



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 29-12(3): Cabinet Assignments

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the Members of the ministerial responsibilities assigned to the new Cabinet Members.

MR. SPEAKER:

Excuse me, Ms. Cournoyea. Is this an emergency statement?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, it is an emergency statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Continue please, Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise Members of the ministerial responsibilities assigned to the new Cabinet Members.

Ms. Rebecca Mike will be responsible for the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services.

Mr. John Todd will be responsible for the Department of Transportation and the Department of Safety and

Public Services. He will also be the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board and the Public Utilities Board.

---Laughter

---Applause

Mr. Richard Nerysoo will be responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs and Minister responsible for Arctic College and the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add that it is important for residents of the Northwest Territories to realize the recent resignations of Cabinet have not disrupted our agenda. They are unfortunate but the election of Rebecca Mike, John Todd and Richard Nerysoo to Cabinet will ensure our ability to continue the directions that both the government and Legislative Assembly set out to achieve when we were elected a little over a year ago. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 30-12(3): International Year Of The World's Indigenous People

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, today is the opening day for the International Year of the World's Indigenous people at the United Nations general assembly in New York city. The theme for the year will be "indigenous people - a new partnership".

The purpose of naming 1993 as an international year is to highlight the circumstances facing aboriginal peoples around the world and to foster international cooperation to try to solve some of the problems that affect these peoples including areas such as human rights, health, education and the environment.

The United Nations has several criteria for determining what should be the subject of an international year. The theme should be of concern to the majority of member countries. The theme should be one requiring action which could take place at the international and national levels. There should be a reasonable expectation that an international year will generate significant follow-up action at both the

national and international levels in the form of new activities or the strengthening of existing ones.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, there are signs that the international year of indigenous people is already in some trouble here in Canada and abroad. For example, the name of the year refers to "people" instead of "peoples", which suggests in international law that aboriginal peoples are not collectives with rights of self-determination. Secondly, aboriginal peoples in Canada as early as 1991 rejected the involvement of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in planning for and coordinating activities for the year. D.I.A.N.D. is the lead federal department in spite of this aboriginal opposition. Thirdly, it appears that Canada is taking a lead role at the United Nations in planning for the year but apparently the federal government is not allocating any new money for special activities or programs during the year. In fact, the federal Finance Minister announced about \$150 million worth of budget cuts to aboriginal programs last week. For past international years there have been special budgets for activities. Canada has contributed only \$72,000 to the United Nations for this international year and it is the single largest contributor so far.

On the international stage, Canada is seen as a world leader in aboriginal and human rights issues. The media has reported,

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however, that Canada originally opposed the idea of an international year for indigenous peoples at the United Nations prior to the Oka crisis, but shortly after that event Canada tried to take the lead in organizing the United Nations affair. Some people have questioned Canada's motives for this change of heart. From within Canada we can still see many areas requiring significant measures. Had the Charlottetown Accord been approved in the recent national referendum, we would have been well ahead of the world in forging a new relationship with aboriginal peoples. We cannot afford to lose sight of the objectives of that process.

The international year could be an opportunity for the Government of Canada and aboriginal leaders to highlight for other countries some of the progress made in Canada to resolve aboriginal issues. More importantly, 1993 should be a year for governments, aboriginal peoples and Canadians generally to make more progress on issues like aboriginal self-government, comprehensive claims, and social and

economic issues now under study by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

Aboriginal peoples, through their national, regional and local organizations, will have to take the lead in identifying activities for the international year. Two national aboriginal leaders, Mary Simon and Ovide Mercredi, will be in New York at the opening ceremonies to represent the aboriginal peoples of Canada and each will be making a short presentation. It is clear that governments in Canada will have to do more if this is going to be a meaningful exercise.

Mr. Speaker, I will keep Members informed over the course of the year on matters of interest relating to the International Year of the World's Indigenous People. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' Statements. Mr. Alloo.oo.

Minister's Statement 31-12(3): Support For N.W.T. Fur Trade

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night several Members of this Legislative Assembly joined me at a meeting with members of the Italian Fur Trade Association and the Italian media. Today the Italians are visiting a trap line in the Fort Simpson area and will return to eastern Canada and Italy on the weekend.

I am pleased with the interest the Italian Fur Trade Association and the media are showing in northern Canadian wildlife fur. They are making efforts to ensure the Italian public is fully aware of the extent to which fur-bearing animals are carefully managed by the hunters and trappers and the Department of Renewable Resources. The fur trade representatives tell us that Italians, living in a very small crowded country with no wildlife at all, place a high value on fur garments. In fact, one out of every three Italian women owns at least one fur coat. Yet, in their country many people believe all wild animals are endangered. Animal rights and anti-trapping groups prey on this misunderstanding.

The Italian Fur Trade Association is doing what it can to support our fur industry and advises us that we should do more in two areas.

First, it strongly recommends that our political leaders maintain contacts with members of the European Parliament. European politicians are under tremendous pressure to pass anti-trapping and anti-fur legislation and frequently do so without accurate information on the situation in northern Canada. The Fur Trade Association believes northern politicians meeting with European politicians can be most effective.

Second, the Italian Fur Trade representatives and media people are offering to work with our government and the federal government to organize and present exhibits in Italy which accurately display life in northern Canada. The fur trade and people's inter-relationships with the land and water and what it offers would of course be a central theme to any exhibit.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that our government take steps to counter the actions of all animal rights groups. Ads like those placed in the Toronto Globe and Mail and on C.B.C. recently by the International Fund for Animal Welfare can be very misleading to people who do not understand our lifestyle. We cannot win by attacking the animal rights groups directly but through cooperation with European politicians, media and fur trade representatives, we can do much to present accurate information. This support is critical to our hunters and trappers who represent the backbone of our economic and cultural foundation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Appointment Of Mrs. Marie-Jewell As O.M.C. Chairperson

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce the selection of my honourable colleague, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, as the Chairperson of the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mrs. Marie-Jewell on her selection. I know she will do an excellent job.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to point out that the chairperson does not control the issues in the caucus. The chairperson only controls the proceedings of the caucus. Mrs. Marie-Jewell replaces the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, who, as we all know, has been elected to the other side of the House and who served as the chairperson of our caucus. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement Paying Tribute To Hon. Titus Allooooloo

MR. LEWIS:

I would like to begin today Mr. Speaker, by paying tribute to Mr. Titus Allooooloo. We do this from time to

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time because very often things go by unnoticed and they are forgotten. In Norman Wells during the 11th Assembly, Mr. Titus Allooooloo skillfully persuaded all the Members of the 11th Assembly that it was time to have a plebiscite on division of the territories. He worked very hard, he was very persuasive and agreed that in the wording of the eventual plebiscite question there would be protection for the interest of the west. These kinds of things are often forgotten, Mr. Speaker. They are hidden away in the Hansard, which very few people read. It is only perhaps 15, 20 or 30 years later, or perhaps after the poor guy is dead, that people realize that the person who started this was never really recognized for it. Today however, at least this Assembly will know that it was this gentleman in Norman Wells who achieved that very remarkable event that lead to the plebiscite and the eventual division of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On Cost Of Decentralization

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in June, the Premier announced the government's plan to decentralize certain government services and

positions to regional centres, such as Rankin Inlet and Inuvik, to improve the sluggish economy in these areas. First, I want to state that I cannot readily accept the government's positive assessment of Yellowknife's current economic prospects. In fact, Yellowknife faces harder times. As the government moves to further decentralize its services, the loss of positions in Yellowknife will most certainly be felt by this community.

I want to make it clear that I do however support economic development initiatives in the regions. Surely the government could introduce more creative development measures. We need new initiatives, not just ones which simply move jobs from one place to another. Furthermore, in a period of fiscal restraint I am very concerned about how much the move of positions and services out of Yellowknife will cost this government.

The capital and one time costs for the government's proposed decentralization initiatives are projected to be \$5.8 million. In addition, the projected ongoing annual costs are \$2.3 million. In fact, these figures are conservative cost estimates as they do not account for the expense of moving people from Yellowknife to the regions or the expense of recruitment and hiring people from the south for positions which may not be filled by people already in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, given the current state of the economy, I firmly believe that we must give careful consideration to the most efficient and worthy use of limited government funds. The increasing federal cutbacks to the N.W.T. budget necessitate responsible fiscal management. For example, because the federal government has cut back on its financial commitment to our housing programs, we are hard pressed to allocate the necessary funds to address the very serious housing shortage that we face in the N.W.T.

The capital cost alone for decentralization represents the dollar figure for approximately 542 houses. Ongoing annual costs projected for decentralization provide another 222 units each year. Each additional housing unit benefits more than just those who eventually reside in them. The overall economic impact of the construction activity in the communities provides jobs for those who build the housing units and revenue to support local business.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, this is the time in which we can least afford the considerable costs of decentralization. Our limited resources would be better directed towards issues which require our most urgent attention. Especially now, with no Yellowknife Minister in Cabinet, there must be no new moves towards decentralization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Environmental Assessment Of Great Whale Hydroelectric Project

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the participation of the people of Sanikiluaq in the environmental assessment process for the Great Whale hydroelectric project in northern Quebec. In Inuvik on December 4, the Minister of Renewable Resources announced that investor funding of \$480,000 has been awarded to the Sanikiluaq Environment Committee, and another \$25,000 has been awarded to the Nunavut Environmental Coalition for the Keewatin.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Renewable Resources, the Hon. Titus Allooloo, and his officials for their efforts to secure this funding. It will allow the people of that region to fully participate in the environmental assessment project.

I also understand that the Government of Quebec has provided funding to the people of Great Whale River to allow them to participate fully in this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' Statements. Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Settlement Of Issues In The House

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement will be brief. Today, we are more relaxed than last week. Today in this House during our session people's faces seem to be much happier. I also want to state that when we have conflicts among the Members our constituents are unhappy as well. They can see through the statements and they can feel our unhappiness through the radios. We are more relaxed today, although we went through some hard times, which I am pleased to say are past. We will be heading home and Christmas is coming closer and we will celebrate the holidays with our constituents. I, for one, thought that if we did not settle the issues here that we would be going home with

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unhappiness. I stand today to make a statement that I am very pleased that we have settled the issues and that we can work together and wish happy holidays to all. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' Statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On C.B.C. Television Show "North of 60"

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to congratulate Hon. Rebecca Mike, Hon. John Todd and Hon. Richard Nerysoo for getting the portfolios that they did. They have a big challenge ahead of them and certainly, I would be willing to work with each one in the particular areas that concern me.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday night I was watching C.B.C. television and I was surprised to find out there is a community in the Northwest Territories I did not know existed, called Lynx River. Of course, you know this is a new setting for a C.B.C. program called "North of 60". In fact, this community is located outside of Fort Liard, which puts it in my constituency.

After watching the premier on C.B.C., there were a few things I observed about Lynx River. I noticed that the kids in the community were running around within the community causing a lot of mischief. The R.C.M.P. were chasing them around and so forth. Mr. Speaker, these children need some type of recreation

facilities, so I would expect the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to plan for the construction of recreation facilities.

I also noticed that the nurse has been keeping her medical supplies in the safe at the R.C.M.P. station. This is unacceptable. I am going to call the Department of Health to look at building a health centre. Speaking of R.C.M.P.s, the community of 125 people had two of them. As you know, Wrigley wanted one, so I would suggest that you transfer one of them over there.

---Laughter

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the R.C.M.P. officer and the nurse were getting very friendly. It is like I have always said in the north, the R.C.M.P. always get their nurse.

---Laughter

---Applause

I hope it is the last day.

---Laughter

I would like to visit this community some time to see what is happening over there. As you know, the former Member for Nahendeh, my good friend Nick Sibbeston, worked as a consultant on this program and I would be pleased to ask him for a list of other capital requirements. This program is on tonight and it is an ongoing saga, so I just thought I would mention it today. Today, I hope, is the last day and I would like to say I hope everybody has a good holiday season and a good Christmas. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

I am sure you will do well in the next election in that community, Mr. Antoine. Members' Statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Member's Statement Thanking Previous Minister Of Transportation

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the time to thank the previous Minister of Transportation for the work he has done to get the winter road between Fort Smith and Fort Chipewyan open. The community of Fort Smith, the citizens and I really appreciate that. I also want to take the time to

wish him a very merry Christmas and the rest of my colleagues a merry Christmas, an enjoyable holiday and a safe trip home. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement Congratulating Hon. Richard Nerysoo

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr. Richard Nerysoo for being appointed to the portfolio that he will never regret. I would like to tell him that he is a very lucky Cabinet Member in getting that department. I can assure him that this department has a very dedicated and professional staff. He will recognize that the staff of that department, whether it is the board of directors of the divisional boards, or the C.E.C.s, or the department itself, is like a whole bunch of beautiful flowers. He will be able to make a bouquet out of that, which I hope I started to build. I wish him well because that is a fun place to work and I congratulate him and hope he is successful. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' Statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On Assignment Of Ministerial Portfolios

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express my appreciation to the Government Leader for her quick action today in assigning portfolios to the new Ministers. However, I am a little surprised that there are no shuffles within the portfolios of the veteran Members of Cabinet, even though these veteran Members are still fairly young. For example, the business community of the Northwest Territories is very concerned about the fact that we have one Minister who holds the portfolios of Finance and Economic Development and Tourism.

There seems to be a real contradiction here. On one hand, he has to hold the line, reduce the deficit, cut costs and raise taxes. On the other hand, he has a mandate to create economic development and, to do

this, he has to create business and employment opportunities, probably by spending more money or making more money available to businesses and people in the north.

Mr. Speaker, I raise these points and hope they are considered when the next Cabinet shuffle takes place. I also want to wish

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everyone the best of the season, have a good rest. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' Statements. Mr. Patterson

Member's Statement Congratulating New Ministers

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to congratulate and give best wishes for success to the new Cabinet Ministers with their assignments today. I would offer my assistance to the new Ministers who are dealing with the challenges of Health and Social Services, and the Workers' Compensation Board.

To Mr. Todd, Mr. Speaker, I would advise him respectfully, although I know he claims to have had inside information about everything that was going on in Safety and Public Services and the Workers' Compensation Board, to take some time to get briefed on those complicated and important departments before he jumps to extreme conclusions about solutions, as he was wont to do while he was on this side of the House.

To Ms. Mike, Mr. Speaker, I would offer the same advice. These are complicated portfolios and there is a lot to learn and I know that she will approach the issues with an open mind and will be willing to do her homework before she makes hasty judgements about solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I do sincerely wish them well. I know these are difficult assignments. It is tough to get questions on such complicated issues without any notice. I had 48 questions one day on one of those areas without even one minute's notice. If I am going to ask a question, I will try to give notice but I am not going to do so today, Mr. Speaker. I am not giving

any notice today and I have a few questions that I hope we will all have some fun with. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' Statements. Mr. Zoe.

Member's Statement On "N.W.T. Diamond Play Dazzles Speculators"

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today's Globe and Mail had a lengthy article in its business section on the explosion of the Dia Met Minerals Limited shares on the Vancouver and Toronto stock exchange. The share prices of Dia Met closed yesterday at \$45.87 per share. Mr. Speaker, nowhere in this article is it mentioned that the land being staked is in the Dogrib area and that we will soon be claiming our rights to that land.

Mr. Speaker, the author of this article, the Globe and Mail's mining reporter, Alan Robinson, said that "this caribou pasture is now being valued at \$1.6 billion." The president of Tegwaan Securities Corporation of Toronto is quoted as saying, "Get a wheelbarrow, get up there, there are riches waiting for everyone." Mr. Speaker, the caribou pasture and riches waiting for everyone is on Dogrib land. I am quite amazed and horrified to think that our land is being invested down south to Canadians and international capitalists in this manner. It is as if our land, the Dogrib land, is without people and without any importance except to the profit of the mining and investment community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to send a message to the mining and investment business that my people have hunted and fished on this land for thousands of years and we plan to continue this lifestyle. Secondly, we will be negotiating...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Zoe, your allotted time has expired.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to continue with his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Secondly, we will be negotiating a regional land claim with the federal government beginning in the new year. This will, no doubt, include the land in the Lac De Gras area. I should tell the mining industry that we are up here and we have always occupied this area. We will not go away. My people have always indicated that we are not against any economic development within our area, including mining. The mining industry and investment community must recognize that we are here and we are open for business. The land that they are talking about is our land. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' Statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Office Of The Languages Commissioner

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deal with a very sensitive issue. I wish it had never come up. Mr. Speaker, I am very worried about certain aspects which have come to light about the office of the Languages Commissioner. For some time I have had concerns about the reported overexpenditure of salary dollars for casual staffing, talk of additional PYs in this time of restraint, the approval process for periods of leave without pay and other management matters within the Languages Commissioner's office. Those are administrative issues that can probably be worked out quite simply.

I am also concerned that regulations have not yet been made to identify the aboriginal organizations that were supposed to be prescribed as the key contact groups on language matters. This is a legislative issue that I may raise with the Minister of Justice. What troubles me very much are questions surrounding the sort of relationship which has now been confirmed to exist between the Languages Commissioner and a Member of this House.

Mr. Speaker, the role of the Languages Commissioner is very much like that of an ombudsman. It is critically important not only to establish an arm's length relationship but also the appearance of an arm's length relationship. From comments made yesterday in the Committee of the Whole, it is clear that an association exists which

could threaten the credibility of the Languages Commissioner. This is regrettable and should not continue. The Languages Commissioner stated yesterday that she is accountable to each Member of this House. It is important that she is equally accountable to all Members.

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Regardless of the fact that fine people are involved here, Mr. Speaker, this House should insist on only the highest standard when it comes to accountability.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Gargan, your allotted time has lapsed.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to continue.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and honourable Members. Regardless of the fact that fine people are involved, Mr. Speaker, this House should insist on only the highest standards when it comes to the accountability of this office. Perhaps the situation is compounded further by the fact that a Member in question is also a Member of the Executive Council. There is a risk that public perception of decisions on the granting of leaves, the allocation of human or financial resources or the priority accorded to certain legislative initiatives may be affected by the nature of that friendship which exists. This could easily become a matter of confidence within this House. I do not want to see those issues arise. The matter must be addressed now before it leads to non-confidence considerations in the future.

Perhaps the problem is that the office of the Languages Commissioner is new and that not enough thought was given to the accountability process when the act was amended. The Languages Commissioner is an officer of the Legislative Assembly, not an employee of a department.

The only officer in a similar position is the Clerk of this House. The Clerk reports to the Management and Services Board and is held accountable by Members who sit on that board. If there are questions or input about the Clerk's office, they can be dealt with by the Management and Services Board.

There is no equivalent body for the office of the Languages Commissioner. That leaves an accountability vacuum with which I am very uncomfortable. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Members and people of the public who know me will tell me that I am not a mean-spirited or vindictive person. I try to be compassionate and thoughtful. I raise this matter only because I am concerned about the integrity of this House and its officer.

Even more important, Mr. Speaker, this is a matter which relates to our aboriginal languages. I was a big supporter of the office of the Languages Commissioner when the Special Committee on Official Languages brought forward its recommendations. I am still a supporter, Mr. Speaker. I feel, however, that if the credibility of the office becomes damaged, then the credibility of our efforts and our progress in this area of aboriginal languages will be damaged. Mr. Speaker, this is just too high a price to pay. I trust it will be possible to deal with those concerns effectively, compassionately, with finality and with a spirit of consensus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 216-12(3): Minister's Description Of W.C.B.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, on November 23, 1992, the Member for Keewatin Central, to whom this question is directed in his capacity as Minister for the W.C.B., described the W.C.B. as troubled, inefficient, ridiculous, monolithic, adversarial and out of control.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the honourable Minister, today, is it the Minister's view that these extreme statements from his own mouth accurately describe

this board for which he is now responsible? Is it still out of control today?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

This is an historic moment but I must say that this question is asking an opinion of the Minister and, as such, I cannot allow it. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

All right, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try another one.

---Laughter

Question 217-12(3): Ministerial Action In W.C.B. Rate Increases

Mr. Speaker, an honourable Member of this Legislature recently described the recent increase in employers' assessments as totally unacceptable and said it was short-sighted to even contemplate such a decision which would so terribly tax the private sector. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board if he, taking into account this strong opinion from a respected Member of this House, is going to be taking action and exercising his ministerial authority to deal with these totally unacceptable rate increases of the W.C.B.? Will he be taking that action? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 217-12(3): Ministerial Action In W.C.B. Rate Increases

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I just want to bring to the attention of honourable Members that the Ministers who have accepted the portfolios were not advised of which portfolios they were going to get until 12:30 today, and it is my understanding that the Commissioner has not signed off the written correspondence to officially make them Cabinet Ministers. Due to the fact that I had several questions to answer and I was late in doing that, I hope that the honourable Members would give the new sitting Members a little bit of leeway. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Mr. Koe.

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Question 218-12(3): Status Of Transfer Of Education Building

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 30, 1992, I raised questions in this Assembly to the then Minister of Education about the status of the transfer of the old adult education building located in Inuvik, to the Native Women's Association to use as a training centre. At that time, the Minister said he would get back to me. Mr. Speaker, I am still waiting. My question to the acting Minister of Education is, when will this government be transferring this building to the Native Women's Association?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi, the temporary acting Minister.

Return To Question 218-12(3): Status Of Transfer Of Education Building

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I regret that is going to be the next Minister of Education who is not going to give a definitive response to a Member. One of the complications I know of is that while the government respects the request, it is somewhat leery if the need is just for office space that may be available elsewhere.

