The Far East

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, that is related to tourism. It is something that we have been trying for the last few years to get going which is more Japanese visitors to the Northwest Territories. It is a regular thing. There are some operators attending with that particular person, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 60-12(3): Reason For E.D. & T. Staff Travel To The Far East

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. Will the Minister be willing to provide this House with the rationale for these visits? In other words, what is the benefit that we expect to receive from this kind of trip?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 60-12(3): Reason For ED&T Staff Travel To The Far East

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will provide that to the House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions, Ms. Mike.

Question 61-12(3): Method Determining Distance Of Daily Polar Bear Travel

**MS. MIKE:**

(Translation) My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise this House whether or not his department has ever determined a method in finding out how far a polar bear can travel in one day?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question 61-12(3): Method Determining Distance Of Daily Polar Bear Travel

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have some statistics that shows different ranges of polar bears, especially female polar bears, which we have been able to put radio collars on. With respect to male polar bears, we do not know. We are not able to put any collar on because the neck is bigger in size than the head and radio collars would just drop off. With respect to female polar bears, we have some statistics and I will be able to provide the Member, or any of the Members who are interested, in where the polar bears that we have collared have gone. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 61-12(3): Method Determining Distance Of Daily Polar Bear Travel

**MS. MIKE:**

Mr. Speaker, did he take that as notice? All I was asking was how far the polar bear can travel in one day?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister did not take the question as notice. Mr. Alloofoo.

Further Return To Question 61-12(3): Method Determining Distance Of Daily Polar Bear Travel

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The scientific information that we have been able to gather varies. I know the traditional knowledge of the Inuit have some information towards that. The males who are able to travel a lot longer for longer distances, the scientific community, so far, is not able to get that information. The only information we can get is female polar bears. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 61-12(3): Method Determining Distance Of Daily Polar Bear Travel

**MS. MIKE:**

Maybe I am not making myself clear, Mr. Speaker. What is the minimum and maximum recorded that has been traced by the polar bear movement?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 61-12(3): Method Determining Distance Of daily Polar Bear Travel

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you. I will get that information, as soon as I can, for the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 62-12(3): Compensation For Trappers

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Renewable Resources, in light of the potential loss of financial resources to the trappers as a result of a miscalculation for trap replacement, could the Minister indicate to me if he would consider a matter of compensation to those harvesters who will now no longer be able to harvest resources as a result of the departmental mistake?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 62-12(3): Compensation For Trappers

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard the Member making remarks during Members' Statements that the Member thought that the department ordered less than what is required in the Northwest Territories in terms of quick kill traps. That is not true. In May, 1992 they ordered 17,000 quick kill traps from three different companies and they are not able to deliver because the demand in Canada is so great for these new traps they are not even available through public stores. We have to order from these manufacturers. To date, we have only been able to get 10,000 traps this year. We are hoping to get, by the end of this program, 1993-94, 100,000 quick kill traps for the

trappers in the Northwest Territories. My department is also looking at creating an industry in the Northwest Territories, along with Economic Development, to

Page 69

get trap makers established in the Northwest Territories. At the present time we are looking at that because the demand is not being met by the Canadian companies. I am told even one company is thinking of moving to another country to get the labour costs down. For the Members' question, Mr. Speaker, yes, we could look at that option to see how we can help the trappers. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question 62-12(3): Compensation For Trappers

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to debate the honourable Member, but the facts are that at a recent meeting that there are no traps in the Northwest Territories left for replacement traps. I want the honourable Member to indicate to me how he intends to satisfy the exchange program and to accommodate those trappers that wish to in fact have their traps replaced, including the use of conibear 1-10s as a replacement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 62-12(3): Compensation For Trappers

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That seems to be the best option at this point, to use conibear 1-10 traps for those trappers. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question 62-12(3): Compensation For Trappers

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, that was a recommendation that was just made by trappers out

of Arctic Red River that you use that particular product. I wonder if the honourable Member could indicate to me and to this House during this session, whether he is going to make those orders so the replacement program can continue?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question 62-12(3): Compensation For Trappers

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my department to do whatever is the best method and best trap to use as a replacement for the quick kill traps. We will act on this as soon as possible. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 63-12(3): Quotas On Polar Bear Cubs Killed From Conibear Traps

**MR. PUDLUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In addition to one of my fellow M.L.A.s questions to the Minister of Renewable Resources. The replacement traps are quite big in size and strong. The old traps that were being used for foxes used to accidentally trap little polar bear cubs. It is apparent those new traps that are being put into place, I am very sure there will be some polar bear cubs being trapped and breaking their legs. Would that be taken off the quota of that particular community because this polar bear would have to be killed when it gets a broken leg from the trap?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question 63-12(3): Quotas On Polar Bear Cubs Killed From Conibear Traps

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question that was raised. At this point the High Arctic people would have a polar bear plan for the communities in agreement with the communities. Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet

have an agreement in place regarding polar bears. If there was to be a polar bear caught out of season, especially when the polar bear was being a nuisance, the community would be compensated for that particular bear. I expect if there was to be a polar bear cub trapped accidentally, this community would be compensated for this bear that was accidentally harvested. I cannot say for sure today. If this polar bear that was harvested accidentally would be taken off the quota. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 64-12(3): Interpreters At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and pertaining to interpreting staff at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Mr. Speaker, diagnostic assessment by a physician is only a preliminary process in the medical field. Communication between a physician and a patient is a most essential part of the process. Mr. Speaker, partial understanding and partial treatment, the consequences are you require more visitation by the patient to a doctor, more costly to the government. My question, Mr. Speaker, is that from time to time people from my communities, Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Spence Bay, complain that the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital does not have a person who speaks and understands Natilikmiot dialect. I wonder if the Minister would look into this matter seriously and get back to the communities? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 64-12(3): Interpreters At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, as I understand it the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital presently has an interpreter who speaks the Natilikmiot dialect. As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, this issue of concern is not a problem for patients from the Member's constituency at this point in time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**



Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 64-12(3): Interpreters At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About two weeks ago I was visiting Gjoa Haven and Spence Bay. I was approached by people who have utilized the medical utility. They complained, only recently, that the hospital did not provide an interpreter that speaks the Natilikmiot dialect. I would like to ask the Minister if he would provide me with the name of that person who interprets and translates at the hospital? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 64-12(3): Interpreters At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be glad to do so, and I would also ask the honourable

Page 70

Member if he could assist me by giving me some details about the nature of the concerns from Gjoa Haven. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 65-12(3): Action On Request For Apology From Military

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader. I would like to acknowledge the support that the honourable colleague for Baffin Central provided last Friday to the response that I received from the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs regarding an official apology from the Government of Canada regarding operation Nordic Reliance.

The honourable Members will recall that this involved an incident in which several armed forces personnel shot caribou in the Coppermine area without permits

and reportedly with firearms and ammunition that should have been used only for military purposes.

This is a grave concern, Mr. Speaker, one that has demonstrated a lack of respect for aboriginal northerners on a way of life and a special spiritual relationship with the animals that they sustained for centuries. Can the Premier advise the House as to what action she has taken since Friday to request an official apology from the Government of Canada and the appropriate military authorities with Princess Patricia's Light Infantry Regiment in Winnipeg?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 65-12(3): Action On Request For Apology From Military

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I instructed that a strong letter be drafted and ready for my signature. The draft came back and it was not satisfactory. It has been sent back to get more critical wording in and I will make sure that letter is ready tomorrow for sending. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 65-12(3): Action On Request For Apology From Military

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To Madam Premier. Recognizing the significance of this issue for people of the Northwest Territories, I was dismayed at the sort of response I received when I asked the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs whether he has received an official apology. He stated, "I will check my mail and get back to the Members", and I think he did check until 9:30 on Friday night. That was good.

---Laughter

Will the Premier meet immediately with her Cabinet and direct them to treat matters in this House with the seriousness and respect that they deserve?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 65-12(3): Action On Request For Apology From Military

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I just want to assure all the Members that we do take every question with seriousness and respect. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 66-12(3): Progress On White Hill Lake Access Road

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister Responsible for Transportation. The Department of Transportation administers a Community Local Access Road Program to provide funds for the construction of roads from communities to local resources.

The residents of Baker Lake have had an outstanding request for an access road toward White Hill Lake for nearly three years now. Although a preliminary planning survey was conducted in 1990, I am told that no progress has been made on the project since then.

My question is, can the Minister of Transportation explain why the Baker Lake project which, apparently, received some priority in the past, has not progressed under the leadership of the Minister from Yellowknife? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question 66-12(3): Progress On White Hill Lake Access Road

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The initial work was done. A preliminary investigation has been undertaken to identify the cost and the magnitude of such an undertaking and it was determined, an initial estimate of work was fairly high and it was stacked up against a list of other priorities for other communities, that it did not meet that urgent a priority given the costs involved.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 66-12(3): Progress On White Hill Lake Access Road

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the reasons for making this access to the White Hill Lake area in Baker Lake was because they need an area for float planes. Over the past two or three decades, there have been some drownings in Baker Lake itself due to float planes not being able to lift off or land properly on the lake because the lake itself is too large and I am just wondering if this will be considered by the Minister? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question 66-12(3): Progress On White Hill Lake Access Road

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my first reply, the length of this road and the nature of the road that was being suggested, I think almost eight kilometres and over some fairly rough terrain, the cost of the project exceeded the budget for community access roads by some considerable amount of dollars and it was determined it would not be in the best interest to put all the money into that particular project. However, I am aware of it and I will undertake to have another look at this again, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 66-12(3): Progress On White Hill Lake Access Road

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister advise this House whether he still considers the N.W.T.