The question is, how much does it cost to operate and maintain that existing facility which is very old and, if we turn over the ownership of such a building, will there be a subsequent proposal seeking a charity lease for the facility? In that case, the question will still be, is it worth our while to turn it over and hope for the best, or should we look at trying to suggest some alternative accommodation in the community? That is what I understand is taking some time. That is the update that I have and still no definite decision has been made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 218-12(3): Status Of Transfer Of Education Building

MR. KOE:

The need is not for new office space, the need is for classroom space, and the old adult education building apparently suits the needs of the Native Women's Association. They are currently leasing space and the lease price they pay, I was told, would cover the cost of moving into this new building. The Departments of Education and Public Works had investigated this at the time, I think it has been three or four months now. My concern is, why is it taking so long? My question again is, why can the departments not get together, assess the situation and come up with an answer quickly?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 218-12(3): Status Of Transfer Of Education Building

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I will take the Member's suggestion and direct the Department of Education, to try to resolve this within a week and give the Member and his constituents a definite answer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 219-12(3): Policy On Commissioner's Address

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has taken up some time to get to the Ministers' Statement 1-12(3) "Getting Down to Business", a statement delivered by the Premier on November 17. In this statement, the Minister indicated that she will be departing from tradition. It is very unclear to us, Mr. Speaker, why the Commissioner's address has been referred to as a throne speech. This was, in fact, delivered by the Premier, rather than by the Commissioner. Could the Premier give us some rationale as to why the Commissioner did not give us a Commissioner's address, but a statement delivered by the Premier?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 219-12(3): Policy On Commissioner's Address

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I probably am not as well versed to the protocol that the honourable Member is quoting from. I do not know what protocol he is talking about or, what general standard of address that he is talking about. I generally ask the department to present what we are doing and how we are doing it. I request that it be written up in that manner. If it should have been done by the Commissioner, I was not aware of that. However, if the honourable Member feels that some things are best said by the Commissioner, I am certainly willing to have that input. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 219-12(3): Policy On Commissioner's Address

MR. LEWIS:

Will the Premier give us some explanation as to why, on this particular occasion, the decision was made to have the throne speech given by the Premier, who obviously is not the Commissioner, and whether she intends to outline Cabinet priorities and accomplishments in this manner in the future?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 219-12(3): Policy On Commissioner's Address

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I really do not know what he is talking about. I am not sure that there was a design, in my mind, for what a Commissioner would say and what a Premier would say. If he thinks that a statement should be made by the Commissioner, I would be pleased to learn some protocol from him, if he feels that some things are inappropriate for the Premier to say and best rests with the Commissioner. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 220-12(3): Plans For G.N.W.T. Initiatives

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Government Leader. I am following up on the question my colleague from Yellowknife Centre had asked

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regarding your statement of November 17, which she titled "Getting Down to Business". Mr. Speaker, in her statement, the Government Leader remarked that, over the first 12 months of her term she has, "developed and begun implementation of a comprehensive plan that is making fundamental changes to the structure of government and the way it does business in the territories." Mr. Speaker, we have seen a number of documents, Minister's statements and discussion papers in this House and even promises which have come forward from the government. I do not believe that we have seen a single plan that shows us how they are supposed to be integrated with time lines for the implementation of this plan and a basic evaluation. Is the Government Leader working with a single, integrated plan or merely looking at different initiatives for this government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 220-12(3): Plans For G.N.W.T. Initiatives

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, for many years, the people whom we represent have complained about the way the government operates. What we have tried to do is develop a more streamlined approach to the operation of the government, which would make it easier for us to respond to initiatives that are developed through this Legislative Assembly. A year ago, we had a planning session at a strategic meeting which we all attended. So far, we have been working on that plan. We have tried to implement some of the stages on reshaping northern government. At the same time, we are trying to respond to initiatives and requests that have been put forth from the regions and this Legislative Assembly.

However, the problem we have faced in the past is how to streamline the government so that people feel

that they could access programs and responsibilities from this government. We are still working out that initial plan. I do not want to say where we had the meeting, because other initiatives that have happened since then give a location. We did have a strategic planning session on what we wanted to do with consolidation and streamlining the government. We are still working out that plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 220-12(3): Plans For G.N.W.T. Initiatives

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, about a year ago we were still in session. The Members took the time to go page by page through the Beatty Report. Everyone felt that the Beatty Report would be the blueprint for the government. As time went on, the credibility of the Beatty Report eroded on some of its basic recommendations. I do not know if it was because it had some factual errors. Is the strategic plan from the "Getting Down to Business" statement developed from the Beatty Report? Was the Beatty Report the basis of this particular plan? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 220-12(3): Plans For G.N.W.T. Initiatives

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, as the Legislative Assembly knows, we never did adopt the Beatty Report. We did prepare from elements out of the Beatty Report on reshaping northern government on areas where we felt would be beneficial to use from that study. However, the document that is more appropriate to refer to is "Reshaping Northern Government", which does have some elements of the Beatty Report in it, but not all. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 220-12(3): Plans For G.N.W.T. Initiatives

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

This is the final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In November of last year, this House held its first territorial leadership meeting and listened to the Government Leader outline her reasons why the Members should support her bid to head the government. When she was then asked by the Honourable John Todd whether she was prepared to take the risk and make structural changes to the government, she indicated that "I know that there is some fear out there if we do not make those changes and do not take those risks. As the Legislature, we are in serious trouble. As a Cabinet, we would be in more serious trouble." Recognizing that apart from consolidating Government Services with Public Works, Education with Communication and Culture, there is some concern that there has been no significant structural changes. Will the Government Leader ask her officials to assess whether or not this prophecy has come to pass? Is this the reason why we have seen so much discontent in this House? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 220-12(3): Plans For G.N.W.T. Initiatives

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I guess it is an opinion on what discontent is and what accelerated questions are or if we are just people wanting to know what is going on. I do not like to phrase it as discontent. Certain things happen. People are not supportive of it. I just do not feel that we can always frame it in one word. I believe that much of the problem that we are having is that we just do not have the financial resources we once had. There is a lot of fear out there that one area will get something over another area. I know that is fundamental and people are struggling to represent their communities and deliver projects, programs, employment and training and academic excellence to communities.

We hear not only from this Legislative Assembly, but all across Canada, in all parts of the world, including the United States of America, which is the richest nation in the world, about financial problems.

Inherently people have that fear. There is a lot of pressure put on the ordinary M.L.A.'s. People are

asking how much is going to go, where are we going to end up, are we going to get the things that we wanted and were planned for? I think all that

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pressure is on every one of us. Out of that there will be more and more pressure on the Cabinet to deliver and try to retain that standard, and that pressure is shown here, in Yellowknife, which is the capital city of the Northwest Territories at this time. That puts a certain amount of pressure on people too, because it has had a certain standard and it has been recognized and it has a certain amount of affluence. All those things are inherent in what you could call discontent.

While this is going on, we are trying as a Cabinet with the Legislative Assembly to organize this government so that the bureaucracy does not suck up all the resources. There is not any financial possibility of doing programs or projects. All those are inherent, I do not know whether we can blame it on one thing. Certainly, trying to change a bureaucratic structure and keep everybody happy is almost an impossibility, but when I spoke to you at the leadership meeting, I did indicate that I would try to do that. There are risks in doing that and I recognize them.

We have not concluded all the consolidations, we have not concluded all the recommendations in terms of restructuring the financial area. The Government of the Northwest Territories is on top of the "Strength of Two Levels" report, on top of the identification of the "Reshaping Northern Government" and on top of the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts that we must do to legitimize that we are looking after our financial resources. There is a lot of pressure and it comes from all over the place and of course it is going to be represented in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Government Leader, what further consolidations are to come about and when does she anticipate that they will be completed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

That is two questions, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Could you ask just one question, please? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

(microphone turned off)

MR. SPEAKER:

Yes, Ms. Cournoyea, I have asked Mrs. Marie-Jewell if she would ask just one question. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 220-12(3): Plans For G.N.W.T. Initiatives

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Will the Government Leader be able to give us a time table for the completion of all consolidation for departments within the government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 220-12(3): Plans For G.N.W.T. Initiatives

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I will provide that information to the honourable Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 221-12(3): Decentralization Of Programs And Services

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader on the "Getting Down to Business" statement of November 17. In the address, there was a reference to progress the government had made in changing the way it does business, through a process of consolidation, decentralization, community transfers and privatization. I would like to know which services or programs have now been decentralized so that they are now located in regional locations instead of Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 221-12(3): Decentralization Of Programs And Services

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, we have had to go through the process of giving out proper information. The actual change over has not taken place at this time. The first part of it starts on April 1, 1993, and I can provide detailed information as to whether that is still on schedule, or whether there will have to be some delays in some areas.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 221-12(3): Decentralization Of Programs And Services

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Government Leader tell the House about the process through which these decentralization plans are being developed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 221-12(3): Decentralization Of Programs And Services

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, They are being developed through the Financial Management Board and the Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though the decentralization initiative is now several months old, the main accomplishment of the government has been to hold meetings about how to develop the decentralization plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

That was a statement Mr. Antoine. Do you have a question?

Supplementary To Question 221-12(3):
Decentralization Of Programs And Services

MR. ANTOINE:

That is supposed to be a question.

---Laughter

Has the main accomplishment of the government been to hold a meeting about how to develop the decentralization plan? Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 221-12(3):
Decentralization Of Programs And Services

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the honourable Member knows that we have downsized the government. We also have made the decision to decentralize certain areas of the government and we have to implement it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 222-12(3): Fundamental Changes To
Government Structure

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Government Leader. I am also interested in her comments on structural change in the government. When she delivered her "Getting Down to Business" statement on November 17, she stated that this government has been getting down to business with community transfers. From the answers this House has received from the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, however, there seem to have been lots of discussions, but not much business. My question is, can the Government Leader indicate what she meant by her November 17 comments that "fundamental changes have been made to the structure of government through a process of community transfers."

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 222-12(3): Fundamental
Changes To Government Structure

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, certainly one area that we are trying to do is consultation. Everybody wants to be talked to before we do anything. Everyone wants to be consulted. I suppose that if we had taken a different task and made it more arbitrary, we could probably have a quicker response. However, it appears to me whether it is this Legislative Assembly or a regional council, they want to be consulted, they want to know what the process is going to be and they want to be involved with the development of that process. In order to accommodate that, it took us six months to develop an adequate community transfer paper that met the expectations of the people who wanted to be consulted.

In the meantime, I want to assure the honourable Member that discussions took place at the community level, because there were requests and people knew in some areas what they wanted to do. It took that long to get the overall framework paper. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 222-12(3): Fundamental
Changes To Government Structure

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. On November 12 when we held the first Leadership Committee meeting, the Government Leader responded to a question, "I would like to see each region take on two communities at the outset for community self-government with the M.L.A.s' total involvement, and I would like to do that right away and right up-front. That way people will be involved and there will be some movement and they can see that something is being done at the same time that the discussion is going on." Can the Government Leader advise the House which ten communities we should examine if we want to assess the results of the implementation of community self-government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 222-12(3): Fundamental Changes To Government Structure

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort McPherson, Arctic Red River, Aklavik, Rae and Cape Dorset are the names that I can give to you right now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 222-12(3): Fundamental Changes To Government Structure

MR. KOE:

That is good for the western Arctic. I do not know what is happening in the east. Recognizing that community self-government has been a goal of northern people for years, what is the Government Leader prepared to do to ensure that a more rapid pace is set for getting down to the business of community transfers?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 222-12(3): Fundamental Changes To Government Structure

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the answer is probably getting out of here, so that we can get to the communities and start discussing it. I would like to say that the regional directors could be more involved. In the eastern Arctic it is not going to be as difficult, because there is one form of government that everyone is accepting. Certainly, one of the areas that takes up time is deciding on what is going to be the lead governmental type agency. That takes a little bit more time to discuss. I certainly would like to work more closely with communities, to encourage them to have complex discussions and get over some of the fears that they have in taking over some of the responsibility. I think that the discussions that have taken place so far have not been unproductive.

People want their questions answered in detail if they take over certain responsibilities, they want to know exactly what they are going to be and how much we are willing to give. Certainly in a couple of the

communities with which I have been involved with the expectations of community transfers they have asked, "does this mean that we are going to get all the things that M.L.A.s were not able to deliver? This is our wish list." It really does take more community education, and hands-on work with people because there are a lot of individuals who are used to living with established procedures. Leaders in some communities face a reluctance from other community members to be represented. It is a matter of dealing with fairness at a community level, so that when the transfers do actually take place, people are happy that they are all going to be treated

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fairly.

I certainly would have preferred things to move much more quickly, but at the same time we have to give the communities the benefit of resolving the way they are going to be set up. This takes a little more time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 223-12(3): Privatization Of G.N.W.T. Programs And Services

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, the Premier's "Getting Down to Business" statement suggested that progress has been made in privatizing government services and programs as a means of changing the way the government does business in the N.W.T. Mr. Speaker, can the Government Leader indicate to the House which G.N.W.T. programs and services have been fully privatized in the term of this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 223-12(3): Privatization Of G.N.W.T. Programs And Services

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, what I would like to do is prepare a list of where we are with privatization. We did commit to a privatization plan for the N.W.T. Power Corporation. We are committed to privatization of housing in

certain communities. We are getting out of government housing. We have done some work on that in Yellowknife, but we have to do some more work in Fort Smith. Inuvik is asking us to accelerate this. I am prepared to provide a progress report of where we are with privatization, the projects and the dates that we have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 223-12(3): Privatization Of G.N.W.T. Programs And Services

MR. DENT:

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the Premier's offer to provide that list of plans. On April 2, I asked whether departments had been submitting the yearly privatization plans that government policy directives require them to prepare. It was at that time taken as notice by the Minister and I think we are still waiting for the answer, seven months later. Can the Premier advise the House of the status of departmental planning for privatization? Are they presenting these reports that they are supposed to present?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 223-12(3): Privatization Of G.N.W.T. Programs And Services

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, when I answered the previous question I was going to incorporate that in the reply.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 223-12(3): Privatization Of G.N.W.T. Programs And Services

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the Premier could outline the process which she and Cabinet are planning to use in order to get down to business in the area of privatization? Not just where they are now, but where and how they are going to get where they are going? What is the process?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 223-12(3): Privatization Of G.N.W.T. Programs And Services

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the plans that the honourable Member mentioned from the departments have come through F.M.B., then they go to Cabinet and on for implementation. We do have an implementation organization within the Department of the Executive. The Cabinet would attempt to force those issues to fruition. That is the answer to the previous question. I would be willing to provide a status report of all the privatization efforts, where they are, and if we are behind schedule, where and when we feel they will be accomplished.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 224-12(3): Protection For Hunters And Trappers

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources. There was a review on hunters and trappers in Greenland and Alaska done in 1984, and they were losing their abilities. How would the Minister protect the hunters and trappers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question 224-12(3): Protection For Hunters And Trappers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not clear on the question. However, the hunters and trappers in the N.W.T. have supported and protected them through funding. Through the hunters' and trappers' associations, the old traps are presently being replaced and the trappers will continue to trap to sell. In 1984-85, the prices for the skins were very low: pelts were \$20. During our meeting, we had agreed to come up with a committee to do a study on the grey seals, and to work on the cost of the pelts and the meat. We agreed that the Ministers would form a committee and, during this week, I stated that the

working group will be working on the recommendations and that they will be meeting in January to talk about seals.

In the N.W.T., within the territorial government, we are also setting up a fur strategy committee. We are working on that, and I will also be working on recommendations on harp seals. The department is setting up a proposal to be presented to the federal government. This has now gone to our Cabinet and I will be asking for funding so that the pelts will be once again

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can be sold in Canada. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 224-12(3): Protection For Hunters And Trappers

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be cut at the end of March. What is your department doing to support the aboriginal people who support their families through hunting and trapping? What is your department doing so that the funding will continue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Further Return To Question 224-12(3): Protection For Hunters And Trappers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) We will be using the existing bodies to continue the funding through I.T.C., I.S.I. and other organizations, because they are in a better position and they know what to say and we will be listening to their concerns and comments. Thank you.

Supplementary To Question 224-12(3): Protection For Hunters And Trappers

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that the I.T.C., the organizations and bodies will be working together. However, what is your department, the Department of Renewable Resources, doing to support the funding?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 224-12(3): Protection For Hunters And Trappers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I was not too clear, but we are listening to their concerns, because they know what is best for them and the strategies they should set up. They are in a better position than we are. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question 225-12(3): Analysis Of Expenditure Management Program

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. My question will be for the Minister of Finance. He should be aware that on November 17, the Government Leader made a statement entitled "Getting Down to Business" in which she commented that, over the past year, her government has tackled an unprecedented deficit and targeted expenditures. The Government Leader's attempt to target expenditures took place during the restraint program announced last year by the Minister of Finance.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts has tried, on a number of occasions, to find out exactly how much government money was saved by this program, as opposed to the impact it had on the economic environment of the N.W.T. Each time, the Public Accounts Committee has been told that this is still being analyzed by the Financial Management Secretariat and they will not know until that assessment is finished.

My question to the Minister of Finance is, when is his department going to get down to business and complete this analysis of last year's expenditure management program?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 225-12(3): Analysis Of Expenditure Management Program

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I anticipate having those numbers by the end of this month, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 225-12(3): Analysis Of Expenditure Management Program

MR. ZOE:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister is able to give the House any indication of whether the Expenditure Management Program made a dent in our deficit?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 225-12(3): Analysis Of Expenditure Management Program

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, if I had to guess, I would say it was in the area of \$8 million that we saved through that financial restraint program but, even more important, Mr. Speaker, is the message that government employees, bureaucrats, departments could not just go out and spend indiscriminately. It has been noticed in the past, when you get to year end, there are people out there spending money like crazy. That was brought home to me time and time again. That was another area we moved to in saying to the departments, you cannot go out and do that any more. There are not enough dollars to go around.

Although, I have only saved \$8 million and I will know that at the end of the month if I am correct, Mr. Speaker, we set the tone. We said to people, you have to be responsible. You have to spend your money wisely and we prefer that you spend it in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 225-12(3): Analysis Of Expenditure Management Program

MR. ZOE:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What further initiatives or directives are being contemplated in the area of expenditure management by the Minister of Finance?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 225-12(3): Analysis Of Expenditure Management Program

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, F.M.B. and Cabinet decided on a course of action to balance our budget by next year. Departments were given targets, both in O & M, with a call letter, and in capital, they were asked to work within an

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envelope of a three year expenditure program so that they know what they had in year one, two and three. That has had a lot of influence on those things coming down the road that would be, let us say, surprising. We have maintained our capital spending and I am very pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, that I notice that in the areas of health and social services, and I credit the former Minister for this, the spending has ceased to escalate at the pace it was a year ago. I think that the message is still there to use the funds wisely, to be cognizant of those dollars. I have said to the deputy ministers before, spend them as if they were your own dollars.

The other thing is, I have been very pleased with the support that I have received from Cabinet Ministers. We adopted a discipline and said that we would accept forced growth, but beyond that no extra dollars would be spent. I must admit, Mr. Speaker, the support from the Members of Cabinet has been really exemplary and they have been responsible. There have been times when they have come forward for a very good reason for extra funds, but mainly Mr. Speaker, Cabinet has been very supportive of trying to balance our budget by next year.

If we continue the way we are going, if everybody continues to be reasonable, and if the transfers from Ottawa remain as they are at the present time, we still will be able to balance our budget next year, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 226-12(3): Amount Of Reduction In Deficit In Past Year

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Our Government Leader's statement on November 17 entitled "Getting Down to Business", makes it sound as though the Cabinet has made significant progress in tackling the financial deficit that has been occupying this government since the start of the 12th Legislative Assembly. I know that in the previous response to one of my colleagues, a savings of over \$8 million was mentioned. For the record, can the Minister of Finance state in clear terms, in layman's terms, how much we have reduced the deficit during the period from December 9, 1991, until today?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 226-12(3): Amount Of Reduction In Deficit In Past Year

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, when we took office, projections for the deficit went as high as \$80 million. I am pleased to say that this year we never achieved that debt. We went to only \$28 million in the last fiscal year. That is an accomplishment, Mr. Speaker, because at the same time that we were cutting back and trying not to spend as much money, we were getting cuts from the federal government.

Mr. Morin was able to absorb a cut of \$22 million into his programs and still deliver the same number of houses. He had to change the programs, I admit, Mr. Speaker, but it would have been just as easy for Mr. Morin to come to us and say, "I need \$22 million", but he did not do that. It may appear that it is me who is being the bad guy and saying we cannot spend the money. As I say, other Ministers know our financial situation and they are trying their best to help out.

Instead of being in debt by \$80 million last year, it was \$28 million, Mr. Speaker, I estimate it to be a \$25 million deficit for this particular year at the present time. By the end of this fiscal year we will be at \$33 million. The reason for that increase in the deficit is the fact that we lost \$5 million in the last quarter from the federal government, and I was advised yesterday that we lost another \$5 million from the federal government for the third quarter. It is still bouncing all

over the place, but we downsized the government. We asked our unions to participate with us and accept a zero increase this year, and I would again like to point out that that was the Minister of Personnel acting responsibly and making the unions understand that we did not have the money.

If we had not done all of those things, we still may have been facing a deficit of \$75 million this year. That is one thing that we are not going to experience. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 226-12(3): Amount Of Reduction In Deficit In Past Year

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Government Leader and the Cabinet want to get out of this House and get to the communities to do their work, but we still have many questions and concerns which we want clarification on, so I hope they give us the privilege of continuing.

My supplementary question to the Minister of Finance is, can the Minister of Finance advise this House as to what is the cumulative current deficit facing this government at the end of this fiscal year?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 226-12(3): Amount Of Reduction In Deficit In Past Year

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, as I said in the previous answer, we are forecasting a \$33 million deficit for this fiscal year which will end March 31, 1993. At that time, we will have a cumulated surplus of \$3 million, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 226-12(3): Amount Of Reduction In Deficit In Past Year

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same Minister, other than tighter control on government spending, what options have been considered for getting down to business and tackling the deficit?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 226-12(3): Amount Of Reduction In Deficit In Past Year

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, all of the departments have participated in suggestions on how we can better use our

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money. Plans to bring forward, may be to downsize financially in the departments and how we can spend more of that money in the Northwest Territories. You have heard some of those initiatives announced in the House. Mr. Speaker, my suggestion was to come forward with a payroll tax, which has not met with a lot of warmth, and has not been embraced by this House yet. We have to learn to live within our means, Mr. Speaker. We have to realize that if we want to spend all the money that people want us to spend on them, somebody is going to have to pay. I get the message time and time again from the federal government, that the taxpayer in southern Canada is beginning to look north and say, we are spending \$17,000 for every man, woman and child in the Northwest Territories. That seems rather steep for us at 57,000 people.