Page 71

Transportation Strategy tabled in 1990 to be the key planning document for transportation in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question 66-12(3): Progress On White Hill Lake Access Road

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we do.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral Questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 67-12(3): Policy For Snow Removal

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Housing Corporation regarding snow removal in the communities. One of my communities has a different problem than other communities who do their own snow removal beside their house and, although it is not the same with my other constituents, this is in regards to Cape Dorset snow removal. If there was to be an emergency, this would have to be taken care of urgently and those people who do their own snow removal, why is this different in the community of Cape Dorset? Would the Housing Corporation Minister advise me if this is happening in all the other communities, or will it continue to be like this due to lack of funding for snow removal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 67-12(3): Policy For Snow Removal

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do snow removal for elders in the communities, and the disabled. Other than that it is the tenants' responsibility to remove their snow. I will check on it, but possibly, one community could be using M.A.C.A. equipment to remove snow from the driveways of some of the public houses. I know that was the case in Fort Resolution. They ran into money problems, and consequently the tenant's had to pay it themselves. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 67-12(3): Policy For Snow Removal

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that it is not like that in some of the communities. In my own community we have good snow removal, we do not even have to do our own snow removal beside our own houses. However, in one of the communities, I know of more than one winter they have run into this problem. Is it due to lack of funding? Would the Minister of the Housing Corporation allocate more funds for snow removal, working with the Minister of M.A.C.A., in regards to Cape Dorset? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 67-12(3): Policy For Snow Removal

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into it and get back to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 68-12(3): Bill To Rescue Coast Guard

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, last month on October 23, according to the Press Independent, the ferry at Fort Providence was pulling out the Coast Guard boat in Beaver Lake. The ferry was gone for approximately nine hours. Mr. Speaker, today is November 23, one month later. I would like to ask the Minister, after he has done all his analysis and billing arrangements to the federal government, does he have an amount that is going to be charged back to the federal government as a result of the transportation delays, and the ferry being utilized by the federal Coast Guard?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question 68-12(3): Bill To Rescue Coast Guard

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The incident that is being referred to occurred in October when the Coast Guard ship was returning upstream to pick up the markers. It ran aground. It is late in the season, Mr. Speaker, and all other ships in the area were in dry dock already in Hay River, or else stuck in the ice somewhere up in the Arctic. There was nothing there to assist this stranded boat off the sandbar except for the ferry. It was deemed to be an emergency. The ferry was relatively close and had the capacity to assist, and assist they did. I was not aware that we were going to be billing the Coast Guard for this, however, the Member has brought it to the attention of the House and I certainly will look into it. I was fairly pleased that we were able to assist in an emergency situation. As they said sometime ago, if your house is on fire you help. You lend the hose, you do not ask if you can rent it. So I will look into the matter, Mr. Speaker, and get back to the Member with a reply as soon as I can.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 68-12(3): Bill To Rescue Coast Guard

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Speaker, we do have two vessels right in Providence. One of the vessels is used for an emergency in the event there is a breakdown in the other vessel. In this case that is not what happened. In this case they had traffic waiting, and I suppose they also had people in Yellowknife waiting for freight etc. While that was happening money was wasted, both for the operation of the ferry, which this government pays for. I think in this case I would like to ask the Minister why the stand-by ferry was not used in the meantime, and why we should not be billing the federal government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Two questions, Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question 68-12(3): Bill To Rescue Coast Guard

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While it is true there was another ship sitting in the slipways but it would take time to put it in the water. I will look into the matter of the bill, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question 69-12(3): Renewable Resource's Response To Caribou Harassment

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, on Friday I raised a concern with regards to helicopter disturbances of caribou during diamond exploration. I questioned the Minister on

Page 72

Friday, and he indicated that he was aware of the letter and the department was doing something about it. He indicated to the House that he will check into it as soon as question period was over and get back to me with detailed information. Mr. Speaker, I learned this morning that the Rae band office has received a fax from the Minister's office acknowledging the letter. The second point in my question was not really answered in that particular letter that was sent to the Rae band. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the department doing as he was quoted in Friday's Hansard as we are doing something about it. What is the department doing about the report that was given to his office?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 69-12(3): Renewable Resource's Response To Caribou Harassment

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is investigating whether in fact there was harassment by helicopters to the caribou. To date, we have had difficulty finding the responsible people who were disturbing the caribou. What I would like to get, with the permission of the Member, and I know we cannot go very far without witnesses, but I would like to ask if it is okay with the Member to ask my department, the Renewable Resources officers in Fort Rae to talk directly to the chief to see if he could find some witnesses and people who saw the harassment.

Then we could proceed with specific information in issuing tickets or everything we have to do in order to make the responsible people be more responsible in terms of respecting natural habitats of caribou. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 69-12(3): Renewable Resource's Response To Caribou Harassment

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Speaker, in the acknowledgement letter that was sent to the Rae band, there was no reference in terms of the department undertaking an investigation. The Minister thanked the Rae band for bringing this matter to their attention, and the Minister also requested any specific details or incidents that they can describe and would appreciate hearing from them. That was the extent of the acknowledgement letter, Mr. Speaker. The Minister did not indicate to the Rae band that they are undertaking an investigation of any sort. Is the Minister saying that the department is conducting an investigation?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 69-12(3): Renewable Resource's Response To Caribou Harassment

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, but we cannot go far with the absence of the witnesses. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Ms. Mike.

Question 70-12(3): Criteria For Hiring Fisheries Staff

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. First of all, I would like to thank him for providing me with the departmental official fisheries management expertise list, region by region. However, I am somewhat disappointed, the staff in my region has a Bachelor of Arts but compared to the other regions, the staff have their Bachelor of Science, Geology and

Microbiology. They are a little better qualified than the staff in my region which has the fastest growing fisheries in the Northwest Territories since 1986. What is the criteria for hiring of this staff who are considered to be the experts in your department?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 70-12(3): Criteria For Hiring Fisheries Staff

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, over the years the criteria has changed, as the economic development has changed, as the interest in particular renewable resource projects have changed. I cannot say what the criteria was when this particular person was hired, but these days, Mr. Speaker, when we are hiring for those particular positions we are anxious to get people with expertise in the field and it may be that it is not a degree, Mr. Speaker, it may be a lot of experience in that particular field, but certainly we are looking for experience. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 70-12(3): Criteria For Hiring Fisheries Staff

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister, this position which I am talking about, the person has only six years of experience compared to 30 years, eight years, and 12 years experience in other regions who are involved in the same field. We have the least number of years experience in the same position and I am really wondering what the criteria is at the present time?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 70-12(3): Criteria For Hiring Fisheries Staff

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any criteria as far as years are concerned. Six years in a trade would

be pretty good experience. For instance, apprenticeships do not last that long, Mr. Speaker. In this particular instance I do not think we place a number of years that we are looking for, it may depend on the local hiring, the local superintendent, it may depend on the requirement by the deputy minister. It may be something which Personnel has something to say about. Six years would seem considerable experience to me, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 71-12(3): Authority Responsible For Docking Of Ferries

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Speaker, on October 11 I was in Fort Simpson and I had an opportunity to take a helicopter ride to the ferry landing. Mr. Speaker, the river was fairly open and there was very little ice on the river, but the ferry has been in dry dock for about a month. It cost me quite a bit to get to Simpson by charter. It is a brand new ferry which is supposed to draw less water. It is supposed to handle the worst ice conditions. This was not the case during my visit, the ferry was on dry dock. Is it the governments decision when they dock them, or is it at the discretion of the person who operates them?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question 71-12(3): Authority Responsible For Docking Of Ferries

Page 73

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this year we have had some unusual temperatures and variations in the temperatures. At the time the ferry at the crossing at Liard was pulled out of the water there was considerable ice flowing down the river, large pans of ice rather than just slush. It was a judgement call by my department to pull the ferry out because of the ice conditions at the time. Subsequently I have learned that it had cleared up within a week or 10 days, for a short time, and then again is resumed flowing ice, Mr. Speaker. It is a judgement call by the operators at the time they view the situation and make

that determination that the ferry should come out of the water before harm comes to it.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 71-12(3): Authority Responsible For Docking Of Ferries

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the docking of the ferries, is it also a judgement call for them to put the ferry back into the water as the conditions are suitable?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question 71-12(3): Authority Responsible For Docking Of Ferries

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, it is unusual conditions which allowed some parts of the river to re-open. There was no way of determining how long or how short that interim period would be. Again, it takes time to pull the ferry out of the water. It is not just a matter of pulling it out of the water, Mr. Speaker, but there is work which begins on the winterizing of the ship that once it is out to sort of mothball it for the winter. I think this may have already taken place and it may take some time before you are able to recommission it and put it back into the water. It may have been determined that it would not have been worth the effort to put it back in the water for a short period of time, given the conditions at the time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral Questions. Item 6, Written Questions. Mr. Lewis.

**ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Question 3-12(3): Payments Of Costs And Salary - Norman Meek

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Personnel. The questions concerns Norman Meek, former pension and insurance specialist, Government of the Northwest Territories.

1. Why has no back pay or benefits been paid to Mr. Meek in accordance with Supreme Court ruling of December 13, 1991?

2. Why has the full solicitor client cost not been paid in accordance with Supreme Court order of February 4, 1992? Why did it take until July to pay only part of these costs?

3. Why has the Government of the Northwest Territories not paid the full \$13,179 of approved travel expenses to Mr. Meek?

4. Why did it take until August 11, 1992 to partially reimburse Mr. Meek for his expenses, and when will the balance be paid on this claim, which is now overdue by 15 months?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, Written Questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 4-12(3): Status Of Treatment Coordinator Position - Trailcross Facility, Fort Smith

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Personnel. Would the Minister of Personnel please advise this House as to:

1. the status of the treatment coordinator position at the Trailcross facility in Fort Smith;

2. why the Treatment Coordinators position was recently advertised for competition; and

3. whether or not the Collective Agreement between the U.N.W. and the G.N.W.T. was contravened?  
Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, Written Questions. We will take a short break.

---SHORT BREAK

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Order please. Order. Now has the House come back to order? Item 6, Written Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 5-12(3): Expenditures From The Public Purse For Judges' Training

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question will be to the Minister of Justice, to please provide this House with a listing showing:

a) individuals receiving funds from the Government of the Northwest Territories;

b) topics;

c) dates;

d) location;

e) tuition fees; and

f) all other related expenditures.

For all training initiatives undertaken by any and all judges of the Territorial Court during the 1990/91, 91/92 and, to date during the 92/93 fiscal year?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, Written Questions. Item 7, Returns to Written Questions. Item 8, Replies to Opening Address. Item 9, Replies to Budget Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Committee Report 2-12(3): A Report On The Review of Tabled Document 100-12(2), An Act To Amend The Liquor Act

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a report on Tabled Document 100-12(2) from the Standing Committee on Legislation.

During the Second Session of the 12th Assembly, Mr. Brian Lewis, M.L.A. for Yellowknife Centre, introduced Bill 26, a private Member's bill, that would have amended the Liquor Act to allow the establishment of commercial breweries in the Northwest Territories.