We have to become more self-reliant. We have to get out there. I know it sounds like small potatoes when we are talking about developing the small fisheries and the arts and craft industry, but every product that we produce in the Northwest Territories and sell on the international market or in southern Canada, is more money back into the Northwest Territories, and that is important to us, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Zoe mentioned today that the Dogrib people are open for business, but they want to be consulted in that mining area. We are saying the same thing. If you want to do business in the Northwest Territories and you do it in the proper manner, the Government of the Northwest Territories will assist you and we are open for business. We are trying to expand our own economy. Unfortunately, we have some problems with our formula funding, which affect us adversely when we put more people to work in the Northwest Territories. That is another issue

that has to be worked out to make us better off financially in future years.

Mr. Speaker, the question is, can we bite the bullet next year and balance our budget, get our spending under control and then go forward from there to expand our economy? I think, with the understanding of this House and the hard work from the Cabinet Ministers, we can do that, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the next session when we will be asking the Members of this House to support our initiatives. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Your final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to extend question period.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays, question period is extended. Mr. Koe, your final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 226-12(3): Amount Of Reduction In Deficit In Past Year

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government Leader's statement on November 17 suggests that we should be able to see the return of a balanced budget by the end of 1994, and subsequent statements by the Minister of Finance indicated that that was the goal set. I have been on record expressing my scepticism to for the attainability of this goal. For the record, is the Minister of Finance willing to confirm that this indeed is the case and that it will be possible to balance our territorial budget by this time two years from now?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 226-12(3): Amount Of Reduction In Deficit In Past Year

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 227-12(3): Changes To G.N.W.T.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it is fitting that we have spent some time during question period focusing on the first Minister's statement of this sitting. Therefore, I have one final question for Madam Premier about her November 17 statement titled "Getting Down to Business".

In that statement, Mr. Speaker, she said, "I stated earlier this year that decisions to carry out significant changes during the term of the government would have to be made during the first 18 months of our term." Mr. Speaker, other than the faces on the other side, what has changed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 227-12(3): Changes To G.N.W.T.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, it is the listening element of what we have in this House. We have tried to prepare the Members for how we are going to structurally change the government, so that we can be more responsive to the people's needs. I think we have addressed a lot of issues in terms of privatization, decentralization, financial control and still are able to deliver as much as possible to projects and programs. We have tried not to cut those. If we did not do anything and only looked at changing faces on this side, I am sure that we would be in a much more difficult position than we are presently.

I can suggest to you that in everything we do, there is a certain planning time that is required, a consultation time. If any individual was able to make the decisions and arbitrarily put those decisions in place, things would go much more quickly. This is a different type of government. People want to be involved and we have tried to take that time. A lot of things have changed. We have a framework on how we are going to do business and the most difficult part is to get a framework that people feel they can operate within. It

has been difficult to change even the attitude of people towards the financial difficulties that we are in and to try to have decisions made that will allow other people to have input before those decisions are finally made.

There have been many changes. Fortunately, the external effect of those changes is not felt at this time. There have been significant changes. Certainly over the year, the territorial government could have put obstacles in the way of settling claims, but we did not. We tried to accommodate the claims and support the development of those claims. In the past, when I was involved with a land claim settlement, this government put many obstacles in the way to try to get that

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claim settled. It cost millions of dollars to answer the questions. We have tried to be fair and tried to put forward constructive solutions to problems that we might have. We have come a long way.

In terms of the face of this government in federal politics, we have come a long way in the last year. It took time, effort, dedication and patience. I think not one of us can say that we did not do a good job. I did not do it alone. Mr. Kakfwi did not do it alone. We all did it together. The face of this government on national politics is one of respect. I think that took some time and effort to do. I believe that many of the Cabinet Ministers have tried to resolve many problems between provincial and federal government. If you want the list of achievements again, we can do that.

What I have tried to say to this government is, do not brag, do not put a face out there, just try to put your head down and do the job. This is what we have tried to do. Perhaps we do not have glossy profiles, but we are trying to do the job. I think there are a lot of things that have been achieved and there is a lot of respect given to the Northwest Territories from outside this territory. Those achievements have not come without a great deal of effort. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 227-12(3): Changes To G.N.W.T.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the Premier's outline of the changes that have been accomplished in terms of a framework, attitudes, land claims and constitution. I hope that we will see more. Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The Government Leader's statement of November 17 referred to pointed and controversial question periods. She attributed this to an extremely difficult financial climate and the genuine interest of Members. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the Government Leader would also ask her Cabinet to evaluate whether some of the pointed and controversial questions may have been based on concern over the lack of progress on important government initiatives and the number of questions that have been taken as notice?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 227-12(3): Changes To G.N.W.T.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 227-12(3): Changes To G.N.W.T.

MR. DENT:

One last supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier. Every good business should have a business plan. Since the Premier has said that she wants to get down to business, could she please advise the House as to what she intends to implement during the approximate nine-week period between now and February 17, when this House will resume sitting? What can we expect to see in terms of progress in the next nine weeks?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 227-12(3): Changes To G.N.W.T.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, any progress we make is certainly not going to be without a great deal of effort to keep up the momentum that we have under way at this time. As you know, there are many different areas of almost every department in which we have been asked to provide significant progress in. Not to take away from any other departmental responsibility, I believe that one area in which we will continue to make progress is the housing initiatives that have begun. I hope we will be able to have the communities fully aware of those new programs so that they will not feel frustrated in trying to gain access to them. We will continue to make more progress in getting out of government housing, where it is appropriate. We realize that there are some areas that are going to be slower, where the market is not there. In terms of trying to look at employment initiatives, I hope that between now and when we come back together again, we will be able to map out some kind of framework for employment initiatives. Other than that we will continue to formalize more clearly and try to detail some of the areas that we have for a more solid approach on how we are going to do the consolidations, and finalize those consolidations that are yet to be finalized such as the consolidations of the Departments of Finance, Economic Development, Health and Social Services.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 228-12(3): Minister's Commitment To Abstinence Clause

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing that new Ministers have been sworn in publicly by the Commissioner and that their portfolio assignments have been announced to the public and this House, and recognizing that this may be the last opportunity to ask questions, I would like to appeal to the Government Leader to allow me to ask a question to the Minister of Social Services on a matter which is not of a highly technical nature nor unknown to the honourable Member. I would like to ask the new Minister of Social Services if she is committed to the present government policy of requiring all community alcohol and drug projects in the Northwest Territories to commit to the so-called "abstinence clause" as a condition of receiving contributions from the Department of Social Services.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 228-12(3): Minister's
Commitment To Abstinence Clause

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that earlier I indicated that the Cabinet Ministers did not know of their portfolios until 12:30 today, and that I have not received back the instruments from the Commissioner to fully, legitimately have these people as Cabinet Ministers. Would the honourable Member give due respect to the circumstances we are in at this time? Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 228-12(3): Minister's
Commitment To Abstinence Clause

MR. PATTERSON:

I would like to ask the Government Leader a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing that the transmittal of appointments under seal from the Commissioner is really a technical matter and may or may not have been accomplished as we speak, I would appeal to the Government Leader that these announcements have been made in this House today and the Members have been sworn in. I think the people of the Northwest Territories have the right to get some idea from these new Ministers what their views are on issues that are not detailed, or highly technical, and issues that are well known to the Ministers and within their competence to answer, even upon early assuming of their portfolios.

I would like to appeal to the Government Leader. Is she going to insist on hiding behind a technicality or is she willing to let this reasonable question be posed to a new Minister while we still have the opportunity before this House imminently adjourns. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to say to the House that, in the rules, there is nothing that compels the Minister to respond to a question. The Premier, I think, has responded twice to your question. I will allow one more response. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 228-12(3): Minister's
Commitment To Abstinence Clause

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker. The attitude that I am hiding behind a technicality, I take as a bit of an insult because I believe I said that the first Member was notified at 12:30 today. The last was at 1:15 today. I was asking for the indulgence of the Members to at least give these new Members of Cabinet a little bit of time to look at the policies that are there. Given the fact that some of the Members did take a very high profile approach to certain areas, that they really should have time to assess their position in relationship to the policies that are here. The policy on sobriety does exist. It still exists today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 228-12(3): Minister's
Commitment To Abstinence Clause

MR. PATTERSON:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing the wisdom of the Government Leader's suggestions that new Ministers should have time to give due consideration to the implications of their new status, I wonder if I could ask the Honourable Premier, Mr. Speaker, whether she will be recommending to the new Ministers that they obtain briefings or advice from outgoing Ministers on current issues affecting their departments? Would she, in the spirit of becoming well-prepared to deal with the complicated issues that these new Ministers are facing, recommend that they seek a briefing from outgoing Ministers soon so they can fully understand the background of some of these complex issues? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 228-12(3): Minister's
Commitment To Abstinence Clause

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I think that many of the new Members can read Hansard to know all the expert opinions that each Minister has given in the past. However, yes, I will. It is only good business to talk to people who

have held the portfolios before. I think that advice is appropriate and it is advice I am sure other Members have already considered. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 229-12(3): Government Leader Assure No Changes To Sobriety Clause

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Government Leader and ask if she would assure this House that the major decisions that were made, such as the implementation of the sobriety clause into the funding agreements, not be changed between now and the next sitting in February? Would she assure this House that will not be changed until we have had a chance to adequately discuss, in this House, such an important issue?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 229-12(3): Government Leader Assure No Changes To Sobriety Clause

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I certainly can make that commitment.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 230-12(3): Reallocation Of Funds For Highway No. 5

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose a question to the acting Minister of Transportation. During the capital budget process this Assembly approved \$2.8 million for pavement overlay on Highway No. 5 and I proposed a motion, at that time, that the department consider using this fund to pave or chip seal portions of that highway that are presently gravel only. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, and the opinion of most of my constituents, improving the gravel part of Highway No. 5 should be one of the priorities of the government and the Department of Transportation. Would the acting Minister be able to tell me if he is willing to instruct the Department of Transportation, or give

serious recommendation to the new Minister, to instruct the staff of the department to look at re-allocating funds for this particular purpose? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 230-12(3): Reallocation Of Funds For Highway No. 5

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I have discussed with the Department of Transportation this problem that has been brought to our attention. Obviously this will be a decision of the new Minister, but the deputy minister is willing to travel to Fort Smith to discuss it with the community. There is some suggestion from hunters and trappers in that area, Mr. Speaker,

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that the dust control that is being put on that road is not good for the chickens down there and there have been not as many in that area.

So the suggestion has been that we could make some arrangement about discussing with the community the possibility of doing a little less on dust control and doing a little more on chip seal. I think the department is willing to go down and discuss that with the people of Fort Smith, Mr. Speaker. I will be recommending that to the new Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 231-12(3): Reallocation Of Funds For Chip Seal

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that is a very good suggestion. I fully agree that the calcium chloride that they are putting on those highways is killing off our chickens before we even get to hunt them. I think the idea that placing the funding that is allocated for calcium chloride for chip sealing should be considered. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister, and I am not too sure if it is a new question, because it is to the Minister of Finance, would he ensure that this funding could be considered to be

reallocated for chip seal of the part of the highway that is presently gravel only? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

This question is to Mr. Pollard in his capacity as Minister of Finance. It is a new question. Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 231-12(3): Reallocation Of Funds For Chip Seal

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware if the department is able to shift funding from the new lift that is going to be put on that portion of the highway because it is required for the long-term benefit of that particular highway. It suffers major damage if it is not done. I will pass on the comments to the Minister of Transportation. I do not see any way of shifting funds away from that portion onto the gravel portion, Mr. Speaker, although I am not a highways expert. I will pass that on to the new Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize in the gallery Gerry Antoine, the Chief of Fort Simpson, and our former colleague, Nick Sibbeston, former M.L.A. and the interim Chief of Lynx River.

---Laughter

---Applause

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 231-12(3): Reallocation Of Funds For Chip Seal

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I may have been misunderstood. Earlier, the Minister indicated that he would look at the department using funding, which was initially for pavement, for chip seal, plus the amount of funds that we expend on calcium-chloride. Is he now indicating to this House that he is only going to look at the funding for calcium-chloride to be considered or expenditures on chip seal of that particular highway? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 231-12(3): Reallocation Of Funds For Chip Seal

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, speaking as the acting Minister of Transportation, when I asked the department what could be done with regard to chip sealing that portion of the highway that is now gravel, the suggestion was made to have a meeting with the community to discuss what they would like done, and for the community to spend less money on the dust control and put that money towards chip seal. That was the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker. The second part of the question was about taking funds away from the repaving of the other portion of the highway. I am advised by the department that that is not advisable as the highway requires that to maintain its strength over a long period of time. I am not sure if there is an option of moving funds from the repaving over to the gravel section, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 231-12(3): Reallocation Of Funds For Chip Seal

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Why is it that the Minister of Finance allows funding in the budget to repave a highway which does not have a good base? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 231-12(3): Reallocation Of Funds For Chip Seal

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I am not a highways expert. I can only tell you what I am told by the department. It is the same process that has occurred between Enterprise and Hay River. They had a good base. There is a lift of asphalt put down and it is allowed to settle out. There are road bands put on to protect that portion of the highway until it gets the last lift of pavement. Then it becomes strong enough to withstand large trucks mostly at all times of the year. It has only been partially completed, Mr. Speaker. It is only two-thirds

done. It needs the extra lift put on it to make it a complete highway. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. This is the last supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 231-12(3): Reallocation Of Funds For Chip Seal

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

That particular highway does have chip seal on it already. Would the Minister review the budget to determine why this government allows for funding to repave a paved highway which does not have a solid base prior to the initial paving? That is exactly what is happening. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

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Further Return To Question 231-12(3): Reallocation Of Funds For Chip Seal

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I think that the Member makes a good suggestion. I shall review it along with the new Minister of Transportation and provide the Member with a detailed report on how things happened, why they happened, and why they have to happen in the future. I will do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question 232-12(3): Evaluation Of Space Requirements In Hay River

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Government Services and Public Works. The Minister should be aware that decentralization initiatives will move a number of government services and programs to Hay River. This will likely result in increased space requirements for government operations. What has the Minister done to evaluate space requirements in Hay River related to the government's decentralization initiative?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 232-12(3): Evaluation Of Space Requirements In Hay River

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The space requirement for decentralization into Hay River is being looked at by the department. There will be a square footage call for space in Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 232-12(3): Evaluation Of Space Requirements In Hay River

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, from the comments we received from the Minister indicates that they are still looking into assessing their needs. Is that correct? Are you still assessing the needs?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 232-12(3): Evaluation Of Space Requirements In Hay River

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once everything is finalized, then we will go to a tender call to provide the space. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 232-12(3): Evaluation Of Space Requirements In Hay River

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that it will be going on a tender call. In attempting to plan the best arrangements for securing the needed space, has the Minister received input or consultation from the Member representing the Hay River Reserve or the Member representing the Town of Hay River?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 232-12(3): Evaluation Of Space Requirements In Hay River

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 232-12(3): Evaluation Of Space Requirements In Hay River

MR. ZOE:

In considering future space planning, has the Minister been made aware that a Hay River firm, Greenway Holdings, has received funding under the E.D.A. to build an incubator mall in the Town of Hay River?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 232-12(3): Evaluation Of Space Requirements In Hay River

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know anything about this holdings company. Possibly, my department does. I will find out about it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 233-12(3): Charges Laid Against Pulp Mill

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we are concerned with fiscal, financial and directional issues in the territories, other things are happening to us from outside our territory. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, within the past couple of weeks there have been numerous articles in the newspapers and from I.T.V. News from Alberta about serious pollution charges that have been laid against the former Proctor Gamble pulp mill located in Grande Prairie. Charges have been laid under the Clean Water Act. I

understand that the plant is now under new ownership or soon will be under the ownership of a firm called Warehouse. This plant is alleged to have violated several terms of its licence and I believe that there are 165 charges, some of which are related to pollution released by the plant into the Wapiti River and into our northern watershed. I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware of these charges being laid against the operators of that pulp mill?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 233-12(3): Charges Laid Against Pulp Mill

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

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Supplementary To Question 233-12(3): Charges Laid Against Pulp Mill

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an emergency situation. The charges were only laid within the last month or so. The offenses are alleged to have been committed over several months and certainly within the last year and a half. It takes water quite a while to get down the river. Will the Minister contact his counterparts in Alberta to insist that the Northwest Territories is not willing to postpone the negotiations of a Trans-boundary Water Agreement any longer?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 233-12(3): Charges Laid Against Pulp Mill

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken to the Premier elect this week, stating our concerns that the trans-boundary water agreement is a priority. I suggested that we go back to negotiating. At the time, he was not able to state clearly when the negotiations would start. He indicated that he would

get his department to start working on it. Yesterday, my department contacted the Department of the Environment in Alberta and stated again that we need to have an agreement in place to protect the waters that are coming into the Northwest Territories. The Department of the Environment in Alberta was not able to indicate to my department when the negotiations would start. They are aware that we are very concerned about the water coming into the Northwest Territories and we will do our utmost to get their attention and start negotiating. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.
Supplementary To Question 233-12(3): Charges Laid Against Pulp Mill

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's response and I certainly hope that the department recognizes the seriousness of this matter. It is often too easy to converse on the telephone. I would like to know if the Minister is prepared to go to Alberta personally and express in the strongest possible terms the seriousness of this matter and the urgency that we place on becoming partners in this trans-boundary agreement. Will he assure us that he is going to do that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 233-12(3): Charges Laid Against Pulp Mill

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, yes, I can assure the Member and this House that I will do my best to go down to Alberta as soon as possible to meet with the Minister of the Environment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 234-12(3): Support For Women In Business

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Mr.

Speaker, there was an action plan for equality for women with the previous government. This contained objectives that called for the Women's Secretariat to further the cause of women who wished to start small businesses. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, if she can indicate whether it is still a priority of this government to foster private sector opportunities for women in business? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 234-12(3): Support For Women In Business

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Status of Women and the women's groups have been highly preoccupied with violence against women, sexual assault, and more of the social problems that are inherent in many of the communities. I know that many of these women would like to expand past the social activities and get into more of the private business sector. At this point, we are continuing to actively support the native women's business in the project at the airport. As these proposals come in, I believe that it is only good business for us to support them. More involvement in the economic front by women and aboriginal people means that they become part of what is going on, not only in the area of social issues but in terms of economic development and employment opportunities.

These are very important to raising the necessary financial requirements that are required to raise a family. Yes, we will continue to do that. I do not think there is enough being done about that because the preoccupation is more on trying to get the social issues in the community. I believe we can become more active but we have not addressed that in terms of the women's directorate at this time. I know that we have certain proposals sitting which are supported generally by this government. In the terms of the women's directorate, I think we can be more proactive in this area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 234-12(3): Support For Women In Business

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated that they could be more proactive in this particular area. It has been expressed to many Members, that the credit corporation, which is with the Department of Economic Development may be acting in a way which limits the viability of business ventures that are driven by women. I would like to ask the Minister, what role can the Status of Women take if it is concerned that certain government programs or agencies are seem to be limiting the viability of business ventures that are initiated by women? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

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Further Return To Question 234-12(3): Support For Women In Business

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I do not think, Mr. Speaker, I stated more could be done in terms of economic development. In terms of women's involvement, if you take the Holman Co-op and what they are doing in arts and crafts, that is mainly run by women. The Holman Co-op Hotel is also mainly run by women. The Pangnirtung weaving plant, which is very successful, is mainly run by women. The only reason I did not mention this is because these are things which already exist. Perhaps there is not enough public profile identifying who is running most of those ventures.