At public hearings held on May 26, 1992, the Standing Committee on Legislation identified a number of problems with the Bill. A revised version was received late in the 2nd Session. At a subsequent meeting in September of 1992, the

standing committee encouraged responses to re-introduce the revised bill at the November sitting.

In order to allow the standing committee to conduct a public review of the proposed legislative content prior to November, Mr. Lewis drafted, or tabled a draft of the revised bill on September 29, 1992. This was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation by a formal motion of the House on October 1, 1992.

The Standing Committee on Legislation held public hearings on Tabled Document 100-12(2) on October 22, 1992. The standing committee would like to thank the following individuals for appearing as witnesses at the public hearings; Mr. Brian Lewis, Ms. Virginia Schuler, Mr. Paul Craig, Ms. Emerald Murphy from the Department of Safety and Public Services, Mr. John Donihee, Department of Justice, Mr. Victor MacIntosh and Mr. Doug Strater of the Pilot's Monumental Historic Arctic Brewing Company.

The Standing Committee on Legislation raised a number of points with the bill's sponsor and the other witnesses during the October 22 review. While most of the concerns raised by the standing committee in May had been addressed, there were a number of significant issues which the committee considered as outstanding.

A clearer definition of the affected community. The proposed legislation includes a local option procedure which would make it necessary for the Liquor Licensing Board to ascertain the views of the community most closely affected by the Brewery Permit Application.

In order for a permit to be issued, the local government would have to pass a resolution supporting the application. The standing committee asked the sponsor to review this proposed section and to ensure that procedures are in place which allow the board to ascertain the views of both the band council and the municipal council in communities where they co-exist.

Also to address the case in which neighbouring communities exist which may be closely affected by the establishment of a brewery.

The coming into force provisions, the standing committee noted that the proposed bill presented in Tabled Document 100-12(2) contained no provision as to when it should come into force. As such, the bill would come into force upon ascent. Recognizing that some time would be necessary for government

departments to develop regulations and guidelines, the committee suggested that the sponsor should include a specific coming into force provision when he introduces his private Member's bill.

The clarification of a brew pub concept:

1. The proposed legislation would allow a holder of a brewery permit to apply to the Liquor Licensing Board for a licence to operate a brew pub in which products from the brewery could be sold. The standing committee asked the sponsor to provide additional clarification in its proposed legislation with regard to whether holders of brew pub licences would be able to also apply for other classes of licences for the same premises;

For instance, would a brew pub also be licensed as a cocktail lounge which would enable the licensee to sell products other than those manufactured under the licensee's brewery permit;

2. How a brew pub would be classified with respect to the statutory hierarchy of privileges deemed to exist under subsection 43.(2) of the Liquor Act. This could have particular significance with respect to the operation of local options including the holding of plebiscites.

For public information, the standing committee was concerned that there might be some potential for this amendment to be misconstrued in certain quarters as carrying implications for the illegal manufacture of home brewed alcohol.

The sponsor and the relevant government departments or agencies would be encouraged to ensure that any public information about the proposed legislation should draw a clear distinction between the manufacture of beer under brewery permits and the unlawful preparation of beverage alcohol.

A brief comment about further stages in the consideration of this legislation may be helpful. With this report, the Standing Committee on Legislation has concluded its review of Tabled Document 100-12(2).

Should the sponsor now wish to proceed with this legislative initiative, the next step would be to introduce it as a private member's public bill. The bill would be considered at first and second reading according to the rules of the Legislative Assembly.

If the bill receives second reading, it would be automatically referred back to the Standing



Committee on Legislation for review. Given that the standing committee has already considered the content in some detail in its current form as a tabled document, it might be anticipated that committee review would not be prolonged. However, at that time, Members of the standing committee will be interested in examining whether matters outlined in this report have been adequately addressed.

Upon completion of its review process, the standing committee would then refer the bill for consideration by the House in the Committee of the Whole. Subsequent stages of passage would be third reading, and assent by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motion. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Lewis.

**ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

Bill 9: An Act To Amend The Liquor Act

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 25, 1992 I will move that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Motion 1-12(3) will still be on the order paper for tomorrow. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

**ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS**

Bill 6: An Act To Amend The Commercial Tenancies Act

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South that Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Commercial Tenancies Act be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion has been carried.

---Carried

Bill 6 has had first reading. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Mr. Whitford.

Bill 7: An Act To Amend The Locksmiths, Security Guards And Other Security Occupations Act

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 7 has had first reading. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Committee Report 1-12(3), Standing Committee on Finance Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates; and, Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94 with Mr. Nerysoo in the Chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

I would like to call the committee to order. Members will recall that Friday we concluded with five recommendations and we were dealing with Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94 and Committee Report 1-12(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

I wonder if we can move to Justice, Mr. Chairman?

Bill 1: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94 And Committee Report 1-12(3): Review Of The 1993-94 Capital Estimates

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. The suggestion is that we deal with the Department of Justice. That would mean that we would conclude general comments. What is the wish of the committee? That we deal with the Department of Justice? Are we agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

I just want to draw to the attention of Members that we dealing with the 1993-94 Capital Estimates under 06-7, program summary for the Department of Justice. We were on page seven with regard to recommendations from the Standing Committee on Finance Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates. Are there any opening comments, Mr. Minister?

Department of Justice, Introductory Remarks

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you. I am pleased to present the Capital Budget of the Department of Justice. The following points are ones that I believe will be of particular interest to Members in reviewing the department's Capital Budget.

The corrections services division operates seven facilities offering services to adult and young offenders across the whole of the territories. To replace the facilities as they now exist, would require approximately \$75 million, as a point of interest. The capital expenditures which are proposed and introduced today are required in order to maintain correctional facilities at the current inmate or young

offender capacity. No requests for expansion are being considered. The department has completed a master development plan that considers the adequacy of the present facilities and which projects the needs of Northwest Territories into the future. Evaluation of this study is beginning, but none of these recommendations are the subject of these proposals for the fiscal year 1993-94. Today I am requesting consideration of renovations or additions to our present existing facilities in order to make them safer. I anticipate that expenditures will allow for better programming to occur for more inmates with less risk to public. The outer wall of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre gymnasium must be replaced for the sake of health and safety. The bricks are cracking and the wall has become and will become unsafe if it is not repaired. The Yellowknife Correctional Centre's fence does not cover the entire property. It is also in need of extensive repairs. Concerns have been expressed about public security. The internal security of the centre is also compromised when members of the public can approach the facility and leave illegal or dangerous items on the property. To meet the maximum security rating of the centre and other security needs, institutional types of security fencing must be constructed around the entire property. In light of these remarks, I invited Members of the committee to examine in detail the 1992-93 budget of the Department of Justice and would be pleased to try and answer any questions.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Standing Committee on Finance, Mr. Dent.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the review of the 1992-93 Main Estimates, the committee recommended that the department initiate land skill survival programs at all corrections centres. As a result, we expected to see some requirement for related capital equipment, but did not. The committee will expect the Department of Justice to include funding in the 1994-95 Capital Estimates for culturally relevant corrections programs such as wilderness camps and land skills survival programs as recommended earlier this year.

Mr. Chairman, the committee is aware that the federal government is interested in constructing a \$30 million federal penitentiary in the Northwest Territories to

accommodate 65 to 100 federal inmates from the territories. Directly and indirectly, this could create over 100 jobs in the N.W.T. Options which were presented include federal or territorial operation and control. Members recognized both merits and potential pitfalls for a program such as this based on experience with other program transfers. However, the committee feels the opportunity should be pursued.

Committee Motion 6-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 6

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice provide a discussion paper to the Legislative Assembly, with the 1993-94

Page 76

Main Estimates, on a proposed federal penitentiary in the Northwest Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, that completes the official response of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Department of Justice's Capital Estimates for 1993-94. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Are there any other general comments with regard to the Department of Justice? Capital, Mr. Gargan.

General Comments

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister of the Department of Justice with regard to the definitive objective, in paragraph 3 of page 6-4 to construct institutional type security fencing around the Yellowknife Correctional Centre including the portion which is presently not fenced. I am not clear on that. Are we looking at the 12 foot type fences with razor wires on top, etc.? Is this the type of institutional type security fencing you are talking about?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, the type of fencing which runs along the road surrounding the correctional institute is a metal chain-link fence with barbed wire on top, this is what we require to complete the fencing around the facility.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I occasionally go by there and I do not see any problems with the condition of the fence. Perhaps the Minister would be able to enlighten me with regard to the justification. Is it to prevent people from escaping? Does the existing fence not prevent people from escaping? Has there been an increase in escapes that requires a better security? I have not heard anything during the last year. I realize four years ago there was a riot but that is about the extent of it with regard to what has been happening with the security here in the centre. The fence has been there for about 20 years now and it needs replacement, is that what we are saying or do we have a reason for replacing the existing fence?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, the Member should know that the far side of the facility has never been fenced. There is a requirement to secure the public from inmates wandering off when they are not supposed to but also to keep unwanted and unauthorized visitors from coming onto the property. I think this is one of the

bigger considerations. I do not know if it has ever been substantiated but I know there is a fear that people are coming in and dropping off things like drugs and other substances for inmates on the property. We need to secure the facility to make sure these type of things do not happen. Those are some of the considerations for wanting to fence the remainder of the facility.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Have you looked at other options, like T.V. monitoring, watch-tower. If we are going to go all the way, let us go all the way.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, you can tell by our modest request we just want to build the remainder of the fence and fix up a wall, and update some T.V. monitoring equipment which is quite old.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Before I recognize anyone, I would like to remind the Members that according to Rule 79, titled "speaking", no Members should speak for more than 10 minutes at any one time. When Members have finished speaking, the Chair should recognize the person who has not spoken to the item on the table. General comments? Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not raise much concern about the matter of the proposed capital as opposed to the idea of future capital and the potential of the 1993 estimates to reflect that. I would like to raise a couple of concerns and I hope the idea of a decision paper which has been requested, and I support that, is more of a discussion paper about the pros and cons and whether or not we should agree to a federal penitentiary. I think it would be a premature for us to make some decision during 1993-94, without looking at all the issues. I think you have to consider the purpose of the facility. You have to look at the programs and services which are to be offered in

such a facility. You have to deal with the question of who is responsible, and the financial obligations that this government has a tendency of taking on, on the part of the federal government that is above and beyond the normal cause.