Regarding the Business Credit Corporation, in terms of appointments, we have a very strong businesswoman, Mary King, who will be heading up the Business Credit Corporation. I think this is a positive approach to profiling the abilities of women. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 235-12(3): Application Backlog Of N.W.T. Business Credit Corporation

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I am pleased to note in the Minister's

announcement of December 2, 1992, that he has finally made appointments to the Board of the N.W.T. Business Credit Corporation. I am glad he got around to it, Mr. Speaker. Five appointments had expired on October 4, making it impossible for the board to meet since September 30, 1992. The Minister's statement indicated that during that interval, any application within the authority of the chairperson was addressed by the vice-chairman. Was he intending to indicate that no backlog of applications built up during that interval when the board had too few Members to make a quorum?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 235-12(3): Application Backlog Of N.W.T. Business Credit Corporation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, when the board appointments ran out, there were no applications before the board that would have required the board to meet. They could be dispensed by the chairman of the board. Since that time, we have had five applications. The first one was on October 6. The others were on October 21, October 23, November 9, and November 16. I was not concerned about the board having to deal with them. When applications are received, they have to be analyzed and the information must be put together. Yes, while I admit that the board has not been able to meet up until now because of lack of board appointments, there were no loans that it would have had to deal with anyway. It does take some time to process those applications, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 235-12(3): Application Backlog Of N.W.T. Business Credit Corporation

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell the House the reasons for the two-month delay in making these appointments?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 235-12(3): Application Backlog Of N.W.T. Business Credit Corporation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I think I sent the letter out to the Members. I know that the return date was November 13. I was trying to consult with the Members and get those names in. They had to be contacted. They had to be looked at and taken to Cabinet. I apologize for starting late, but I wanted to make sure that I consulted with ordinary Members on this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 235-12(3): Application Backlog Of N.W.T. Business Credit Corporation

MR. GARGAN:

The Minister should be aware that Greenway Holdings of Hay River received E.D.A. funding some time ago to partially finance the development of an incubator mall in Hay River. The rest of the funding was intended to come from loans through the credit corporation. I understand that an application has been resubmitted for loan funding, but the board has been unable to review it because the Minister did not make the five outstanding appointments. Recognizing that the consideration of this resubmitted loan application has now been delayed to a point where E.D.A. funding for the project may be in some danger, will the Minister indicate what action he is prepared to take to ensure that this submission is dealt with in the most efficient fashion?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 235-12(3): Application Backlog Of N.W.T. Business Credit Corporation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, due to confidentiality rules, I cannot confirm whether or not there is an application in by that company. I will say that I have heard the Member's comments. If there is an application in by that company, I will advise the board that it should be dealt with in a speedy fashion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 236-12(3): Plans To Work With European Fur Industry

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today, the Minister of Renewable Resources, the Honourable Titus Allooloo, in a statement, made reference to a meeting that took place last night, which I was fortunate enough to attend with some members of the Italian Fur Trade Association and Italian media. From that discussion, it became clear to me that there is a need for work to be done to help our trappers, not here on our

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land, but across the ocean in Europe. This is where decisions are made. I understand that 60 per cent of the furs used in the Italian fur industry comes from our land. It is in jeopardy if we do not get involved. The politicians over there are under extreme pressure by anti-fur and anti-trapping organizations. The information they use is not accurate. The fur association that was here believes that northern politicians should meet with European politicians. Could the Minister could tell the House what sort of plan of action the department has developed to do this kind of work? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo

Return To Question 236-12(3): Plans To Work With European Fur Industry

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The advice that we got last night was very useful. I asked my department to see how we could help our trapping industry to get the best promotion possible in Europe. We have contacts in Europe, especially in Brussels, where the European parliament is located. The advice we have received from the people in Brussels has been taken very seriously by us. Very soon, we will be seeking their advice as to whether we need to send some politicians to talk in the European parliament, and when and how we could be the most effective in terms of representing our trappers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 237-12(3): Date Of Business Credit Corporation Meeting

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. How soon does he expect this new Business Credit Corporation to be meeting?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 237-12(3): Date Of Business Credit Corporation Meeting

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that they will be meeting next week.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 238-12(3): Application To Fund Incubator Mall

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. The honourable Member for Deh Cho raised some interesting questions about an application from Greenway Holdings in Hay River to fund an incubator mall. Can the Minister advise this House as to whether or not he is knowledgeable of whether an application has been filed at his department for financing?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 238-12(3): Application To Fund Incubator Mall

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I am knowledgeable about the number of applications that have been submitted since October 4 of this year.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 238-12(3): Application To Fund Incubator Mall

MR. KOE:

Thank you. Can the Minister then advise what the status of the application is for financing that was submitted by Greenway Holdings in October, 1992?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 238-12(3): Application To Fund Incubator Mall

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I can neither confirm nor deny whether or not Greenway Holdings is one of those applicants. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 238-12(3): Application To Fund Incubator Mall

MR. KOE:

If the Minister is knowledgeable about all the applications, I do not understand why he cannot confirm whether or not this specific applicant has filed an application with your department.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 238-12(3): Application To Fund Incubator Mall

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

It is for reasons of confidentiality, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 239-12(3): Implications Of Pulp Mill On N.W.T. Watershed

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Alberta, again just in the last month or so, announced the approval in principle of the development of a new pulp mill near Grande Prairie and this pulp mill is going to be called "Alberta Grande Paper Products". It seems we will begin yet another battle against the contamination of our watersheds, sort of like the Daishowa also here.

I would like to ask the Minister of Renewable Resources, has his department, knowing that this is going to take place, conducted any assessments of the implications of the proposed new plant on the Northwest Territories watershed?

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alloo.

Return To Question 239-12(3): Implications Of Pulp Mill On N.W.T. Watershed

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department is aware that there was an announcement by the Government of Alberta that it has a proposal in its hands from the pulp and paper company to establish a pulp and paper mill. Approving it in principle means that the proposal will be going forward to the environmental assessment, the Government of Alberta, and the company will have to make an environmental impact statement, which it has not done yet. Once the environmental impact statement is tabled to the environmental assessment review panel, then the environmental impact statement will be made public. Until that point, nobody has the knowledge of the possible impact of the proposal.

At the present time, I do not know when the environmental impact statement will be released to the environmental review committee in Alberta. I am told that the company is proposing a new process which does not use chlorine to whiten the pulp and, until we get the environmental impact statement, we do not know what the possible impacts will be.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 239-12(3): Implications Of Pulp Mill On N.W.T. Watershed

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the Minister is saying that it is still in the proposal stage. While it is true that we cannot do much until we see something tangible, Mr. Speaker, as you well know, once these things start there is no stopping them, as we have experienced in the past, and it is too late at the eleventh hour. I would like to know if the Minister has advised his department to contact the Province of Alberta or whoever is responsible to seek standing, at least to participate in any upcoming environmental impact assessments on this project?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.

Further Return To Question 239-12(3): Implications Of Pulp Mill On N.W.T. Watershed

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as soon as we heard about this project, my department contacted the Department of the Environment in Alberta and my department will continue to gather, if it can, the information that will be coming forward with regard to the proposal and also the hearing that may be coming out as a result of the proposal being put forward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I want to recognize, in the gallery, Mr. Eddie Dillon, Mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, Chairman of the Inuvialuit Development Corporation.

---Applause

Supplementary To Question 239-12(3): Implications Of Pulp Mill On N.W.T. Watershed

MR. WHITFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to reiterate my question, has the department advised the Alberta Government, or whoever is responsible, that they will be seeking standing on any environment assessment on this project? Have they, in fact, done that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 239-12(3): Implications Of Pulp Mill On N.W.T. Watershed

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions, Mr. Gargan.

Question 240-12(3): Analysing Fish For Contaminants

MR. GARGAN:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. My question will be to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, during the last two days, I have been listening to the radio and there have been announcements about fish in Fort Chipewyan that have sores on them and should be reported on for analysis. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not sampling has also been done on the Slave River, or even on the Mackenzie River, with regard to what is causing that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 240-12(3): Analysing Fish For Contaminants

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, there is a monitoring study being conducted on Slave River, and fish were taken from Slave River to be tested for contaminants. I believe that information is not yet available from Health and Welfare Canada. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 241-12(3): Value Of Surplus Assets From Expo '92

MR. DENT:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and it deals with Expo '92 in Seville, Spain. I recognize that the Minister has made a commitment to table both the interim and the final financial statements

which will show the extent of the financial damage at our participation in this event.

Mr. Speaker, my question today concerns the inventory that was left over when Expo '92 ended. I was wondering if the Minister can advise this House what the estimated value was of our surplus assets and inventory in Seville?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

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Return To Question 241-12(3): Value Of Surplus Assets From Expo '92

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I estimate that we will be ending up with an inventory of almost \$500,000. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 241-12(3): Value Of Surplus Assets From Expo '92

MR. DENT:

I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Can the Minister tell us how his department has disposed of or is planning to dispose of the surplus assets?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 241-12(3): Value Of Surplus Assets From Expo '92

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, the Oomiut, the muskox corporation owned by the Inuvialuit, is going to assist us in disposing of the muskox meat. The arts and crafts we will disperse to anybody who wants to buy them, Mr. Speaker. I am not going to sell them for ten cents on the dollar, but we will certainly be using it at the kiosk in Toronto and elsewhere. There may be some equipment left over. I do not have a complete list of the inventory right now, Mr. Speaker, but I estimate that we will be able to sell most of that inventory. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions, Mr. Koe.

Question 242-12(3): Opportunity For New Minister To View Office

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I realize that the new Ministers received their portfolios at 12:30 p.m. today, but I am a little concerned about their stamina to sit through question period, since two of them are missing. I have a question for the new Minister of Health and Social Services but she is not here, so I will ask the Government Leader. Has the new Minister of Health and Social Services had an opportunity to review her new office and is she pleased with her accommodations, her furniture and the accoutrements in there?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 242-12(3): Opportunity For New Minister To Review Office

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, no, she is not. She finds it a dark and dreary place and suggested that maybe something could be done to brighten it up and perhaps get lighter furniture. I said, no, put some pictures up, and she has consented to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Item 6, Written Questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 15-12(3): Costs Of Locum Physicians

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Health. Would the Minister please provide the fees and disbursements paid to the following physicians for services provided in the Fort Smith health centre during the indicated periods:

a) Chris Stewart-Patterson, March 18 to April 4, 1991;

b) Alice Huang, April 4 to April 26, 1991;

c) David Poriggs, April 9 to May 24, 1991;

d) M. Hoffman, May 7 to May 25, 1991;

e) John Antonsen, May 27 to June 22, 1991;

f) David Williamson, June 28 to August 5, 1991;

g) Tom Parkinson, July 3 to August 30, 1991;

h) John Wezelman, July 25 to July 26, 1991;

i) Will Krynen, August 1 to September 27, 1991;

j) Rob Cameron, August 19 to September 2, 1991;

k) David Williamson, November 4 to December 20, 1991;

l) Tom Parkinson, November 5 to November 8, 1991;

m) Chris Stewart-Patterson, January 29 to February 28, 1992;

n) Katayoun Khorrami, February 29 to June 29, 1992;

o) Tom Parkinson, March 2 to March 13, 1992;

p) Chris Stewart-Patterson, March 9 to March 14, 1992;

q) Will Krynen, April 27 to May 11, 1992;

r) Will Krynen, June 29 to July 2, 1992;

s) Jane Gainer, June 30 to July 10, 1992;

t) M. Hoffman, June 29 to July 2, 1992;

u) Shawn Walker, July 14 to August 31, 1992;

v) Tom Parkinson, July 4 to August 30, 1992;

w) Anne Reid, July 25 to August 1, 1992;

x) M. Hoffman, July 30 to August 28, 1992;

y) Chris Stewart-Patterson, August 31 to September 5, 1992;

z) Will Krynen, August 31, 1992;

aa) Polly Lumby, September 8 to December 4, 1992;

bb) Chris Stewart-Patterson, November 26 to December 4, 1992 and,

cc) Tom Parkinson, December 5 to December 10, 1992.

If I may, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

Proceed, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 16-12(3): Business Travel Done By The Previous Minister Of Culture And Communications

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. I have another written question that I would like to ask the Government Leader. Would the Government Leader please provide to this House a detailed list of all business travel done by the current Minister of Renewable Resources, the Minister of M.A.C.A., and of the previous Minister of Culture and Communications? Would the Government Leader please provide a list for all business travel for the past 12 months? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, Written Questions. Item 7, Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

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ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 7-12(3): Status Of The South Slave Divisional Board Of Education

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, I have Return to Written Question 7-12(3), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment Programs concerning the status of the South Slave Divisional Board of Education.

The name of the official appointed as Superintendent for the South Slave Divisional Board of Education under section 53(4) of the Education Act is Mr. John (Jack) Orchard. The order identifying the appointment of Mr. Orchard is provided in attachment one.

The South Slave Divisional Board of Education has not determined any additional powers and duties for the superintendent.

Payments of honorarium to members of the South Slave Divisional Board of Education for the year

ending June 30, 1992 totalled \$16,749. Travel and accommodation expenses incurred by board members are included under board administration in the board's financial statements. The expenses shown also include the expense of administration staff.

MR. SPEAKER:

We will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to call the Assembly back to order. We are on Item 8, Replies to Opening Address. Item 9, Petitions. Item 10, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 8-12(3): Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Report On The Proposed Elimination Of The Denendeh Conservation Board

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has a report on the proposed elimination of the Denendeh Conservation Board. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has received three requests from the Executive Council to comment on government initiatives related to the elimination of boards and agencies. The committee has agreed to respond to these requests during the third session.

The current report comments on the standing committee's views of a plan advanced by the Minister of Renewable Resources for eliminating the Denendeh Conservation Board. Two reports dealt with earlier during the third session have considered plans for eliminating of the Student Financial Assistance Board and the board of the directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. On March 9, 1992, the former Minister of Renewable Resources, the Hon. John Ningark, wrote to the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions to indicate his intention to dissolve the Denendeh Conservation Board. He stated that the board lacked the support of regional organizations and would have been made redundant by the development of regional

land claims. He indicated that he wished input from the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on this issue.

The standing committee initially considered this matter on April 9, 1992, and further discussions were held with the new Minister, the Honourable Titus Alooloo, on October 27, 1992. Throughout this review, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has focused on the following aspects: the establishment, authority and intent role of the Denendeh Conservation Board, the financial costs related to the operation of the board, the current status of the board, the rationale for considering the elimination of the board, and the present availability in future developments of an alternative framework for ensuring that community level is provided into departmental policies regarding wildlife and habitat management, forestry, and environmental conservation for harvesters, organizations and other public interest groups. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions wishes to acknowledge the assistance of both Ministers in meeting with the committee and responding to the Members' concerns and comments. Mr. Speaker, this concludes my introductory comments on our report on the proposed elimination of the Denendeh Conservation Board.

Motion To Move Committee Report 8-12(3) To Committee Of The Whole

I would therefore move that the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on the proposed elimination of the Denendeh Conservation Board be received and moved into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

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? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee Report 8-12(3), the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions Report on the

Proposed Elimination of the Denendeh Conservation Board, is ordered into the Committee of the Whole. Item 10, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Koe.

Committee Report 9-12(3): Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions, Interim Report On Health And Hospital Boards In The N.W.T.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has an interim report on Health and Hospital Boards in the Northwest Territories. First of all, I have some introductory remarks. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, under the authority given to it by this House, has undertaken a review of issues related to the operation of health and hospital boards established under the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services

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Act. Throughout the review process, the committee has been focusing on the following aspects:

- the mandate, composition, organizational structure and function of health and hospital boards across the Northwest Territories;
- initiatives undertaken across the Northwest Territories by health and hospital boards relative to health planning, program development and service delivery;
- pertinent legislation, regulations and policy, particularly as they pertain to the authority of the board and of the Minister;
- the appointments of members to health and hospital boards; models for board structure, composition and function; working relationships between the boards, the Minister and the Department of Health;
- current barriers to the delivery of health care services and programs across the Northwest Territories by health and hospital boards, and action taken by the Government of the Northwest Territories in response to the review of selected regional health boards and the territorial health insurance services boards completed by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions during the 11th Legislative Assembly and reported in October of 1990, as Committee Report 4-90(2);

- specific matters relating to board organization and operation brought to the attention of the standing committee by representatives by health and hospital boards and by professional associations working in the health care field; and finally,

- assumptions, analysis and recommendations within the Strength at Two Levels document regarding health and hospital board operations.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions held public hearings on the matter of health and hospital boards in Fort Smith on January 22, 1992, and heard from the former Minister, the Honourable Tony Whitford, and his officials as well as representatives of the N.W.T. Health Care Association and the N.W.T. Medical Association. Written submissions were later received from the N.W.T. Registered Nurses' Association and the Keewatin Regional Health Board. On November 22, 1992, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions met with representatives of the Baffin Regional Health Board, the Inuvik Regional Health Board, the Keewatin Regional Health Board, the H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital Board of Management, and the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board of Management.

In addition, the chairperson of the standing committee has held formal consultations this month with the Government Leader in her capacity as acting Minister of Health. The understanding that has emerged from this input has caused Members of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions to express serious concern over the approach that has been undertaken by the N.W.T. Department of Health in working with the health and hospital boards. Significant and complex problems seem to exist in the working relationships between the department and boards to which the standing committee must devote additional analysis before bringing forth its final report and recommendations.

Furthermore, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has recognized that the nature of the problems that exist will likely require very direct involvement at the ministerial level. Unfortunately, however, the health portfolio has been vacant since November 27, 1992. In the spirit of the consensus-style Government of the Northwest Territories, the Members of the standing committee will look forward to working with the new Minister of Health to ensure a full understanding of all relevant issues prior to bringing a comprehensive report forward to the Legislative Assembly.

For those reasons, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions will provide a final report on its review of health and hospital boards when the third session resumes in February, 1993. At the present time, however, the standing committee did wish to place before the House some interim observations and a comment on a current initiative that has been undertaken within the Department of Health. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Marie-Jewell will continue.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. On interim observations, Mr. Speaker, a very serious stage of affairs presently exists within the administration of the territorial health care system. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, throughout the course of its review, has found disconcerting evidence with respect to the status of boards of management created under the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act for the purpose of operating health care facilities across the Northwest Territories. When responsibilities for health were transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1988, the decision was made to establish a system of health and hospital boards rather than centralizing authority for administrative affairs in Yellowknife.

The goal was to ensure that communities and regions would be able to take responsibility for the administration and delivery of the health care services required by their residents. After approximately four years, there are strong signals that the entire scheme is not unfolding as it should. There is a real risk that, unless significant adjustments are made in the prevailing approach used by the Department of Health, the development of a community based foundation for the administration of health care services may be headed for failure.

The Members of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions were dismayed by the degree to which conflict between the health board and the Department of Health is exerting itself on our health care delivery system. When one regional health board chairperson was asked by the committee to identify the biggest stumbling block to meeting the health care needs of her region, she responded clearly and simply, "the Department of Health."

The specific problems are numerous and will be fully elaborated upon when the standing committee brings forward its comprehensive report at a later point during the third session. At the base of each of the concerns however, the standing committee recognises two common factors. One is

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the role of confusion and overly centralized control. Undoubtedly, there is a debilitating lack of definition surrounding the roles that should be played by the Minister, the department and the health and hospital boards. The Commissioner's agreement respecting the management of the retransfer of health services and even the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act are being interpreted differently by the boards and the department. This is leading to frustration and conflict -- I do not know why the microphone went off. This is leading to frustration and conflict and quite likely considerable inefficiency within the health care system. This becomes quickly apparent with respect to the strain which surrounds administrative functions at the board level.

The board sees itself as a board of management which should be allowed by the department to manage. Yet, almost without exception, the board representatives who appeared in January and in November repeated instances when they had felt plagued by demands for financial information, inconstant direction on the budget, administration and procedures imposed by headquarters. Clearly the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions does not wish to overlook the importance of monitoring and accountability. It seems as though for the Northwest Territories Department of Health these concepts are too frequently seen as an attempt to excuse over-zealous and misplaced commitment to central financial and administrative control.

The outstanding question is, who is really in charge of health care in my region? The board of the department's hospital and health facility division seems to impose itself on any effort to coordinate health care services or policies. That reflects the headquarters' attitude, which seems to assume that health or hospital boards will automatically fail to meet statutory financial management or operational criteria unless there is direct involvement of departmental officials. It engenders an attitude of suspicion and resentment among people who serve the board as appointed members or staff.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some comments on the memorandum of understanding. During the address to the 1992 annual general meeting of the Northwest Territories Health Care Association, the former Minister of Health, the Honourable Dennis Patterson, outlined an approach that may hold some solutions to the currently unacceptable level of uncertainty and control conflict. He commented that, "A master M.O.U. between the health boards and the departments must be developed. It is my intention that work should begin on the M.O.U. within the next several weeks and substantially before the end of the fiscal year. Completion of this work should clarify many long-standing issues of authority and accountability and preparation for the collaborative advantages that must follow." The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recognizes this process as the essential first step to the resolution of the strained and hampered working relationships between the boards and the department. It should be accorded at the highest priority within the Department of Health and among the hospital and health boards. However, it should not be seen as a permanent alternative to legislative review and amendment.

The October 1990 report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions from the 11th Assembly recommended that the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act should be repealed and replaced with one that "better reflects the government's philosophy of supporting regional autonomy". This still has not been done. The legislative response is too long overdue.

The process by which this M.O.U. is to be established must be structured to ensure full and direct participation by all health boards. During their meeting with board representatives, Members of the standing committee were dismayed to learn that several boards had not received an update on the initiative since the Minister's September announcement. This effort will simply not succeed unless it is based on ongoing information exchanges and a collaborative approach.

Finally, there are some indications that the department may now be very far from the Ministers original time line, which envisions substantial

completion of the M.O.U. by the conclusion of the 1992-93 fiscal year. The department must prioritize the timely negotiations and finalization of this key document.

During the period between the tabling of this interim report and the delivery of a comprehensive final report, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions will monitor this departmental initiative to ensure that it is proceeding according to the previously announced time line and with appropriate direction and input from the health and hospital boards.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes our interim report on Health and Hospital Boards in the Northwest Territories.

Motion To Move Committee Report 9-12(3) To Committee Of The Whole

I would therefore move that the Interim Report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on Health and Hospital Boards in the Northwest Territories be received and moved into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order, Mr. Koe. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Committee Report 9-12(3), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Interim Report on Health and Hospital Boards of the Northwest Territories, is ordered into the Committee of the Whole. Item 10, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 11, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

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ITEM 11: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Legislation has reviewed Bill 3, an Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act, and wishes to report that Bill 3 is now ready for the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 66(5) and have Bill 3 moved into the Committee of the Whole today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Nay.

MR. SPEAKER:

Bill 3, pursuant to rule 66(3), is ordered into Committee of the Whole two sitting days hence.

Item 11, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 12, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 34-12(3), Aurorales -Expo '92 Revolving Fund Account, Interim Financial Statements, October 31, 1992. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, Tabling of documents. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents. First, I would like to table Tabled Document 35-12(3), a copy of a correspondence received November 11, 1992 addressed to me from the base manager for Canadian Helicopters in Fort Simpson.

Second, I would like to table Tabled Document 36-12(3), a copy of correspondence dated October 28, 1992, addressed to me from the manager of Nahanni Inn. Both documents express strong opposition to the proposed increase in Workers' Compensation Board assessments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, Tabling of Documents. Item 13, Notices of Motion. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 11-12(3): Extension Of Sitting Hours - December 10, 1992

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, December 18, 1992 I will move the following motion. Now therefore I move, seconded it by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the Speaker be authorized to set such additional sitting hours for Thursday, December 10, 1992, deemed necessary to complete the business before the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to proceed with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, Notices of Motion. Mr. Zoe.

Motion 12-12(3): Appointments To Standing And Special Committees And Management And Services Board

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 16, 1992, I will move the following motion. Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing or Special Committee of this House:

- to the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Mr. Arvaluk, and as alternate Members, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Whitford;
- to the Standing Committee on Finance, Mr. Arvaluk and Mr. Patterson;
- to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Mr. Whitford as an alternate Member;
- to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Whitford and the Honourable Mr. Richard Nerysoo;
- to the Special Committee on Health and Social Services Mr. Ningark and Mr. Patterson; and
- to the Striking Committee, Mr. Arvaluk.

And, further, pursuant to section 35 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, that Mr. Antoine and Mr. Patterson be appointed Members of the Management and Services Board. Mr. Speaker, at the proper time, I will seek unanimous consent to proceed with my motion today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Notices of Motion. Item 14, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, could I get unanimous consent to go back to Return to Oral Questions?

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 4. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed please, Mr. Kakfwi.

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 137-12(3): Assessment Of Positions Within The Department Of Public Works

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I have two returns. The first one is in response to a question asked by the honourable Mr. Nerysoo on November 30 with regard to assessment of positions within the Department of Public Works.

The Member from Mackenzie Delta asked me an oral question on November 30, on whether I would be prepared, as the Minister of Personnel, to embark on a review process to indicate the potential consequences for aboriginal or northern workers of the privatization policy. I agreed to do so. I assumed that the Member was also concerned about the impact of our downsizing and consolidation efforts. My response deals with all these issues across the government.

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At the moment, where organizational change is considered, there are standard processes in place which require departments to do assessments, both in the initial planning and prior to implementation to ensure that the impacts on the northern work force are thoroughly considered. As Members may know, the government has established two support

programs to assist employees affected by downsizing and decentralization. These programs have been very successful in locating alternative jobs for staff, and for aboriginal people in particular.

So far across the government, although 176 jobs were eliminated in 1992-93 by decentralization, or downsizing or consolidation of departments, only 61 employees were affected. That is because most departments left positions vacant to avoid laying off staff. At this point, alternatives have been located for 31 of the 34 employees who were interested in employment elsewhere in the government. Twenty-seven employees have opted to take the enhanced severance payments rather than consider alternative jobs. Only eight aboriginal employees have been affected to date. Of these, two have found alternative jobs, one will be looking for a transfer when she returns from sick leave and five have chosen to take enhanced severance payments instead of accepting transfers.

Before Cabinet will approve any request for major organizational changes which will displace staff, a proposal is considered by an Organization Review Committee in the Department of the Executive to ensure that the changes are in the best interests of the Northwest Territories and staff. Detailed plans for dealing with the needs of all staff are included in any submissions to Cabinet. The impact of these initiatives will be monitored closely and I will report to this House on the results.

Further Return To Question 126-12(3): Justify Moving Fort Smith Regional Manager Position To Hay River

I also have a response to Jeannie Marie-Jewell's question of November 30 on justifying moving the Fort Smith regional manager position to Hay River. The purpose of the Fort Smith regional manager position is to manage and coordinate the work and activities of the Language Bureau staff in Rae/Edzo, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Lutsel K'e and to monitor and maintain standards of interpreting and translating services. The position is in charge of all language services provided to government departments and agencies in the Fort Smith Region. There are no aboriginal language interpreter/translator staff members in Fort Smith. The position was relocated from Fort Smith to Hay River to enable the Manager to work directly with at least one of his staff and to take advantage of the Manager's fluency in South Slavey.

In Hay River, the Manager is available to provide additional language services when required in that community. The Manager could not have provided interpretation or translation in Chipewyan or Cree had he been required to in Fort Smith, since his language is South Slavey. It is also less expensive for the Manager to travel out of Hay River to the other communities in the region. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Returns to Oral Questions. We will return then to Item 14, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 15, Motions. Motion 8-12(3), Extended Adjournment of the House. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

MR. KOE:

Can I proceed with the motion I gave notice of today?

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to deal with this one first please, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that...

MR. SPEAKER:

Excuse me, Mr. Koe, the honourable Member from Hay River is not here. Perhaps you could have another seconder? Ms. Cournoyea offers to second it.

Motion 8-12(3): Extended Adjournment Of The House

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that when the House adjourns on Thursday, December 10, 1992, it shall be adjourned until February 17, 1993;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to February 17, 1993 if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall

transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Koe, your motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Koe.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been called. The seconder has an opportunity. Ms. Cournoyea.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

I will go to the other motion on the order paper, Motion 9-12(3), Campaign of the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Mr. Patterson.

Motion 9-12(3): Campaign Of The International Fund For Animal Welfare

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the International Fund for Animal Welfare is the largest animal welfare organization in the world, with an annual budget of \$20 million;

AND WHEREAS the activities of the International Fund for

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Animal Welfare have threatened the viability of the fur industry in Canada and particularly in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the International Fund for Animal Welfare has recently organized an emotional \$1 million campaign on Canadian television and in Canadian newsprint, principally targeted against the harvesting of seals;

AND WHEREAS seal hunting is a traditional source of food and clothing and has provided an independent source of income for Inuit of Canada and the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS Indigenous Survival International was established by aboriginal organizations from Greenland, Alaska and Canada in 1984, and has been effective in responding to the threat of animal rights movement to hunting, trapping lifestyles and economies;

AND WHEREAS animal rights groups are well funded and active in lobbying the European parliament to take further measures to erode the fur industry in Canada including measures to have wild fur species declared endangered species when they are not, as well as promoting legislation which will prohibit the harvest of any marine mammals;

AND WHEREAS, Indigenous Survival International is a strong defender of the Canadian fur industry and has worked effectively with the European Bureau for Conservation and Development, the only non-profit organization that is a lobby for sustainable development and the harvesting of renewable resources in the European Parliament;

AND WHEREAS, the fur industry defence program of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has provided a critical source of funding for Indigenous Survival International for the past five years, but the program was terminated in March, 1992 and core funding from the federal government to Indigenous Survival International is due to be cut in March, 1993;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that this Legislative Assembly express its outrage at the campaign and tactics of the International Fund for Animal Welfare and other animal welfare organizations and the potentially devastating effects of this campaign on northern peoples, their economy and way of life;

AND FURTHER, that this Legislative Assembly urge the Government of Canada to restore full funding to the fur industry defence program and from it continue to support Indigenous Survival International so that the defence of the Canadian fur industry in Europe and elsewhere may be supported and continued. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this motion was inspired by our outrage over the blitz of advertising the last week of November from animal rights fanatics. These fanatics are obsessed with protecting the beautiful, trusting harp seals, as they describe them. Mr. Speaker, they have no sensitivity to the devastating effects their campaigns have and

are having on the Inuit seal hunters of the Northwest Territories and Canada, and the fur industry in general.

Those of us who live here have seen annual revenues for the Northwest Territories fur industry plummet from over \$6 million in the 1978-79 financial year to about \$2 million last year. With this decline in the price and then the very market for furs and particularly seal skins, we have observed in our communities a corresponding increase in dependence on welfare and a corresponding increase in other undesirable effects, such as alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence and even suicide. These zealots have attacked a key element of the very identity of our constituents.

The vicious advocates of animal rights and animal welfare are unaware of, or uncaring of the consequences of their misinformed campaigns on our human constituents. It is the animal rights advocates who are inhumane, not the hunters.

---Applause

It is the hunters who are the threatened species, not the seals. Mr. Speaker, those of us who travel the waters of the Arctic, and there are many in this Legislature, know full well that harp seals are more abundant and far-reaching than ever before. For these fanatics to pretend that the harp seal population is not out of control, is absurd. For them to oppose responsible attempts to manage the herd is irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, the International Fund for Animal Welfare advertisements suggest that harp seals do not eat cod and they cite federal fishery studies. I have learned that the scientific basis for this assertion is very questionable. These studies were based on a limited study of seals in shallow inshore areas only. It is bad enough that these animal rights advocates

blindly pursue their misbegotten cause. It is outrageous that they buttress their case with questionable science.

Mr. Speaker, much good work has been done by Members of this Assembly, previous Members, both Ministers and ordinary Members, by civil servants such as Jim Bourque, and by dedicated northern residents such as Cindy Gilday, to fight this vicious campaign in Europe. Indigenous Survival International, whose formation was spearheaded by people from the Northwest Territories, and I know Mr. Kakfwi was instrumental when he was president of Dene Nation in providing support to this organization, has been a key vehicle in this struggle since its establishment in 1984. Our government has provided annual support to I.S.I., and it has supported other initiatives of I.S.I., such as the "living Arctic" display in the British Museum in London, and it has made progress.

Initially, I.S.I. was well supported by the Government of Canada through a five-year program initiated in 1987 by D.I.A.N.D., called the Fur Industry Defence Program. Funding was in the order of \$1 million per year. Now, Mr. Speaker, just as we are facing a new onslaught of high-priced, slick and vicious propaganda here in Canada and in Europe, we learn to our horror that funding for the Fur Industry Defence Program ended last March and core funding to I.S.I., both these sources from the Government of Canada, is to be cut in March, 1993.

It is critical that this funding be restored. Canada is the third

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largest producer of wild fur in the world. Ninety-five per cent of all Canadian wild fur is exported and about 75 per cent ends up in the European community, either directly or indirectly. As we speak, animal rights groups are actively lobbying to have 13 wild fur species in the European community trap regulations, all of which our people in the Northwest Territories depend on for their living as trappers, included in C.I.T.E.S. Regulations as endangered species, even though we know these species are not endangered in Canada. Right now, animal rights activists are lobbying for marine mammal legislation to prevent the harvest of marine mammals on which the Inuit depend.

If funding is restored to the Fur Industry Defence Program, support can continue to be given to the

European Bureau for Conservation and Development. This is the only non-profit organization which is a lobby for sustainable development at the European Parliament. This is the only non-profit organization which advocates the harvesting of renewable resources. Mr. Speaker, it is critical that this funding be restored. I urge all honourable Members to support this motion and I will call for a recorded vote, confident in the knowledge that there will be strong support from this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Seconder to the motion, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to second this motion. It is something which I believe in. Mr. Speaker, northern aboriginal people have had to contend for far too long with the lies, propaganda and the self-serving campaigns of groups that we have referred to as animal rights activists. Perhaps we are being too kind when we use this term to refer to them. That term makes them sound more notable than they are. It makes them sound too caring and too knowledgeable. I know that you will most likely rule that it is unparliamentary language. Mr. Speaker, in a couple of minutes I will talk a little bit more about what these people are like, about what they do, and about what they believe in. I want to make a couple of comments about some of the background to this motion.

I have listened carefully to the comments made by the honourable Member for Iqaluit. When he rose from his seat to deliver a passionate rebuttal to the campaign that has been launched against us, his remarks hit home. They reminded me of how these ill-advised groups have worked deliberately against the aboriginal people of northern Canada for too long. They reminded me of the frustration and anger that Mr. Ernerk and I felt when we went right to the source and confronted these groups at a conference where these lies were being spread. They reminded me of the feelings that were expressed in this House about the behaviour of the Mayor of Edmonton when she made ridiculous statements about the fur trade. They reminded me of the way Mr. Jim Bourque, Cindy Gilday, my colleague, Mr. Ningark and so many others from the Northwest Territories, have worked very hard to combat the misleading statements and outright lies that have been spread about our people

and our heritage. They reminded me of the economic devastation that has been experienced within too

many of our northern communities since these groups turned their selfish gaze on our traditional way of life.

We cannot sit by year after year and tolerate these things. I wanted to say something about the International Fund for Animal Welfare. This group is one of the most short-sighted and poorly informed. Its decision to launch a million-dollar campaign against the harvesting of seals is only one example of this. For years, these people have carried out an assault on the fur industries and the aboriginal people who benefit from it. They brag about that, Mr. Speaker. They take credit for the decision of the European community to resist the import of harvesting products. They make statements to use public awareness and legislation as tools, and I quote their brochure, "to abolish all cruelties done to animals by humans." Mr. Speaker, I do not need to talk in this House about the fact that aboriginal people do not treat their animals with cruelty. The idea is ridiculous. Everyone in this House knows that.

What I do want to talk about is the way organizations like the I.F.A.W. conduct their business. Let me quote some comments made by a Canadian author, Pierre Burton, who is a proud northerner. In an address he made to the Ontario Fur Trade Association on May 4, 1990, Mr. Burton quite correctly made the following remarks, "We are not really talking about animal rights at all. That is a cover. We are talking about big business. We are talking about fund raising. We are talking about people who exploit cute little pets that you and I own in order to raise funds to perpetuate themselves and increase their own bureaucracy and pay the people who go out and tell lies on television, radio and in the newspapers. That is why they use pussycats, monkeys, and cute little seals." Mr. Burton was right.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare promotes itself as a kind, caring organization that devotes its heart and soul to caring for animals. Listen to this: 13 per cent of all funds raised by this organization goes towards administration. It goes towards paying the strange collection of hangers-on that are on salary within the administrative offices of the organization. An additional 15 per cent of their revenue goes to pay for more fund-raising activities. Frequently, that takes the form of commissions or contract funding paid to the professional fund-raisers and advertising men that they use to shake down the public at large with their fund-raising campaigns. That means, out of every

dollar the organization gets in its hands, only 72 per cent of it goes to its so-called programs. The rest goes to organizations, their staff and their slick public affairs department.

I wonder if the people who are actually donating this money to groups like I.F.A.W. realize this. I do not think so. It is not compassion, it is big business. It is aimed in the wrong direction. It is aimed at us. It is outrageous. That is the reason why I am seconding this particular motion.

Let us contrast the state of affairs within the I.F.A.W. with Indigenous Survival International. Mr. Patterson, as the sponsor of the bill, has commented on the unfortunate decision of the federal government to strip this hard-working and effective organization of its financial lifeblood. The honourable Members may know that the founding meeting for I.S.I. was held here in Yellowknife in August, 1984. Those who attended the meeting represented native peoples from the Arctic areas of Alaska, Canada and Greenland. The purpose was to

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establish a united organization with ability to respond for challenges to their way of life. Since then, the focus of I.S.I. has expanded to include attention to many issues of concern to indigenous people who rely directly upon the land and its bounty for their spiritual, cultural and physical existence. This issue encompasses the conservation of sustainable resources, protection of the environment and advocacy on behalf of their subsistence use of fish and game.

Mr. Speaker, I.S.I. has been particularly effective in taking the message of Canadian aboriginal people to the European community. It has combatted the misleading information campaign that has been launched in Europe. It has been a highly effective ally in our struggle to maintain our way of life. In March of this year, the Fur Industry Defence Program within Indian and Northern Affairs was cancelled, as indicated also by my colleague, Mr. Patterson. In March, 1993, core funding to I.S.I. will be cut unless we do something. I believe this motion will be a start, Mr. Speaker.

I wish to compliment my colleague from Iqaluit for bringing this motion forward. It has been good working with him on it. I look forward to doing more of the same in the future. I would close my remarks by

urging all the Members to support this particular motion. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to say a few words on this motion. I find it quite ironic and shocking to see the full-page advertisement trying to protect that particular picture. I do not believe that 99 per cent have not seen that kind of seal in that fur coat. They are under the snow in the den during that time. Very few hunters run across a den that has been dug up by a fox. Then we would look in there. We would find a dead one caught by a fox from time to time. They are very, very hard to find because they are usually in the bank created by icebergs or multi-year ice. The seal is hunted when it has grown and shed its yellow hair which is quite useless and has nice, very short, black hair that is more useful. My point is this, Mr. Speaker, this advertisement is misdirected, is a false campaign and also misinformation that has no respect whatsoever for any human being or intelligence of human beings around the world.

My experience in the eastern Arctic, is that these harp seals come in July when the ice is rotting, and they come in hordes. When they come in hordes they start eating up all kinds of Arctic cod that is a stable food of the ring seals all year round. The Inuit depend on the ring seal all year round, not on the harp seal. When the harp seals come, just like spawning char or salmon, they start eating up all kinds of cod around there and in a couple of days we can hardly even see a ring seal any more because they are being chased around by these harp seals.

If we are going to concentrate on cruelty to animals by using or harvesting these animals, then can we not at least consider a sports fisherman who catches a fish with a lure, plays with it for 15 or 20 minutes and just lets it go again? Who speaks for the fish? Who speaks for the Arctic cod? Who speaks for the ring seal? I think we will have to start campaigning on the basis of what is a reality, what is the truth, which animals we have up here, and which ones are invading our seas. Maybe that is when they will recognize that there is no shortage of seals

whatsoever. I will support this motion. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion, Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will support this motion. For a number of years now I have been working on this issue and have been very concerned about the continuing impact of the anti-harvest lobby in the lives of our people: The Inuit, Dene and non-aboriginal people who rely on harvesting natural resources to sustain them. As the Minister of Renewable Resources, I have been directly involved in counteracting these lobbies, or at least I have tried.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say I am a hunter. I grew up in a hunting camp. I was born in a sod house. My father was relying on hunting to sustain himself and his family and the dogs. The dogs carried us over thousands of miles a year to pursue our traditional harvesting. Harvesting natural resources, mostly seals and foxes, was very viable and very important to my people.

Mr. Speaker, when the market crashed back in the early 80s, I saw the devastation of my people. Once proud hunters, they became useless in their communities. They had no means to go out and the government did not have enough money to support them. Then we started seeing our people committing suicide, young people committing suicide because their fathers were not teaching them how to go out and how to be proud people. Mr. Speaker, we saw this happen in the early 1980s in Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot. Mr. Speaker, I used to be angry at these people. It is beyond that point now, Mr. Speaker, it hurts me to see humans not understanding that what they are doing is impacting other people. They are killing people. They are murderers of my people. Mr. Speaker, one of my approaches has been to teach other people of our northern lifestyle and the continuing importance of harvesting wildlife to our people.

The most effective voice to promote the northern lifestyle has been hunters and trappers themselves, going to these groups and talking to groups to try to make other people understand.

I was shocked to hear, yesterday, that it is a belief of European people that all wildlife is endangered. They

believe that. There are millions of people in Europe who believe that because they have been told that. They believe that caribou in the Northwest Territories are endangered. They believe that polar bears are endangered. They believe that rabbits, wild rabbits, wild foxes, and wild lynx are endangered. They actually believe that these species are endangered and that they should not be harvested.

Mr. Speaker, it is the only way that a lot of my constituents can make a living. It is the only way that they can be proud to have children and to teach them the land skills. If it was not for my people's ability to survive out in one of the harshest climates, I would not be here today. My people are very innovative and very adaptable.

I think we also have a responsibility to ensure that our

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harvesting techniques are humane. We have been trying to do that. As a department we have been supporting and encouraging trappers to change their ways. This has been difficult. I could understand very well when the trapper complains that the new traps are too big and they are too cumbersome and they are dangerous to use, but it is the way that we are showing the world that we are responsible and that our trappers are very responsible. Most of the trappers who have been trained to use new methods are saying that these are good methods, because they are adaptable.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I feel that our federal government Fur Industry Defensive Program was a very viable program and I am glad to hear that the mover of this motion is encouraging and asking the federal government to continue with that program. It was very viable and working as well. We need the support of our friends in Europe and I think, as politicians, we should try to get over there as we were asked to do.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

I am saddened that the people of the north must continue to fight to protect our traditional way of life. Mr. Speaker, the aboriginal people find it hard to understand why we are being attacked. We are responsible harvesters of wildlife. We live in balance with the land and with all life. We would not take more than we need. We do not destroy wildlife

habitats. To destroy the land and the gifts that it holds, would be to destroy ourselves and our way of life. The forest, lakes, rivers and wildlife are in danger in Canada, Mr. Speaker, but not from the trappers. (Translation ends)

We do not pen up animals to keep them captive their entire lives, for easy slaughter. We do not agree with this way of life. We do not force our morality on other people. We do not try to change others, whose way of life incorporates their own beliefs. You do not see in the northern communities the build-up of consumer goods that is found in many parts of the world. We do need to develop the northern economy and improve our standard of living, but to us the environment is not an obstacle to be overcome in this struggle; it sustains us. Our relationship with the land and the environment is the centre of our spiritual life, our culture and our traditions. Our relationship with the land and wildlife is also our means of physical survival.

The standard of living in the northern communities is very poor, but if we are unable to sustain ourselves from the land, we simply could not survive. The trap line is the lifeline. There are no other choices, and I will tell you, we are not leaving our land. Part of what I am trying to say is that if the groups really try to understand our way of life and our respect for the land, we might be able to move on from this issue. Mr. Speaker, I want to give you one example of the level of understanding that exists within the anti-fur movement. I will read a comment that a Mr. Stephen Beth made in 1987. At the time, he was the vice-chairman of the International Wildlife Coalition. He was also the former Canadian coordinator of the International Fund for Animal Welfare and was involved in the European community ban on the importation of harp seal products.

Mr. Beth had this to say about native culture and our way of life, and I quote, "the native people have got to become self-sufficient, but they have got to have their own culture that is living. I own the native culture", he said. "I bought it with my taxes and I own about two-thirds of it." Mr. Speaker, this attitude is disgusting. This is the attitude we are fighting, and there are many people who support this man and his beliefs. This will be a long battle. I do not know how much is at stake for the animal welfare organizations, but for us, this is the essence of our spiritual being, our economy and our life on our land. We must defend ourselves, Mr. Speaker, therefore, I support this motion. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief here. Trapping and hunting, Mr. Speaker, is a healthy way of life. Trapping and hunting are environmentally friendly. They are natural ways of ensuring the animals on this earth are healthy, in terms of numbers and physical well-being. Mr. Speaker, I wonder how the animal rights activists acquired the expensive sea-going vessels. I wonder how animal rights activists can afford to live their extravagant lifestyles, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our livelihood is not for sale. It is for keeps, the way it was meant to be by the Creator. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Question is being called. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also want to support the motion. Mr. Speaker, I support the way of life of the aboriginal people and the campaign we have against people that are campaigning against the cruelty of animals. We must not forget about the way we handle animals, too, and the government should always leave the animals where they are. They are born out there. We do not need to have collars put on them. That causes misery to animals, too. I just wanted to bring that to the Members' attention. If we are going to preach, then this government should also remember that putting collars on animals is cruel. It does cause hardship. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Question is being called. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be very brief with my comments because I recognize that the time is very short. Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate my full support for this motion, and I commend the Member for Iqaluit for developing it and bringing it forth to the House. I find it is critical for us to be able to ensure that we do

express some discontentment with regard to the campaign and tactics that the International Fund for Animal Welfare and other animal welfare organizations are having on northern people, on the way that they are campaigning on our livelihood. I also feel that the media and the whole movement of these animal welfare groups, forget to go look into malls that have aquariums with fish swimming around in it or small animals caged.

They do not think of the zoos down south and how animals are caged in. They do not think of the type of affects that that has on those animals, and it irritates me that they are so quick and ready to campaign around fur shops. I find that the affect on

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the north has been devastating, particularly in the eastern Arctic, with which I really sympathize with regard to the seal industry, so I want to indicate to this House my full support for this much-needed motion. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Question is being called. A recorded vote was requested. All those in favour, please rise.

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Patterson, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Dent, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Koe, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Bernhardt, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Allooloo, Ms. Mike, Mr. Pollard, Ms. Cournoy, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Zoe.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those opposed, please rise. All those abstaining, please rise. Motion is carried unanimously.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Motions. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with my motion on the extension of sitting hours for December 10, 1992.

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, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues.

Motion 11-12(3): Extension of Sitting Hours - December 10, 1992

WHEREAS there is considerable business to be dealt with prior to the adjournment of the Assembly;

AND WHEREAS additional sitting hours may be required to complete this business;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the Speaker be authorized to set such additional sitting hours for Thursday, December 10, 1992, deemed necessary to complete the business before the Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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? Motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 15, Motions. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, can I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today?

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Zoe.

Motion 12-12(3): Appointments To Standing And Special Committees And Management And Services Board

MR. ZOE:

Appointments to standing and special committees and the Management and Services Board is the motion that I was referring to.

WHEREAS there are a number of vacancies on standing and special committees and the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to fill these vacancies;

THEREFORE I MOVE seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the following Members be appointed to the standing or special committee of this House:

- to the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Mr. Arvaluk and, as alternate Members, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Whitford;

- to the Standing Committee on Finance, Mr. Arvaluk and Mr. Patterson;

- to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, as an alternate Member, Mr. Whitford;

- to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Whitford and the Hon. Richard Nerysoo;

- to the Standing Committee on Legislation, Mr. Whitford;

- to the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, Mr. Ningark and Mr. Patterson;

- to the Striking Committee, Mr. Arvaluk.

Further, pursuant to section 35 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, that Mr. Antoine and Mr. Patterson be appointed Members of the Management and Services Board.

MR. SPEAKER:

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? Motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Mr. Morin.

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ITEM 16: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 16: Normal Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Sahtu, that Bill 16, Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

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? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 16 has had first reading. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 17: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to read that bill for the second time.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Bill 16: Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Sahtu, that Bill 16, Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would provide that the Town of Norman Wells may purchase its distribution system which supplies natural gas to consumers in Norman Wells, that the town may make bylaws for the management and operation of the natural gas distribution system and that the Public Utilities Act applies to the natural gas distribution system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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? Motion is carried.

--- Carried

Bill 16 has had second reading. Item 17, Second Reading of Bills. Item 18, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Document 2-12(3), "The Justice House", Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act; Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Commercial Tenancies Act; Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act; Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act; Committee Report 8-12(3); and Committee Report 9-12(3). By the authority given to me by Motion 11-12(3), the hours are extended today until such time as the Committee of the Whole reports progress with Mr. Ningark in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The committee will now come to order. When we concluded yesterday, we were dealing with the appearance of the Languages Commissioner. We have a number of items before this committee. We have Bills 4, 5, 6, 11, and 15, and Committee Reports 8-12(3) and 9-12(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, the committee would wish to continue with the Languages Commissioner, and then we could follow with the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions Report on the Denendeh Conservation Board, Bill 15, and Bills 4, 5, 6, and 11, if we are all willing to stay here until midnight. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence of this committee to deal with the Languages Commissioner, and then A.B.C. Committee report, Bill 15, 4, 5, 6, and 11?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Appearance Of Languages Commissioner

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Sergeant-at-arms, will you bring in the Languages Commissioner? Welcome back to the committee, Languages Commissioner, Ms. Betty Harnum. When we concluded yesterday, we were in general comments. Do we have any more general comments? Mr. Patterson.

General Comments

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have listened to the presentations with great interest. The Commissioner for Official Languages comes across as a person who has done a great deal of work on the detail of the Official Languages Act, who has looked into the legalities and organization and seems to be a very kind person. I believe that we are looking for this person to be the champion of aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories.

Some advice that I would give to the Commissioner is when she makes her first annual report, I would encourage her to use what authority she does have which is based on the power of public opinion and her independent status.

I would urge her not to question whether she has the legal authority to enforce government departments to take this legislation seriously, and take the concerns of the Legislative Assembly seriously, but rather not to hesitate to demand compliance with the spirit of this legislation. I would suggest to her that she should not hesitate and she will have the full support of this Legislature. If she is aggressive and forceful, she should not hesitate to criticize or even slam government departments that are not making the efforts.

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Mr. Chairman, with the greatest of respect to the Official Languages Commissioner, I know that having worked in government she may well be quite sympathetic to departments that are having to deal with limited budgets and staffing problems in meeting their commitments, I do not think this is something she should worry about, that is the department's problem. The Languages Commissioner should not worry about how they meet their obligations or how to force them to meet their obligations. She should be telling the public and the Legislature it must be done.

I hope that departments will come to be afraid of this report. Fearful of being criticized and having their shortcomings revealed in no uncertain terms about their commitment to aboriginal languages. My free advice to the Languages Commissioner, and I understand that she is just getting going and getting organized, is to as quickly to put aside those administrative problems and be careful of lawyers and legal opinions.

We will expect your report to breath fire and to shake up the departments who are not complying, to light fires under them and to challenge and if necessary to shame the bureaucracy. I would encourage the Languages Commissioner to go for it, Mr. Chairman, with all our blessing. This does not require a reply. These are only comments that I wished to make. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday prior to concluding, I had asked the Languages Commissioner a number of questions. In reviewing yesterday's unedited Hansard, all the questions that I had asked were not answered. I would like to ask the Languages Commissioner if she would be willing to reply to the questions I posed in the House yesterday? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Is the Languages Commissioner prepared to answer any questions?

MS. HARNUM:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. I was intending to continue to reply to the questions. I think I was just starting on part seven of the written question on the service contracts. I am not sure if I finished answering number six. In answer to number six, I did indicate that there are no prescribed organizations because prescribed is prescription by regulation and there are no regulations under the Official Languages Act yet. It is something that I have been pressing the government to develop and have offered to assist with this. Because there were no prescribed organizations, I chose to meet with as many groups as possible and I did provide the Members with a list of those organizations in the interim report that they have.

There are many other organizations that we have contacted by telephone. As I mentioned, we were doing telephone surveys all summer so we were contacting hamlet offices, C.E.C.s, daycares, and all sorts of different organizations to gather information from them. I do not have all of that information compiled yet, because there is a lot of information there. I do not know the exact dates, and it would be a lot of information to provide the House.

However, if there are further questions with regard to number six on dates, duration and location of all the meetings which I have had, I would have to do quite a bit more research to compile all of that. I did provide the Members with a list of the organizations that I have met with personally. That does not include any of the organizations that we have contacted by telephone survey, or any of the individuals we have contacted by community surveys.

I indicated that there are about 1,200 individual community surveys that we have done, as well as a survey of all government employees. We have about 1,300 of those back. If that suffices to answer number six, I will go on to number seven.

In response to number seven, the number of service contracts so far from my office is five. One of them is for legal counsel with Carol Roberts. She is originally from Hay River. I did advertise for legal counsel and had a number of bids. I selected her on an interim basis, because one of the other firms, which is located in Yellowknife, was actually my first choice. At that moment, they had a conflict of interest because they were working for someone who had brought a case to me that they wanted me to get involved in. This lawyer stated that he could not be involved as counsel for my office because he was already involved in this case. That case lasted about three months. It was a case that was brought to me shortly after I started, and it was with regard to whether I could be involved in a court case. Carol Roberts provided legal counsel and is just finishing up on some things that we have dealt with over the year. There is a contract now with John Bayly and Associates for legal counsel. The contract for Carol Roberts was originally \$10,000 and we have added about \$2,500 to that. It will be determined by the final billing.

We had a contract with Riki Sato. She developed the questionnaires that we sent out to the communities and the government employees, and also did an initial policy search of all the government departments, calling all of them and asking them what policies they had in place for the implementation of the Official Languages Act in each department. That contract lasted about six weeks and it was \$5,000.

Benoit Boutin, who is here and I introduced him yesterday, is currently working on a contract which will be ending shortly. It was for about three months, it is \$7,000. The purpose of that contract is to develop the logo, letterhead, business card, brochure, posters, and other information that is required as a public information package in all the languages. I gave some Members a copy of the draft brochure yesterday. It is just about finalized now, and shortly it will be translated into all of the languages and circulated. It contains a summary of the Official Languages Act, because I have been asked numerous times for the Official Languages Act in various languages. As the government is not currently providing it, I decided to do a summary of the act and have the brochure translated into all of the

languages so that we can get the information out to people as soon as possible.

The other contract that we have is a service contract with Xerox, for the rental of the xerox machine and that is \$20,000 a year. Those are the contracts from my office.

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There are a couple of issues to address with the last question. One is under section 22.1. I will begin by reading that section and then I will make some comments before I report on it.

Section 22.1 says, "if after carrying out an investigation under this act, the Languages Commissioner is of the opinion that any matter should be referred to the government institution concerned for consideration or any necessary action, the Languages Commissioner shall report that opinion and the reasons for it to the Government Leader and the deputy minister or other administrative head of the institution concerned."

Generally, I have understood that to mean, when I finish an investigation, if there were recommendations that I would make to a department...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Whitford, point of order.

Point Of Order

MR. WHITFORD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, can I draw the attention of the House that there is no quorum. This is an important subject, and I think it would be nice if we had a few more people here. I am on House duty, I had to go and relieve myself.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. The honourable Member is saying that we do not have a quorum here. Clerk, would you ring the bell, please? Thank you. Languages Commissioner, would you please continue?

MS. HARNUM:

I will explain to the Members who just came in that I am finishing answering a question from the Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell. I am responding to number eight of her written questions.

In reporting matters to the Government Leader, the arrangement that was made most recently when I met with the Premier's office was to send a copy of all my correspondence to the official languages unit that is now within the Premier's office, and I have been doing that. Prior to that, because we had not established guidelines for my reporting relationship with the G.N.W.T. for ensuring that there was some arrangement to follow up on requests for information and clarification of issues that I address to them, I did not always send a letter to the Government Leader's office on inquiries that I was doing.

However, I have addressed 35 letters to the Government Leader's office with regard to complaints and inquiries. Some of the things that I dealt with were done by telephone, so I do not have letters on those. Some of them were resolved by just making a telephone inquiry and providing the information to people. The ones that required a significant amount of information or written replies are the ones that I have addressed. I am waiting for a number of replies on those issues.

When I looked at this section, I mentioned yesterday that I have distinguished between large and small investigations, and I interpreted this section to be investigations which are of a more serious or a more detailed nature. Those are the ones that I have sent letters on and as I said just recently, since we have established this arrangement, I started sending copies to the Government Leader's office on everything.

I think that concludes the remarks that I can make with regard to the written question from the honourable Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Member from Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I quote back to pages 1111 to 1114 of the Hansard. Mr. Chairman, there are some areas in these replies that do not give us a time frame. For example, at the bottom of page 1113 and the top of page 1114, it says from August 7 to 12, the Commissioner went to Ottawa, and then from October 13 to October 17, she went to Cambridge

Bay. With that reply are we to presume that from August 12 to October 13 she stayed in Yellowknife with no travel whatsoever?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Languages Commissioner.

MS. HARNUM:

According to everything that I recorded in the financial statements and all of my travel claims and my daily log, I did not make any trips during that time. If I did, they were holiday or something other than business travel. I do not think that I have to report holidays. I did not think that the question would include that. I honestly do not know now. I would have to look back to see if I made any personal trips during that time. I do not think I did. I actually have holidays written down here on my list. I think I was in Yellowknife at that time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are a number of time frames that are in between the reported travel schedule when Members were questioning the whereabouts of the Commissioner and whether she was in Yellowknife or travelling in other areas. Are we correct in stating that all the travel done by the Commissioner's office for the purpose of duty travel is stated as recorded in yesterday's Hansard? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Ms. Betty Harnum.

MS. HARNUM:

Yes, I have gone through every single item, every single expenditure in my budget and checked what every expenditure was for. I went back through my daily log and everything else that I could find. That is the total of my travel that I can account for at this point. I do not think I have missed anything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes some of my comments, however, I did want to request a legal opinion from the Law Clerk, and I want the Commissioner and the House to know that this item was discussed at great length in the Ordinary Members' Caucus this morning. It appears that many Members felt they were

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placed in a tenuous and difficult situation, having to do the assessment of the Languages Commissioner while the Languages Commissioner continued a relationship with a Member of this House. I would like to ask the Law Clerk, even though the conflict of interest guidelines were looked at, is there any basic conflict of interest that may be in place with respect to this issue, for Members' clarification?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Law Clerk, would you check into that matter for the committee?

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the issue of conflict of interest pertains to the Languages Commission, there is no legislation, nor are there any policies that I am aware of that would govern the office of the Languages Commissioner in the area of conflict of interest. Accordingly, in the absence of any clear legislation or policy on this issue, the matter must be determined by the individual involved and by this Assembly as to their thoughts and beliefs as to whether there may be a conflict of interest.

If the Member is asking me, and it is a little bit unclear as to whether a Member of this House may be in a position of conflict of interest under the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I can only state that as all Members are aware, there are provisions in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act respecting a prohibition on spousal contracts in certain circumstances. However, this Legislature has set up a mechanism for dealing with those types of perceived conflicts and that mechanism is through laying a complaint with the Ethics Commissioner. It would be my respectful suggestion that as this Legislature has set up that body specifically to deal with the issue of conflict of interest as it pertains to Members of this House, that that process, the process of the Ethics Commissioner and laying a complaint, should be used prior to debating this issue in the House.

Under the Legislative Assembly Act, the Ethics Commissioner is bound to report back to the House on any findings. It would be at that time that this issue could then be debated in the House. I hope that answers the Member's question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, is the Law Clerk saying then, that because the office of the Languages Commissioner reports directly to the House, that a Member of this House, because he is one twenty-fourth of the House, may be in conflict? Is that what she is saying?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Ms. MacPherson.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for being less than clear. Mr. Chairman, I am saying that there may be an issue, but I respectfully suggest that it is not appropriate for me to rule on that issue or render my opinion at this time, given the very clear process that is set forth in the legislation with respect to conflict of interest.

There have been allusions to a Member and, of course, there are different restrictions in the Legislative Assembly Act that affect Ministers, for example, more significantly than ordinary Members. The full factual background would have to be put to the Ethics Commissioner in order for the Ethics Commissioner to determine whether there has been a possible contravention of this specifically with respect to government contracts and potentially the very broad obligations that are contained within section 67 of the act, which affects all Members.

So, for clarity, I am suggesting that because this House would ultimately have to deal with any report of the Ethics Commissioner, it would be appropriate to follow that process prior to debating this issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman. Ms. Harnum did say that, or the Languages Commissioner, I am sorry, said yesterday that she did get a legal opinion on whether there was a conflict or not. What was the result of that opinion, in your interpretation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gargan, who are you asking; the Law Clerk or the Languages Commissioner? The Languages Commissioner.

MS. HARNUM:

I believe what I said yesterday was that I was not the one who had requested the legal opinion but, my understanding was that this issue was brought up just shortly after my appointment and it was discussed. There was a decision made that there was not a conflict of interest. I do not know. I was not involved in those discussions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Are there any further comments?

MR. GARGAN:

Yes, just for the record. By whom was this given?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Ms. Harnum.

MS. HARNUM:

The message was conveyed to me simply that the Members had discussed it and that they had decided that there was no conflict of interest. I do not know the background. I do not know whether they asked for a legal opinion or whether they simply discussed it themselves and said there was no conflict. I do not know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Members on this side of the House have put forth their concerns and that we have made our point with regard to the tenuous position Members are placed in with regard to evaluating the performance of the Languages Commissioner. We have got clarification in respect to

the conflict of interest so, therefore, I would like to indicate that we move that this matter be concluded. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, there is a motion on the floor moved by the honourable Member Mrs. Marie-Jewell, to conclude the item before the committee. To the motion. Do you want to vote? Did you make a motion, Mrs. Marie-Jewell? Was that a motion? Does the committee agree that the item be concluded? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I apologize. My colleague had a motion ready and I moved ahead of him, so I will withdraw mine so he can put forth his motion and then we will conclude this item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gargan.

Committee Motion 65-12(3): Directing Law Clerk To Write To Ethics Commissioner

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion that the Law Clerk of this House draft a letter to the Ethics Commissioner, under section 80 c.1 of the Legislative Assembly Act, in order to address whether or not there is a conflict.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gargan, we would like to get a copy of the motion and have it translated. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, may we break so that I can do this properly? I would like to ask the assistance of the Clerk to draft it properly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, that is a good idea. We will take about a five minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Prior to taking a break, there was a motion on the floor. I will read the motion for the record. I move that the Law Clerk be directed to write a letter to the Chief Commissioner of the Conflict of Interest Commission asking the Chief Commissioner to investigate whether a Member of this House contravened the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council Act by virtue of his association with the Languages Commissioner. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After reading section 81, it does say that any person who believes that a Member has contravened any provision of this part, may file a written complaint to the Clerk. The motion is asking the Clerk to write to the Chief Commissioner. It cannot be the Clerk who does that, it has to be an individual from this House. Based on that, Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my motion.

For the record, I will write a letter to the Clerk on whether there does exist a conflict under section 65.1 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. I will do that, and the Commissioner could dismiss it or deal with it. I cannot go on operating in this House with that hanging over my head. I believe other Members also have that concern. Perhaps having a letter written to the Chief Commissioner of the Conflict of Interest Commission will clarify that once and for all. That is my intent. With that, I am finished my comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Gargan has withdrawn his motion. To the number of issues we have been discussing before the matter, I would like to ask the legal counsel to make some clarifications.

---Withdrawn

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did want to clarify that I had earlier referred to the Ethics Commissioner. There is actually a position known as Chief Commissioner of the Conflict of Interest Commission. By referring to Ethics Commissioner, I was incorrect. I apologize to the Members. The body is called the Conflict of Interest Commission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Are there any general comments? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I believe this item is concluded. We can go on now to the A.B.C. Committee report on the Denendeh Conservation Board, and then we will deal with Bill 15. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that this matter before the House is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to thank the Languages Commissioner for appearing before the committee. I know that this has been a very intensive two days. Thank you for taking time to meet with the committee.

MS. HARNUM:

I would just like to thank the Members for the opportunity to come before the House and clarify some of the issues and some of the questions that they have had about the office of the Languages Commissioner. During this first year, we have dealt with a lot of issues. The conflict of interest issue, I thought, had been resolved some time ago, but if that is still a concern, then I appreciate the fact that they should be dealt with through the right channels. There are a lot of other issues about the office of the Languages Commissioner that are just as important, such as how the Languages Commissioner reports to the House, what authority the Languages Commissioner has to obtain documents from government departments, and what actions and measures can be taken within the authority of the Languages Commissioner. Those questions are still unresolved even after almost a year of working in this office. I appreciate the Members' questions. I encourage them to contact me at any time for clarification of any other matters and also with any complaints or inquiries that they have about the act or about any languages used in their area.

I would like to continue working in this position. I am very committed to it. When the issue of conflict of interest is addressed, and if there is a decision that there is a conflict of interest, then steps will be taken to resolve the conflict. I had no intention of working in

this position if there was a conflict, and I was informed that there was not. That is why I continued working.

My record is open to any Member who wants to examine the activities of the office, and shows that, whatever relationship I do have with the particular Minister in question or with any other Member of this House, none of those relationships in any way have changed the way that I would deal with any issue that has been brought to my attention. I thank the Members

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for the chance to clarify some of these issues. I suppose I will be hearing from you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Again, on behalf of the committee, I would like to say thank you for appearing before the committee. I think your appearance before the committee was a constructive one. I think it was necessary, and it has helped to clear the air a bit. Thank you.

---Applause

I believe we have the concurrence of this committee to deal with the A.B.C. Committee Report 9-12(3)? Mr. Koe.

Committee Report 9-12(3): Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions, Interim Report On Health And Hospital Boards In The N.W.T.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two reports. One was on the interim report on the review of health and hospital boards. However, Mr. Chairman, there are no recommendations in this report. I would like to get concurrence to conclude this matter, because we will have a very detailed and comprehensive report in the February session.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the blessing of the committee to conclude that item?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

Committee 8-12(3): Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions, Report On The Proposed Elimination Of The Denendeh Conservation Board

MR. KOE:

I have a standing committee report on the "Proposed Elimination of the Denendeh Conservation Board." We have a couple of general observations and two recommendations. With the committee's concurrence, we can proceed. This should not take very long.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that we deal with that report?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I have some Members who are going to assist me. Jeannie Marie-Jewell will start with some general comments, followed by Mr. Dent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Proceed, please.

Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions Comments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, a general point should be made from the outset about the committee's role in responding to an initiative undertaken by the government with respect to the management of public boards and agencies. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has been made aware that the function and suitability of government-created boards and agencies are being evaluated by the Cabinet. This has been linked to a general recommendation in the "Strength at Two Levels" report which states that all boards and agencies

should be assessed specifically in light of elimination, downsizing or consolidation.

It should be clear that review projects undertaken by the Cabinet in this regard are their own. Where certain Ministers have determined that a review is necessary and have asked for input on a specific proposal, the standing committee has been willing to consider reviewing departmental plans and providing the Cabinet with some feedback to the reporting procedures established by the rules of this House. While the committee expects to be informed about government initiatives in this area, it is not a requirement that the standing committee conduct a comprehensive review of each and every Cabinet strategy for board modification or elimination.

On certain occasions, and particularly with respect to the review of the Denendeh Conservation Board, Members of the standing committee have been concerned by public comments that Ministers' hands have been tied by the fact that the matter was being considered by the standing committee. The Cabinet should be mindful that the committee priorities have been set by the workplan that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in Committee Report 3-12(1). Where the opportunity permits itself, the standing committee may decide to respond to ministerial requests for input on key board management issues; however, the government should realize that the standing committee takes its work very seriously and that once a request for input is accepted, the review will be a thorough one which may take some time.

In responding to the government's request for input, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions focused initially on the authorities under which the Denendeh Conservation Board had been established. There are no statutory provisions nor established policy directives for this board. In general terms, however, the board received its mandate from an agreement between the Dene-Metis Negotiating Secretariat and the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1986. The board is a model of the sort of wildlife management board described in the Dene-Metis claim. The Minister of the day provided the board with the following operational mandate: "The Denendeh Conservation Board is authorized by the Minister of Renewable Resources to provide recommendations within the Department of Renewable Resources to the Minister. The board provides advice on wildlife, habitat and forestry issues and other issues as they relate to the department's mandate." When the Dene-Metis Comprehensive Claim process was replaced by the establishment of

regional land claims for Dene-Metis, the authority for the Denendeh Conservation Board became uncertain.

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This uncertainty, coupled with fiscal restraint requirements imposed by the Executive Council, impacted on the operation of the Denendeh Conservation Board. The standing committee

was advised that the board has not met since October of 1991. Mr. Chairman, I will ask our chairman of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions or Mr. Dent to conclude. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As well, the current Minister of Renewable Resources has indicated that since the onset of regional land claims negotiations, his department has received requests from communities and native organizations to disband the Denendeh Conservation Board. Reportedly, these groups have indicated a strong preference to be consulted directly on issues relating to renewable resources management. This is apparently a practice that the department had continued even while the Denendeh Conservation Board was operating.

Following its initial review of this matter in April of 1992, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions noted that while the composition of the board and perhaps even the substance of much of its advice had been open to question, its fundamental role should still be seen as vital. The committee recognized that during the early negotiation of the Dene-Metis Agreement in Principle, considerable thought had gone into developing a board that would provide community-based input to senior management within the Department of Renewable Resources. The need for that consultative process has not lessened over the past four years. Members of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions gave careful consideration to the question of whether it should support any decision to dissolve the board until it had a formal assurance that alternative mechanisms do exist for receiving input from aboriginal harvesters and other stakeholders.

The standing committee received some comfort in this respect from the current Minister's statement on October 23, 1992, that, and I quote, "The department

is committed to furthering the co-management of renewable resources with the people of the Northwest Territories. Public consultation is vital to this concept. The department will continue to look for the most effective means to obtain advice from the public and develop new strategies as required."

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions confirmed that even during the operation of the Denendeh Conservation Board, the department continued to work with local wildlife committees but looked to the board to provide advice on regional issues. With the elimination of the board, the local committees would continue to be a primary contact. A regional level of consultation will now be established through the land claim process and the eventual creation of renewable resource management boards. The structure and operation of these boards will vary among regions. The department has expressed a continuing commitment to working with these boards when they are formed. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was generally satisfied that existing communication patterns with communities will be sufficient in the proposed absence of the Denendeh Conservation Board.

It recognized that the Minister will have to devote additional attention to maintaining contact with existing regional organizations until wildlife management boards or committees can be established under regional land claim agreements. Contact with other public organizations such as guide/outfitter associations, the Dene Nation, the Metis Nation and other stakeholder groups should also be ensured. As well, the Minister is urged to address the inconsistency in levels of organization demonstrated by local hunters' and trappers' groups across the territories so that each community can have a dependable, well-functioning avenue for providing input on wildlife policy and management. The Minister should remain assured that his progress in maintaining effective communication channels with local and regional organizations and with harvesters will be an area to which attention is paid by the Legislative Assembly. At this time, however, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was of the opinion that the Denendeh Conservation Board is not providing a significant policy input function. There are better ways to ensure that community and regional input is received on wildlife policy matters. That completes my portion, Mr. Chairman. The recommendations will be handled by Mr. Koe.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I would like to thank my colleagues. We have two recommendations on this report. I have Recommendation one.

Committee Motion 66-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 1

I move that this committee recommend that the Minister proceed with the proposed elimination of the Denendeh Conservation Board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

MR. KOE:

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions is also of the opinion that the Legislative Assembly should be advised of the Minister's progress in carrying out the proposed plan to eliminate the Denendeh Conservation Board. I have recommendation two.

Committee Motion 67-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 2

I move that this committee recommend that, in accordance with rule 94(4), the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to the recommendation contained in this report within 120 days of the presentation of this report to the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions report on this issue. I wish to thank all my colleagues for preparing the report and helping me present it. I would like to thank the Minister and his staff for the information they have assisted us with. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Is this committee agreed that Committee Report 8-12(3) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. What does this committee wish to do now? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend we move to Bill 15.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Is this committee agreed that we deal with Bill 15?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 15, An Act To Amend The Wildlife Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. I wonder if the Minister has any opening remarks. Mr. Alloofoo.

Introductory Remarks

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This bill is a straightforward amendment to the Wildlife Act to remove the requirement for reindeer reserve caribou licenses within the portion of the reindeer grazing reserve which is within the Inuvialuit settlement region. The portion of the reindeer grazing reserve and the requirement for reindeer reserve caribou licenses within the Gwich'in settlement area portion of the reserve remain unaffected. The passage of this bill, Mr. Chairman, will enable the development of regulations in consultation with the Inuvialuit to govern caribou hunting within the reindeer reserve that is within the Inuvialuit settlement region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I wonder if the chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation has any opening remarks? Mr. Arngna'naaq

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation met to review Bill 15, an Act to Amend The Wildlife Act, on December 8, 1992. The committee thanks the Minister of Renewable Resources and his officials from the Department of Renewable Resources and from the Department of Justice for presenting this bill and responding to the questions of the Members.

Bill 15, will amend the Wildlife Act to change the current restrictions on hunting caribou within the federal reindeer reserve. The reindeer reserve includes an area of land that is within the Inuvialuit settlement region under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and an area of land that is within the Gwich'in settlement area under the Gwich'in Land Claim Agreement. Currently, caribou hunting in the entire reserve is restricted. This bill would prevent caribou hunting within the Gwich'in settlement area except under certain conditions:

-Persons would be entitled to hunt caribou in the region within the Gwich'in settlement area if they hold a Reindeer Reserve caribou licence or if they are

enrolled as a participant under the Gwich'in Agreement or are eligible to be enrolled;

-Caribou hunting in the remainder of the reindeer reserve, including the area within the Inuvialuit settlement region, would not be restricted by legislation.

Members were generally supportive of this bill but expressed concerns about the constitutionality of sections of the existing Wildlife Act. Members of the committee encouraged the department to review the Wildlife Act in light of recent court decisions which have commented on the ability of Legislatures, in general, to restrict aboriginal hunting rights. Those are my comments on this bill. I invite committee Members to make additional comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. I wonder if the Minister would like to invite his officials in? Does this committee wish to go clause by clause? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, can I ask for a ruling on this issue of dealing with Bill 15? I think the Member has to seek unanimous consent in order to proceed to deal with it in Committee of the Whole, because the committee reported on Bill 15 on Wednesday. It is all right? Go ahead.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Clause 3. Agreed.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Clause 4. Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Bill as a whole? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Does this committee agree that Bill 15 is ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

That is what we should be doing. What does this committee wish to do now? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, we would be willing to deal with Bill 4, Bill 5, and Bill 6, if the committee concurs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does this committee agree that we deal with Bill 4? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

Bill 4, An Act To Amend The Public Trustee Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Bill 4, an Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act. Mr. Kakfwi, opening remarks?

Introductory Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amendments we are proposing to the Public Trustee Act would allow for the making of regulations establishing fees for the services provided to the public by the public trustee. Under the current legislation, any fees to be charged by the public trustee must be approved by a judge of the Supreme Court. This is a time-consuming and inconvenient process since many of the matters handled by the public trustee do not otherwise have to be dealt with by the Supreme Court. The amendment would also the public trustee or designate to waive or reduce fees in cases of hardship or unfairness.

Since the public trustee already charges fees for most of the services provided, there would only be a slight increase in revenue to the government. Those are the opening comments I had, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation, do you have any opening remarks? Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation also reviewed Bill 4, an Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act, at its public meeting on December 7, 1992. The committee would like to

thank the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, and his officials from the public trustee office and the Department of Justice for presenting this bill and responding to committee Members' questions and concerns. This bill would amend the Public Trustee Act to specify that the public trustee may charge fees, expenses and disbursements against estates and trusts administered by the trustee.

It would also add a regulation making authority to allow the setting of fees payable from a trust or estate to the public trustee. Currently, fees are charged by the public trustee, but they are not specified in the act or in regulations. The public trustee would still be required to submit its accounts to a judge if this would be required by other Northwest Territories legislation. This bill would also provide that the public trustee may waive or remit prescribed fees where the fee would cause hardship or unfairness in the circumstances. During its review of this bill, the committee raised two significant issues with the Minister, which resulted in amendments to the bill and the committee stage. Under our new legislative process, the committee noted that Bill 4 did not include a "coming into force" clause.

The committee was concerned that if a bill was passed by the Assembly and provisions were incorporated requiring fees to be charged as set out in a regulation, the public trustee would no longer have the authority to charge fees that were not set in regulation. As the department has not completed its preparation of the regulations, the committee suggested that a "coming into force" clause be added so that the public trustee could continue to charge its current fees until the regulations are registered.

The committee also questioned the Minister on the rationale for repealing the regulation allowing fees to be levied against the common fund. The common fund is an investment pool administered by the public trustee on behalf of several estates and trusts. It was determined that the Minister had not intended that this bill have the effect of removing the authority of the public trustee to charge fees for the management of the common fund.

At its meeting on December 7, 1992, the committee invoked the procedure available under the new legislative process and carried a motion to amend Bill 4 to add a "coming into force" clause and to retain the public trustee's authority to charge fees for the management of the common fund. Under the new process, the concurrence of the sponsor of the bill is required before the bill can be amended at the

committee stage. The Minister concurred with the committee's motion to amend Bill 4, therefore, the bill that is before the honourable Members today differs from the one voted on by this House at second reading.

Members of the Standing Committee on Legislation wish to comment on the experience of the committee during the review of Bill 4. Had the Legislative Assembly passed the bill, as drafted by the Minister, the public trustee office risked being

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unable to charge fees for the management of the common fund and, being unable to charge any fees for its services until the regulations were drafted and registered. This could have had serious consequences and disrupted the administration of this important government service. At the very least, it would have required costly and time consuming amendments to the act during a later legislative session.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee raises this point not as a specific criticism of the hard-working officials in Mr. Kakfwi's Legislative Division but rather because it is important to note the effectiveness of our current legislative process.

With the revisions which this House made to the legislative process at the outset of the 12th Assembly it is possible for problems like these to be identified and resolved at the committee stage. The process of open, thorough and vigorous review of bills exercised by the standing committee within the consensus-style framework of this government enables committee Members to work with the sponsoring Minister and to bring better legislation before this House.

This concludes my remarks on Bill 4, Mr. Chairman. I invite other committee Members to make any additional comments to the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

General Comments

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I may be ruled out of order, but I am going to try this anyway. Because of the complexity of this particular bill or any other bills

that might be complicated in the future, I would have liked to see the standing committee's remarks in advance so that I was aware of exactly what they are commenting on and other sections that they might have a concern with in the bill. I wonder if this is a House rule or proper procedure?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Arvaluk, your concern cannot be taken into consideration. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Seeing that there are concerns from a few Members with regard to these particular bills not being given to us in advance to be able to pursue them and to note the committee's comments, I would like to request that we report progress and leave these on the order paper until we come back. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

There is a motion on the floor to report progress. This motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is defeated. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

---Defeated

MR. ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, I think I was misunderstood. I am not talking about this particular bill. It would have been helpful to be able to view the committee chairman's remarks, as is done with Agencies, Boards and Commissions. They have reports that they give to us. I am just stating that if we were to receive the chairperson's remarks in advance it would be helpful. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I am sure the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation is taking that concern into account. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have no difficulty in giving Members of the committee the comments that I will be making on any bills.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments. Does this committee that we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Member for Thebacha.

General Comments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few general comments. I do not think we were given that opportunity. Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions with respect to this particular bill. I would like to ask the Minister what process is now used by the public trustee in regard to estates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, where there is a deceased person and there needs to be some action taken to decide what to do with the properties, and assets of the deceased person, usually the R.C.M.P. or a government official from the community contacts the public trustee. Where there is no one designated, the public trustee acts in the capacity that his office holds. There is no written procedure for getting that into force. That is generally the procedure that is used, as far as I know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I would like to ask the Minister, what is the time frame that is currently in place and that is experienced by the public trustee when dealing with estates?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I do not know the varying time frames, for instance, the average time that it takes for a public trustee to begin initiating a process to deal with an estate, and the time that the public trustee takes to complete the transaction. I know that it does vary. It is in the period of a year to a number of years before it is completed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, this bill allows for possible waiving or remitting of a fee which is prescribed or determined under the regulations where the public trustee or designate considers that the imposition of the bill could cause hardship or unfairness in the circumstances. Could the Minister indicate to me the percentage or the current rate of the fee that the public trustee imposes on an estate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I cannot provide the Member with that information at this time. I do know that the fee which is charged by the public trustee varies according to the nature of the estate, the individual and circumstances involved with the estate. As far as I know it has been largely modeled on a schedule, a calculation that was set down by former trustees who used it based on what they saw taking place in other parts of the country. It has been used and accepted by judges of the Supreme Court to whom these were submitted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I find it ironic that we are asked to waive a fee or remit a fee prescribed under this particular act and we are not being told what the current fee is. What are we actually waiving? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, since it appears we might have to have a comprehensive discussion about this again, I would request that I be allowed to call in witnesses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does this committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Minister. Sergeant-at-arms, proceed by the officials, please.

Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses, please?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, thank you. On my right, I have Mark Aitken, from legislation division, and on my left, the public trustee, Mr. Larry Pontus. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. There was a question on the floor. Would you please respond to it, Mr. Minister?

MR. PONTUS:

Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that the question is what the current fees are that we would be waiving. On any particular estate, our fees range upwards of approximately five per cent of the total value of the estate. However, there may be a number of other things that we do on the estate which takes the value of the work well above five per cent. There may be legal actions which may need to be started. There may be income tax returns. There may be all sorts of associated disbursements involved in the handling of the estate. Where it appears that the fees are starting to get too high compared to the actual value of the estate, for example, if we have an estate worth \$4,500 and a proper calculation worked out to \$1,500, that would seem to be an excessive amount, we would waive or reduce the fees in that particular case, especially if the money was going to a needy beneficiary or someone who did not have much money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can indicate to this House what he would deem to be the definition of hardship or unfairness in the circumstances of waiving a fee for an estate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

MR. PONTUS:

One example of that would be where you have an elderly widow, and the total value of the estate might be \$3,000 but she hardly has any other money. If the fees worked out to \$300, and that is probably a considerable amount to her, and if we saw that she did not have any other source of funds, then we could waive the fee in that case and give her the total value of the estate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, it has been indicated to us that the fee is five per cent of the total value plus, at times, the value of the work well above the requirements of what is needed for the estate to be completed. This bill is to waive that fee prescribed. Do we have many estates which the government deals with that would require a waiving of the amounts prescribed by the results of completing estates?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

MR. PONTUS:

We have a fair number of estates for which the primary beneficiary is an elderly person who does not have much money. As far as the total percentage of the actual estates we handle, it may go upwards of 25, 30 or 40 per cent of the number of estates where that money would be paid to the surviving spouse who may be quite elderly. Under other circumstances, the funds would generally be paid to the children, since very often it is the parent whose spouse has already died. There would be a fair number for which we could reduce or waive the fees down to zero.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, it has been indicated to us that, with regard to this five per cent of the total value of estates, consideration of work well above the five per cent often comes into the financial amount of settling that estate. When they are looking at additional lawyer's fees or accountant's fees to complete revenue forms, what and how do they impose that

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particular fee? Is it on the going rate of lawyer's fees? Do they use lawyers who are out of government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS:

We do not have an actual hourly rate set for my services. I am the only one who functions as a lawyer in the office. It would probably work out to no more than \$60 or \$70 per hour in the average case which is probably what would be charged out by an articling student at a local firm. It is considerably less than the private sector for the same services. When we have a situation in which the estate does have sufficient funds and there are legal problems, then I can retain and will retain a private lawyer to act on behalf of the estate, and who will be paid from the estate or the funds received as a result of the litigation. He will not be paid by the government in those cases.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, can this House be advised as to the number of estates on an average rate per year that this particular department completes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS:

A rough estimate of the number of estates we handle in a year would be from 90 to 140 or so per year. It varies quite a bit. That is a rough estimate, it varies substantially. We may have as many as 165 in a particular year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

What is the average revenue that the department or the division receives as a result of settling this average of 90 to 140 estates during a year? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS:

The average revenue over the last few years has been anywhere from \$40,000 to \$65,000 per year for the fees charges to the estates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, the government has indicated over the past year its tight funding situation and has encouraged Members who are Ministers to look at other revenue initiatives. We have been looking at an increase in payroll tax, we have been looking at an increase of insurance tax and so on, which have all been new initiatives. I would like to ask the Minister why this initiative is contrary to the government's request for revenue initiative. In fact, it is taking revenue away from the government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the call for these amendments came from the staff but also from the auditors who audit the public trustee office. They wanted some clear legislative base for the establishment of fees charged and, as well, we thought we should cut out the cumbersome process of going to a judge of the Supreme Court to approve fees that are charged. So that was the intent. It is not anything beyond that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have any more questions on this particular clause, so I would suggest that other Members may want to ask questions or we may go to another clause which I may have other questions to pose. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one other question and that is with regard to unknown assets, such as

bank accounts, R.R.S.P.s, pension plans, inheritances and wills. How are those handled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS:

I believe the question is, what happens to unknown assets, such as bank accounts, R.R.S.P.s and pension plans when we administer an estate. We write letters to all of the banks in the locale where the person resided. We write to local investment companies and we contact the government, if it is superannuation for federal government or territorial government employees, and we also contact Canada Pension to see if pensions are available.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I have one other question, Mr. Chairman. I actually have to involve my own dad who passed away this spring. How are those people informed? My mother has never been informed about C.P.P. I actually had to do a lot of work after my dad was deceased because people out there in the communities do not know what they are entitled to after a relative is deceased. I was just wondering how do people who do not know anything about how to handle things after a death, are informed. I do not think it is known out there. I myself did not know a lot of things until after my dad died but I was not told by your office or anybody from government. In fact, I found it out through other people rather than the government. It was about two months after my dad died that I found out that information. How do you go about, when a person is deceased, providing information to the spouse or the children or the relatives? How is that done? I do not think that information is coming across to those people.

MR. PONTUS:

There are a number of ways in which our office gets involved and I should first of all point out that we do not administer all of the estates in the territories. Far from it. There are a large number of estates that are handled by lawyers in the general public. People will visit the lawyer and he will prepare the court documentation, such as we would, and file it with the court so that the affairs are administered directly

through a lawyer with the court. The function of the public trustee is to act when there are no family members or friends who have been appointed as executors or administrators who are willing to come forward and take on the responsibility.

When that happens we are usually notified by either a social worker, the R.C.M.P., a nursing station, etc. Quite often, we just get a cheque in the mail and it is made out to somebody

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who is deceased and somebody said, to send it to our office. When we get notice of somebody dying, we send out a letter of condolence to the family, describing the services of our office along with two forms which allow them to ask our office to administer the estate, if they wish, and also allowing them to provide us with all sorts of information with respect to the deceased person so that we can start administering the estate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

So the information is not given right away. It would be several days, several weeks, or several months before an actual contact is made with the spouse or the family. Does that sum it up?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS:

It really varies. We often get phone calls the day of a funeral, or the day after a funeral, or sometimes even a day before the funeral if family members are in town and they want to get things straightened out. They will come right into our office at that time and complete the forms. We then assist them in setting things up at that time. Other times it might be a week later, or a month later that we are contacted and notified about the death and that somebody needs our services. We have opened up an administrative stage for cases in which the person has died a number of years before where there have been some assets or situations that need to be dealt with.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question. Mr. Chairman, if it is the responsibility of the family to make funeral arrangements, your office does not have to provide any information on how to go about it. From the time a person is deceased and is buried, can the family access money from the deceased's estate to make those arrangements?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the amendments before us do not deal with the concern which the Member is raising. There were comments to the same effect in the Standing Committee on Legislation. What we can do is assure the Member that we will review and try to find ways in which there could be greater contact made with community leaders and community organizations that would inform mayors, chiefs and those officials who are aware that there is an office of the public trustee and perhaps in simple language can explain what the available services are, in order to give the office a higher profile. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 4. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman. I have two questions. Mr. Pontus gave some figures to my colleague for Thebacha with regard to income. What income is generated through your office, currently through the fees charged for the administration of estates and trusts and for the administration of the common fund? Can I get those two figures?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS:

The administration fees per year that are charged to the estates and trusts vary depending upon the size of the estates that we close during that particular year. They did average approximately \$50,000 to \$65,000, and they have been down to \$40,000. It

could be anywhere from \$40,000 to \$60,000 in any particular year. That is a rough estimate but that is the amount of income we are looking at from the actual fees charged to the estates and trusts.

The common fund fees work out to exactly one per cent of the common fund which is calculated twice a year. That currently would be \$35,000 per year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, with the amendment which is being proposed, does the public trustee's office expect to get more money? Do you expect to get more money by making these amendments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS:

We might make slightly more money than we are currently making. In other words, if we are averaging \$50,000 it may go up to \$55,000 or \$60,000. With a complete regulated fee structure we would probably ensure that we are charging for everything, so we are catching all the nickels and dimes for the services that we are providing. Also, there would be a couple of areas in which we do not have any authority to charge fees now, such as for services and functions I provide under the Minors Act in review of infant settlements. We cannot charge fees for that now but we could in the future. We could also charge for trusts that are established for persons subsequent to their being committed under the Mental Health Act. There are a couple of areas in which we do not charge any fees now, which are not great volume areas but in which there would be a small amount of revenue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Has your office done preliminary work drafting the fee schedule?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS:

I have obtained the regulations and fee structures from a number of other jurisdictions. I have on occasion discussed their fee structures with them to determine the best way of setting ours. It varies from a fee structure in B.C., which is several pages long and itemizes many things, to a fee structuring in Alberta which I believe is only one page long. We have done the preliminary research, to get an idea of the range of fees and the way that we can structure the regulations. However, at this particular time we do not have draft regulations, however.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice that the standing committee has put in the coming into force clause so that it gives you time to formulate a fee schedule and to have it registered. How long do you anticipate it will take you to get the fee schedule registered? Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

MR. PONTUS:

I would estimate that we would be able to have that done within two to three months.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just need a clarification. In the amendment which is being proposed, the public trustee or a person designated by the public trustee may waive the prescribed fee. To whom is this making reference? I do not have the current Public Trustee Act. I would like to know to whom they are making reference, the Minister or the director of the public trustee's office? I would like that clarification.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mahsi. Mr. Minister.

MR. PONTUS:

Currently in our office, there is a total of five staff and the designate in this situation would either be myself making this decision to waive or the public trustee officer who reports to me in the office. On occasion, it may also be the deputy public trustee who has been in the legal division of the government and who has been appointed in my absence to act as public trustee in the past.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 4, Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 4 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses. Thank you for appearing.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 19, Report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if I am going to be able to read this. The committee has been considering an appearance by the Languages Commissioner; Committee Reports 8-12(3) and 9-12(3); and Bills 15 and 4, and wishes to report progress with two motions being adopted and the appearance by the Languages Commissioner. Committee Reports 8-12(3) and 9-12(3) are concluded. Bills 15 and 4 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is there a seconder to the motion? 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? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 66(5), to have Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act, moved into Committee of the Whole today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Pursuant to rule 66(3) on the order of the Assembly, Bill 3 is ordered into Committee of the Whole today. Please proceed, Mr. Morin.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would welcome the committee back to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, thank you, thank you Members.

---Laughter

I would like to deal with Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that we deal with Bill 3?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 3: An Act To Amend The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill 3 is an Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act. Mr. Minister.

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Introductory Comments

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The legislation I am presenting for approval today is Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act. This amendment will eliminate the requirement for the N.W.T. Housing Corporation to have a board of directors and make the Minister responsible for the N.W.T. Housing Corporation solely accountable to this Legislative Assembly for the conduct and affairs

of the corporation. This bill has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions and by the Standing Committee on Legislation. I would like to thank the Members of both these committees for the opportunity to review the principles and content of the amendment and to address their questions and concerns.

During my recent meetings with the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, the Members made several constructive suggestions to improve our proposal to improve public consultation. I believe we have a better consultation framework as a result of these discussions. I am pleased to have the committee's support to implement the following initiatives in 1993-94, as they recommended: establish a special advisory committee on housing and more consultation and information sharing with fellow M.L.A.s; an annual meeting in each district with representatives with the local housing organizations and community leaders to deal with district housing issues; annual public meetings in every community to deal with local concerns; and, more consultation and stronger partnerships between the corporation and local housing organizations, community governments and local groups.

It is my firm belief, Mr. Chairman, that the problems we face in housing as in many other issues, should be addressed in a more cooperative way. No one person has all the answers. There is much to gain by asking people in the communities to help develop solutions to our housing problems. A special advisory committee on housing has been suggested because it would give M.L.A.s a formal advisory role on housing issues and major new programs and policies. I believe that the input from the special advisory committee will be of great value as we develop new policies and programs. In addition, I have made a commitment to provide all Members of this House with regular updates and to share information on new policy and program development.

I have read the comments made by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions about the need to define more clearly how the committee would be structured and how it would operate. I understand these concerns, Mr. Chairman, and I will seek a further opportunity to review these proposals with M.L.A.s before bringing it into a formal motion at the next session to establish a special committee on housing. The purpose of the bill before the House today, Mr. Chairman, is to remove the requirement for the new Housing Corporation to have

a board of directors. There will be no other changes to the corporation structure as a result of Bill 3.

However, the removal of the requirement for the board is the first step towards the eventual conversion of the N.W.T. Housing Corporation to a government department.

I agree with the comment in the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommending a departmental structure for the delivery of housing programs. I am glad to be bringing forward legislation in 1993-94 to convert the corporation to a department and to strengthen the emphasis of the important role played by local housing organizations and community governments in the delivery of housing. The "shell corporation" which was the subject of the document I tabled yesterday will not be required until such a conversion takes place. As the Members are aware, the corporation's financial arrangements with C.M.H.C. and the Housing Corporation are covered by legal agreements. Legislation to convert the corporation to a department must be carefully drafted to ensure that these legal agreements will continue without delays or disruptions. The corporation has also begun discussions with communities interested in taking over more responsibility for housing programs. It is important that our Legislature facilitate such transfers.

In closing, I would like to thank the Members for their support for this legislative amendment and for their good advice which has improved our consultation framework. I will be pleased to implement all the recommendations contained in the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions. I look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with all the Members as we strive to address the housing needs of all our N.W.T. communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will now go over to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation. Mr. Chairman, do you have opening remarks on this bill?

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation reviewed Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act, on

December 10, 1992. The committee appreciates the attendance of the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, the Hon. Don Morin, and his officials from the Housing Corporation and the Department of Justice and their responses to the questions and comments of committee Members. Although the Minister has explained quite well what it is that this bill will do, I will repeat that this bill would amend the Housing Corporation Act to remove the Board of Directors of the Housing Corporation. It would provide that the daily affairs of the corporation would be conducted by the president of the corporation, under the direction of the Minister. The president would be appointed by the Minister with no set term.

The Minister informed the committee that his intention, should Bill 3 be passed by the Assembly, is to convert the Housing Corporation into a government department. Should this happen, a "shell corporation" would be required, to maintain the current funding agreements with Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation.

Although this is the first time this bill has come before the Standing Committee on Legislation, committee Members had the benefit of the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Board and Commissions conducted

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a thorough review of the Minister's proposal to remove the Board of Directors of the Housing Corporation and recommended in Committee Report No. 6-12(3) that the Minister proceed with the proposal.

Members of the committee questioned the Minister as to the intended structure of the proposed "shell corporation" and regarding the plan outlined by the Minister for a new framework for community consultation to obtain input into housing issues. In general, Members were supportive of this bill and on December 10, 1992, they carried a motion to report Bill 3 to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. I invite other committee Members to make any additional comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman of the Legislation committee. Any general comments on the bill? Mr. Zoe.

General Comments

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister, in his statement, indicated that the input from communities would be enhanced, but the amendments that are being proposed do not include that advisory committee that he is making reference to. All that is in front of us now, Mr. Chairman, is that the board is being replaced by the president. Every reference that is made to the board is now being replaced by the president. What type of assurance can we get from the Minister, if all these other goods things that he is making reference to are not included in this bill? I do not feel too comfortable, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is saying one thing and then not doing it in the bill. Are we assuming that there are going to be more amendments coming forward in the new year? There is no mention of that in the Minister's comments. Although he says we are going to do all this, I do not know if it will become a reality because there is nothing mentioned in the N.W.T. Housing Corporation Act about this point. What type of assurance can we get for this side of the House and the people of the territories that the initiative the Minister is undertaking is going to be a reality?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have already stated in my opening remarks, as well as in my appearances before the committee, that we would establish a special advisory committee, have annual meetings in each district, annual public meetings in each community and work on consultations at the local level with local groups. I mentioned in my opening remarks to this committee as well as to the Special Committee on Legislation today that we would be coming forward with more amendments to the N.W.T. Housing Corporation Act in 1993-94 and that, at that time, we would address those concerns. This is all on paper. It has all been distributed to Members of this House so the assurance is there.

I am answerable to the Members of this House, so if I do not follow through with this, I am history. It is as simple as that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Bill 3, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Will the amendments and regulations that you will putting forth include the frequency of advisory committee meetings? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All other proposed amendments to this act will be carried through with a lot of consultation with the Members, so the Members will be helping us once again. As they helped us with this one, they will be helping us to draft amendments to the act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any general comments on Bill 3? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am somewhat concerned by the fact that this board is being eliminated and actually, in the act itself, is only being replaced by the Minister and the president. There is no reference to the special advisory committee to which the Minister referred in his opening remarks. I would like to ask the Minister when and in what time frame is he going to commit to us in this House to bring forth the necessary requirements to set up a special advisory committee on housing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said in my opening remarks, I did adopt all the recommendations made by the Standing Committee of Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and I believe that the recommendation was that they directed me to come back in February with that, but that is to develop amendments to this act. I will be doing it in consultation with the Members of the Assembly. So we should be prepared to come in February with some more amendments and then it is just a matter of how long it takes to get through the process. It should be completed in 1993-94.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mrs. Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the special advisory committee that the Minister is referring to in his opening remarks, I am sure the Minister is aware that the bill does not commit him to anything and I think this is a concern of the Members. I recognize that the Minister has made a commitment to come back by February with the set-up of the special advisory committee. I would like to ask the Minister, who is he proposing to pay the cost of the special advisory committee on housing? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister for Housing.

HON. DON MORIN:

I guess whoever foots the bill will be part of the consultation process with Members and I do not know whether it will be the Legislative Assembly or the Housing Corporation. I guess that part will come out in consultation with the Members. It will probably be worked out between the clerk and the president through F.M.B., I believe. I know that we have deducted a certain amount from our budget already this year as an elimination process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. I think that is the problem that some of the Members have. The Minister is proposing to eliminate the bill of the board of directors, which is costly. However, Members are concerned about the special committee, which is supposed to take place in lieu of the board. The cost factors of absorbing and initiating this particular special committee are not clear. Being a Member of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, that was one of my concerns. The initial proposal was that the Minister request that the Legislative Assembly pay the cost. I believe this is unfair.

I would like to get some type of commitment prior to agreeing to this bill that the Minister would make every effort to ensure that the Legislative Assembly is not going to be the only department that will be

looking at absorbing costs for his initiative of creating a Special Advisory Committee on Housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree. We will meet and discuss it and share the costs if necessary. This consultation process that we came up with came out of the meetings with A.B.C.s, and other Members' input. They are the ones who gave me the ideas of how to go through this consultation process. It is a good idea.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I agree, Mr. Chairman, it is a good idea. It is a better idea if the Housing Corporation pays the costs because it is its initiative. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to make another comment. How many PYs does the Minister anticipate to save with the elimination of this board? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Mr. Chairman, we have given up one PY with this board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister why they repealed section 3 of the existing act and replaced it with a new clause? What was the purpose of this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mahsi, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Section 3, the corporation may establish such office and agencies in the territories that it considers necessary.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can explain myself a little better. Section 3 in the act at present makes reference to headquarters and makes reference to establish other offices and agencies across the territories that they consider necessary. They are now repealing that section and adding in a new section, which reads, "The corporation may establish the office and agencies in the territories that it considers necessary." They have eliminated the old section 3.1, which read, "The head office of the corporation shall be at the location to be selected by the board." That is the section they are deleting. What was the purpose of taking that section out?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The changing of the word "other" to "such" is required because the previous reference to the board selecting the location of the head office is deleted. This means that the corporation Minister chooses the location for all corporation offices and agencies. It is basically to delete the reference to the board, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Is the Minister saying that in order to delete the reference to the board, they had to repeal that whole section and leave in that the corporation may establish the offices and agencies in the territories that it considers necessary? Why could they not delete that the head office of the corporation shall be at the location to be selected by the government, or by the Minister, or leave it as the head office of the corporation shall be in Yellowknife. What was the purpose of taking all of this out? Could it mean that we can move that "shell corporation" outside of Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Minister of Housing.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It can be moved anywhere in the Northwest Territories, even now. My understanding is that the corporation or the "shell corporation" could be moved, and yes it can even be moved under the existing act. These changes delete the N.W.T. Act and amend section 3.2 as follows: "the corporation may establish such offices and agencies in the territories that it considers necessary." Changing the word "other" to "such" was required because the previous reference to the board selecting location of the head office is deleted. This means that the Minister chooses the location of all corporation offices and agencies. This is the basic purpose for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Can I ask our legal advisor a question? If headquarters is not mentioned in legislation, the issue the Minister made reference to with regard to moving it to other locations cannot be accomplished if it is not written in legislation. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Law Clerk.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, Mr. Zoe. Under the proposed section 3, the corporate headquarters of the corporation could be anywhere that the corporation considered necessary. This bill proposes that the Minister will direct the corporation, so accordingly the Minister could give direction as to the location of the headquarters, wherever they may be in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

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MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, the president, under section 5-8, is repealed and the following is substituted in this bill pertaining to the president, "The president's remuneration used to be determined by the board." Now who would determine how much they pay the president?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that it is the government who pays him.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Zoe, can you please repeat the question.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, in the existing act the remuneration for the president was done by the board. The board used to fix the remuneration of the president and the employees of the corporation. Who is going to undertake that duty now? Who sets the pay scale for the president and the employees since the board is not going to be doing it now? There is no reference in the amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you. I do. The Minister would be that person.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Is the Minister indicating that the president would follow the Hay Plan, as we are doing with our deputy ministers and other employees?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill 3. General comments. Clause by clause. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The bill as a whole. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, can I ask one question with regard to clause 6? I do not know whether it is consistent with the Public Service Act. Clause 6.1 reads, "The president of the corporation shall be appointed by the Minister." I believe the Public Service Act for deputy ministers, which is equivalent to the president, is appointed by the Government Leader. Why does this bill allow for the appointment of the president by the Minister and not by the Government Leader? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the time being it has to be this way. In order for us to make this amendment to delete the board it has to be the Minister who appoints the president, just for the time being. When we come back with the legislation to convert the corporation to a department, then we can make further amendments to have the deputy minister appointed by the Government Leader the same as all other departments. In reality, the Government Leader still appoints the president.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, can I get a legal opinion on that to ensure that it is not inconsistent with the Public Service Act? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Law Clerk.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the answer to that available right now. I would have to take a short break to review the Public Service Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that we take a short break to get the Law Clerk to check the matter out?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We will take a five minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The Chair recognizes a quorum. The committee will now come back to order. Legal advisor, are you ready for the deliberation of your legal opinion on the matter that was presented before the committee?

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LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Yes, I am, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the House for its indulgence. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Zoe has raised an interesting issue. The Public Service Act does provide that the Minister, being the Minister of Personnel, has the exclusive right and authority to appoint persons to positions within the public service. As Members have obviously noted, it is proposed that the president of this corporation will be a member of the public service. However, there is a general principle of statutory interpretation which deals with the issue of specifics as contrasted with general legislation, and specific legislation, such as the bill before Members, will always prevail over general legislation, such as the Public Service Act.

Secondly, there is also a statutory principle of interpretation that legislation which is later in time, which has received the approval of the House at a later date than an earlier act, will prevail over that earlier act. Accordingly, Mr. Chairman, I do not see any difficulties with having the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation appoint the president of the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, can I ask the Law Clerk, was there not an amendment in the Public Service Act, I believe it was last year or the year before, to allow for the Government Leader, as opposed to the Minister of Personnel, to appoint deputy ministers to the public service?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Legal advisor.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

I wonder if I could just have a few seconds to have a look at the latest statute. I do not believe that this will take longer than a minute. I recall the act that the Member is speaking of but I do not recall the specific provision being included within that act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, in addition to that, since the Official Languages Act that we have recently gone through indicates the Languages Commissioner being equivalent to, I believe, a deputy minister, would the Minister be willing to apply a definition to the term or to the wording of president within this act? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that it is not needed because under the Public Service Act the president is considered to be the deputy head.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I am asking, if the Public Service Act has the definition of a president, and the Public Service Act indicates that the Minister of Personnel appoints the deputy ministers, then why is this particular clause in the act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fact that they are deputy heads means that they have the responsibilities of a deputy head as set out in the act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe that the legal advisor is ready for her legal opinion.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Marie-Jewell is correct, the act was amended. Basically, the Minister of Personnel has the exclusive right to appoint people to positions in the Public Service with the exception of deputy ministers, who are appointed by the recommendation of the Government Leader, by the Commissioner and the Executive Council. However, I would point out to Members that the same legislative principles with respect to specific legislation prevailing over general and later legislation prevailing over earlier legislation would still apply to this particular bill before the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, if that is the particular case, then why is it that this particular clause is in the act? It is not necessarily needed. Can I get the opinion of the Law Clerk?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Law Clerk.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that this clause is needed within this act so as to allow the

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation to appoint the president. If this clause were not in the act, it would be the Government Leader or the Commissioner and Executive Council on the recommendation of the Government Leader who would be responsible for making deputy minister level appointments. This clause is in to allow the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation to make those appointments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, if our Public Service Act allows for the definition of a president being equivalent to deputy ministers, and if our Public Service Act allows for the Government Leader to make the recommendation of appointments with the support of the Executive Council and Commissioner, and if we indicate in this act that the president of the corporation is a member of the public service, then why is this particular clause in the act that allows the Minister to make appointments, because it is contrary to the intent of the government's Public Service Act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Legal advisor.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that may be a policy issue as to whether it is more appropriate for these appointments to be made by the

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Government Leader or by the Minister in charge of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if it is appropriate that this particular clause "the president of the corporation shall be appointed," and I am just asking for legal advice here, be changed to, "shall be appointed by the procedures used in the Public Service Act" which would allow the Government Leader to do the appointment, because I am quite sure that the Government Leader does the appointment anyway. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for the change to the act is so that the president of the corporation is appointed by the Minister. This means that the president is appointed by the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation under Section 6.1, and the reason that it is changed is because it is deleting a reference to the board. They are just changing from "board" to "Minister" at this point. When we come back in February we will take the next steps to change it into a department, and that is where we are hoping to change so that it is treated like a department, where the deputy minister is appointed by the Minister of Personnel and the Government Leader.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, on my earlier comments I had asked the Law Clerk for her comments and I have not received them yet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Legal advisor.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not sure that this is a legal issue. There are two processes whereby people can be appointed to the Public Service. There is the process that is set forth in the Public Service Act and then there is the suggested much more direct appointment proposed in this bill before Members. As to which process is

preferable or better, that is not a legal issue. Both have equal legal validity and both, in my submission, are equally discretionary. I cannot see any benefit to an appointment under the Public Service Act; it is a discretionary appointment, as contrasted with one under this proposed bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister if we can get a commitment for the next session to come in with an amendment to the bill which would allow consistency with the appointments of deputy minister equivalencies, therefore an amendment to this bill which would allow consistency with the appointments of deputy minister equivalencies. Therefore, an amendment to this bill would come in with the appointment being under the accordance of the Public Service Act, therefore made by the Government Leader. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Yes, that is the intent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill as a whole? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does this committee agree that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act, is ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

What is the committee's wish now? There are only six clauses in this bill. We just dealt with clause six a few minutes ago. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

There is a motion on the floor which is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 19, Report of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Speaker, the committee has been considering Bill 3, and we wish to report that Bill 3 is ready for third reading. I move that the report of Chairman of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 20, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Alloofoo.

ITEM 20: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with the third reading of Bill 15.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Honourable Member is seeking consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Alloofoo.

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Bill 15: An Act To Amend The Wildlife Act

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 15 has had third reading. Item 20, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Morin.

---Applause

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to give third reading to Bill 3 today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Honourable Member is seeking consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Morin.

Bill 3: An Act To Amend The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Applause

---Carried

Bill 3 has had third reading. Item 20, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to give third reading to Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Honourable Member is seeking consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Kakfwi.

Bill 4: An Act To Amend The Public Trustee Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Nunakput, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 4 has had third reading. Item 20, Third Reading of Bills. It is my understanding that the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if his Honour, the Commissioner, is prepared to enter the chamber and assent to bills?

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER NORRIS:

Please be seated. Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby assent to Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Condominium Act; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Public Trustees Act; Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act; Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act; Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act; Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1991-92; Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1992-93; and, Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Please be seated. Before we proceed to the orders of the day, I would like, on behalf of the Assembly, to thank the Clerk, the Legislative Assembly staff,...

---Applause

...Cabinet staff, the interpreters, the Hansard staff, and a special thanks to the pages who worked with us late tonight.

---Applause

I would like to wish all the Members a very merry Christmas and a very enjoyable night tonight. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, Orders of the Day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a very brief meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance in the committee room immediately after adjournment. At 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning there will be a meeting of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, and at 10:30 a.m. a meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges. Orders of the Day for Wednesday, February 7, 1993.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

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

16. First Reading of Bills

17. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 8, Payroll Tax Act

18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 2-12(3), "The Justice House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality

- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act

- Bill 6, An Act to Amend Commercial Tenancies Act

- Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 17, 1993.

---ADJOURNMENT