Most recent federal transfers have shown that we have been pretty poor negotiators in taking over responsibility. I want to make those points because I do not want us to get all gung ho about the idea of building a new federal penitentiary in the Northwest Territories without looking at all the issues and the concerns that are necessary for us to put in place a federal penitentiary because the correctional centres that we now run are very different than federal penitentiaries and the people you are dealing with are much, much different. So I do not think that you should go quickly into this responsibility without knowing the consequences of the decision you are making. Just that one particular point I wanted to make. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Any general comments?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

General Comments, Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I am going to say is related to the issue that is before us in regard to the community that is strictly dry. As I mentioned, I travelled, before coming to this session, to Gjoa Haven which is a dry community and I come from a dry community as well and that is the Hamlet of Pelly Bay, where the use of alcoholic beverage is strictly prohibited.

Mr. Chairman, people of Pelly Bay and Gjoa Haven are saying it is so easy to bring liquor to a dry community. People are chronically, if you will, frustrated about having to deal with this

Page 77

in their community and where everybody is related to everybody, and nobody seems to want to report the incident to the R.C.M.P. within their community, within their area.

I have worked with the Hamlet of Pelly Bay for a good 17 years dealing with the problem where there were no R.C.M.P. and people were reluctant to report to

the nearest R.C.M.P. station which was Spence Bay. Now the people of Pelly Bay and Gjoa Haven that I have met with, mainly the hamlet councils and the public, are saying, can this government, through the justice system, do something about dry communities where very few people are not complying with the restriction? People are frustrated and people who do use liquor in the community and bring the liquor to the community are like individuals who are living in paradise without having to worry about the crimes they are committing in the community.

A number of times, I had the opportunity of travelling with the Hamlet of Pelly Bay Mayor when I was a C.O. A number of times we talked to the justice people, to lawyers and a number of times the response we got from the system was always the same. It is, unless we have reasonable grounds, unless the R.C.M.P. has reasonable grounds to believe that a person was bringing liquor to a dry community, there is not much we can do about it. We were also told by the people that we met with here in Yellowknife, about two years ago, is that one alternative that we can look into is talking to the airline and that has never really materialized.

About three weeks ago, I had the opportunity of meeting with the people of Gjoa Haven, the hamlet council, what the Hamlet Council of Gjoa Haven is saying is that, when the Commissioner stamped the paper which directs the community to be dry, after the plebiscite where the public has a vote and 60 per cent of the community wanted to go dry, subsequently the Commissioner will stamp the paper which, in turn, becomes the law. Now it is against the law to drink in your community and, what the people of Gjoa Haven are saying is that nobody abides by this restriction. What can you do as an M.L.A.? What can the government of the N.W.T. do about it? What can the Justice Minister and his department do about it. People are really frustrated. Mr. Chairman, I wish this government, together with the Members of the Assembly would find a solution to deal with the problem once and for all where a dry community can legally be called a dry community, not technically a dry community. That is just a point I wanted to raise.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. That is a point that has been raised but I will just remind the Member that we are dealing with capital and that was more of a policy matter than a capital issue. So, just to bring people's attention to the fact that we are dealing with Justice and the detail

of capital. Is it the wish of the committee that we deal now with the detail of capital? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Details of capital, found on page 06-10. Correctional services. Detail of capital, correctional services, buildings and works, total region \$865,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Correctional Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Sorry I must read this one here. Buildings and works. Correctional services, buildings and works, headquarters, total region \$865,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Total buildings and works \$865,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region \$10,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Total activity \$875,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Program Summary 06-7, Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, if we could just go back to 06-11, capital recoveries. Are we looking at \$80,000. being received back from...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Is it the wish of the committee then, are we agreed to return to capital recoveries. Are we agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Mr. Gargan, you had a question with regard to capital recoveries, to the Minister?

**MR. GARGAN:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to know what it meant by capital recoveries here of \$80,000. Capital Estimates 1992-93, capital recoveries is \$112,000. What is that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Just for clarification, however, Mr. Gargan, we are dealing with the 1993-94 Capital Estimates. Mr. Minister. The capital recoveries is \$80,000.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, could I get the deputy minister to appear with me at the witness table?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Are we agreed to bring in witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, this is apparently a program where the feds kick in 50 per cent and it is a program where we recover our money on capital projects.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

So we are getting that \$80,000 back. Is that what the recovery is?

Page 78

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Capital recoveries, program summary. Are we agreed that we deal with program summary?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Capital Expenditures

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Total capital expenditures, \$875,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. That concludes the capital estimates for the Department of Justice. I believe that the next department we are dealing with is Municipal and Community Affairs. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

General comments, introductory remarks, Mr. Minister.

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs,  
Introductory Remarks

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is proposing capital estimates of \$38.276 million for 1993-94. This is an increase of five per cent over the 1992-93 allocation. We continue to place priority on building new water and sanitation infrastructure and improvements to existing infrastructure in the interests of the good public and environmental health. This amounts to about 34 per cent or \$13.163 million of our proposed capital estimates. Another 18 per cent or \$7.027 million is proposed for the construction of the community recreation facilities. Our government continues to see the great social value of good recreation infrastructures in the communities. These facilities provide a focal point for community participation in sports, games and community events. All of these are vital for a strong sense of community and personal well-being. A further six per cent or \$2.402 million is proposed for the provision of the mobile equipment for road maintenance, public health and fire protection. We continue to emphasize the funding of retrofits for mobile equipment. This approach is cost-effective in maintaining equipment usefulness while developing the capability of municipal works staff to repair it through hands-on training. Funding of \$1.6 million is proposed for the construction of community firehalls. Funding of \$5.038 million or 14 per cent of the proposed capital estimates is identified for construction of public buildings including municipal parking garages, maintenance garages, warehouses, staff houses and community offices. For the planning, designing, upgrading or reconstruction of the community roads, a further 7 per cent or \$2.668 million is identified. The Department of Government Services and Public Works frequently assists in community road projects by providing engineering and contract management services to local governments. Funding of \$3.240 million or about 8.5 per cent of our proposed capital estimates is identified for land development.

The department will be undertaking approximately 60 such projects across the N.W.T. For community planning, mapping and legal surveys programs, funding of \$1.397 million is proposed. We need to respond to community population growth and to assist local governments to replace aging capital infrastructure when necessary and possible. We also should and can respond more effectively to assist the smaller communities in obtaining a basic level of community infrastructure. The department is undertaking the development of capital and O & M assistance policies especially geared to the needs of settlements and small communities.

For communities in general, we believe the department's comprehensive capital planning process has identified, through consultation with local councils, and most urgent needs. We are continuing to make local governments aware of the opportunities available for them to play greater roles in the management and development of municipal capital projects. Their levels of authority are based on the willingness and ability of local governments to accept full, partial or limited authority for those capital projects. Our support often involves direct capital contributions to local governments. In 1991-92, for example, approximately \$11.5 million was transferred to local governments through municipal capital contributions, a good stimulus to local business and employment and greater community management. Mr. Chairman, I would now be pleased to respond to any of the questions that might arise, and further, Mr. Chairman, I would like to request that my deputy minister be in the House with us.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. General comments. Ms. Mike, Standing Committee on Finance.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a result of a recent visit to the community of Nahanni Butte by the standing committee, Members expressed concern with the inadequacy of the current water supply operation. The five-year capital plan budgets \$1.018 million in 1997-98 for the water supply improvements. This appears to be far away for such a basic need. We are subsequently informed by the Minister that a well was previously developed complete with the sophisticated treatment process, however, this facility has failed to operate satisfactorily as a suitable local

individual has not been identified and trained properly. This represents a new job for the community. The Minister indicates it is up to the Band Council to identify this person. The Minister did not indicate the nature of the water supply improvements for \$1.018 million in 1997-98 in this light.

Committee Motion 7-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 7

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that Department of Municipal and Community Affairs advance the Nahanni Butte water supply project to 1994-95 and expedite the delivery of potable water. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Any other comments? Motion is in order. To the motion?

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Are there any other general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Page 79

General Comments

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the capital items such as equipment which are used by the communities in delivering the municipal services such as water, garbage, etc., are very important, the vehicles are very important. Warehousing of those capital items are equally important, the garages are important, maybe more so, especially in areas where you have a harsh environment. The weather is about -30 to -60 in the winter. The communities in my constituency are in serious need of garage and warehouse services. I wonder if the Minister would direct his officials from the region to assess the situation, which is quite serious today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Mr. Minister. Prior to proceeding I believe the Minister requested that witnesses be asked into committee. Is that agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses in? Mr. Minister.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move that we extend the sitting hours.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Can you clarify that first with regard to the motion, is it to deal with this matter?

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Chairman, until we conclude this department.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. The motion is in order.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is defeated.

---Defeated

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you bring in the witnesses, please? The Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Al Menard and the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Christensen. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a planning process which is in place in dealing with that sort of



thing and we try whenever we can to meet the community requirements. It is not always possible to meet the community requirements for those infrastructures, but we will be working with the communities in developing a capital planning process for those communities which were mentioned by the Member for Natilikmiot.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Mr. Ningark, just prior to proceeding. Mr. Minister could you introduce your witnesses for the record, please?

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the Deputy Minister of the department, Mr. Al Menard and to my left is the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Christensen.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Mr. Chairman, the prevention of any area in the institution is very important, especially in a small community where you do not have the necessary parts and tools to service the equipment. It can be very costly, especially in the area of running your own community. As a result, Mr. Chairman, I think preventative maintenance is one of the essential parts of operating the municipal government. This is just a point I wanted to make. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. The hour being 6:00 p.m., I will rise and report progress.

**SPEAKER (Mr. Pudluk):**

I would like to call the House back to order. Item 20, Report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Committee Report 1-12(3), and Bill 1 and wishes to report progress with two motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a seconder? Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform immediately after adjournment, which will be followed at 6:30 p.m. by a meeting of the Western Caucus. Meetings for tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. of the full Caucus and at 10:30 a.m. of the Ordinary Members Caucus, and at 12:00 noon of the Management and Services Board. Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 24, 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

Page 80

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
  - Motion 1-12(3), Political and Constitutional Development Debate
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Commercial Tenancies Act
  - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Committee Report 1-12(3), Standing Committee on Finance Review of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates
  - Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94
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 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 24, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT