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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Alooloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, 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. Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Mr. Clerk, it appears we do not have a quorum. Which Members are present?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Dent, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Alooloo, Ms. Mike, Mr. Pollard, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Whitford.

MR. SPEAKER:

The chair now recognizes a quorum. Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, budget address. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 2: BUDGET ADDRESS

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the people absent are probably not interested in another dry speech, so you will have to excuse them.

Mr. Speaker, the 1993-94 budget being tabled today is a balanced budget. This is a significant achievement in light of the federal funding cutbacks and expenditure pressures which our government faces. This budget is balanced in another sense, its effects are distributed fairly among all sectors and all individuals. It balances the need for restraint with the need to adequately fund essential programs such as health, education and social assistance.

Mr. Speaker, this budget is also forward looking. It recognizes that decisive steps in support of economic development and job training are needed if the Government of the Northwest Territories is to reduce its economic and fiscal dependence on the rest of

Canada. It includes measures which will improve economic efficiency and prepare more northern residents to fill available jobs.

Fiscal Position And Outlook

With regard to our fiscal position and outlook, Mr. Speaker, the 1993-94 budget totals \$1.16 billion and achieves the government's target of eliminating the deficit in the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, when this government took office in 1991, returning to a sound fiscal position became one of the Cabinet's most urgent priorities. Faced with a deficit approaching \$50 million in 1991-92, the government set as its target a \$25 million deficit for 1992-93 and a balanced budget in 1993-94. It was vital to act quickly in the government's mandate. If action had not been taken this government would be facing \$100 million of accumulated debt by the end of 1993-94. The government would have been forced to cut at least \$10 million from badly needed programs in future years just to pay the interest on this debt.

Mr. Speaker, the 1992-93 deficit will come in close to a target at \$26.8 million. The 1993-94 budget will have a small surplus of \$1.3 million. Mr. Speaker, I would like to explain to the House that at the time this budget was printed that was in fact the number. Since that time there have been some adjustments with regard to the staff housing policy and that will cause us to lose another \$2.1 million. So, in effect, to correct the \$1.3 million surplus, Mr. Speaker, it should now read an \$800,000 deficit. I am still prepared to say that the budget is essentially balanced although there are some elements of uncertainty which could affect the bottom line. These include the current hospital billings dispute with the federal government, resolution of the pay equity issue and potential unexpected expenditure requirements, such as higher social assistance costs.

Although a number of revenue measures have been required, these targets, to a large degree, have been achieved by keeping a tight rein on expenditure growth. There is virtually no expenditure growth in 1992-93 over the previous year's levels and expenditure growth in 1993-94 has been kept below inflation. The expenditure and revenue measures taken so far mean that this government is now in a better position to address future expenditure needs. However, Mr. Speaker, our accumulated surplus will be gone by the end of 1993-94. In 1988-89 the accumulated surplus was almost \$70 million. Four years of federal funding cutbacks have wiped out the

surplus. There is no cushion to fall back on to give us the flexibility to respond to unexpected needs. This means the government is exposed to the risks of further federal cuts or unforeseen spending requirements. Mr. Speaker, we must all remain fiscally vigilant in the government if the government is to maintain a balanced budget within current funding arrangements and tax levels.

Federal-Territorial Fiscal Relations

With regard to our federal-territorial fiscal relations, Mr. Speaker, for this reason the government is still actively involved in discussions with the federal government on the formula financing agreement. The federal government has agreed to a partial review of the formula in 1993 and it is hoped that changes will be made before the agreement expires in 1995.

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This government recognizes the serious fiscal challenges faced by all levels of government. However, federal expenditure reductions are having a grave effect on the north. The federal government has introduced spending cutbacks in vital areas. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation funding for social housing in the north has been cut. Services have been withdrawn in numerous other areas. The Government of the Northwest Territories does not have the financial resources to fill this void. The current fiscal arrangements are a disincentive to economic growth in the Northwest Territories and we are making every effort to persuade the federal government to correct this. In our opinion, it would be in the best interest of the federal government to make changes to the formula financing agreement. During his recent visit to the Northwest Territories, the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development stated that increased self-reliance with the Northwest Territories was a key objective. Mr. Speaker, we share this objective. By acting now on the formula, the goals of both governments could be achieved earlier.

There are other aspects of the formula which need to be addressed. Funding to the Northwest Territories is linked to economic growth in southern Canada, a measure that has no relation to northern conditions. This has cost us hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenues, proportionately more than the federal restraint measures have cost other "have-not" jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, Members are aware the government has been embroiled in a serious dispute with the federal government over health billings. This dispute involves a sum of \$79 million, which has been billed to the federal government, for which the federal government does not recognize as being due. The origin of this dispute lies in the 1988 health transfer agreement and in the hospital contribution agreement originally signed in 1986 and renewed in 1989. The federal government interprets some parts of these agreements in a manner in which we believe is incorrect and, consequently, does not pay, to the Government of the Northwest Territories, the amounts that are due under those agreements.

Mr. Speaker, after nearly three years of unfruitful negotiations between the Department of Health and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, it was decided there was no other alternative but to seek legal redress. A statement of claim against Canada was therefore filed in the federal court of Canada in November of last year claiming the sum of \$79 million. Canada filed a statement of defence in January, denying that this sum is owed. Legal procedures are continuing and the case will in all probability go to trial.

Expenditures

On the expenditure side, Mr. Speaker, the government's resolve to achieve a balanced budget, in light of declining revenue growth, meant that the increase in total spending had to be kept to a minimum. Total spending will increase by less than two per cent in 1993-94. This comes after a year when spending did not increase at all.

Achieving this result required taking a tough stand. The government has developed a large package of expenditure control and revenue measures to reach the goal of a balanced budget. However, the budget's expenditure measures will provide continued and in some cases, enhanced support where it is most needed and will increase the efficiency of government spending.

Conservation And Efficiency

Mr. Speaker, nowhere in Canada is it more important to operate efficiently and conserve resources than in the Northwest Territories. Vast distances, sparse population, extreme climate, insensitive environment all mean that conservation and efficiency must be a major consideration in setting government policy.

The public sector is both a major direct supplier and consumer, of water and sewer services and electricity and heat. Therefore, conservation by government is doubly important. This budget includes a number of initiatives to encourage all Northwest Territories residents to conserve.

Mr. Speaker, funding to government departments, boards, agencies and hamlets for utilities will be reduced by five per cent in anticipation of the consumption reductions that will flow from the development and implementation of utility conservation plans.

A 50 per cent reduction to the commercial water/sewer subsidy in hamlets and settlements will be phased in over the next three years. This will establish parity with the subsidy level of commercial users in those towns and villages where subsidy is provided.

Mr. Speaker, effective April 1, 1993, the amount paid by public housing tenants towards the cost of electricity consumption under the public housing user-pay power program will increase from \$.03 to \$.06 per kilowatt hour. On average this will increase the amount paid by public housing tenants by \$21 per month, but a large subsidy will still be provided by the Government of the Northwest Territories. That subsidy will average approximately \$200 per month or 83 per cent of the cost of utilities.

It is estimated that these conservation initiatives will save the government approximately \$4 million.

Mr. Speaker, we believe we can achieve savings in our travel expenditures.

Extensive air travel is a fact of northern life. Heavy dependency on air travel carries a high price tag for the Government of the Northwest Territories. It is extremely important, therefore, that when we do travel we travel as economically as possible. Recent reviews of government-funded travel have pointed out inefficiencies and abuses of travel practices. Based on these reviews a number of improvements are reflected in this budget.

A travel management office will be established within the government to monitor government staff travel practices and patterns and recommend improvements. This office will also be responsible for negotiating volume discounts with air carriers, hotels and automobile rental agencies. However, Mr. Speaker, the travel management office will not, and I

repeat not, do travel bookings. The government will continue to use travel agencies for this. The travel management office will also be responsible for improving the government's use of aircraft

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charters. In anticipation of the savings from travelling smarter, departmental travel budgets have been reduced this year.

Mr. Speaker, beginning in 1993-94 all medical travel will be administered by the Department of Health, including medical travel for government staff previously administered by the Department of Personnel. This will eliminate administrative duplication and inconsistencies. The Department of Health is taking steps to ensure that medical travel is done in the most economic manner appropriate to each situation.

Implementing these travel-related efficiency measures will save close to \$2.5 million in 1993-94.

Supporting Essential Services

Mr. Speaker, this budget contains many tough measures to save money, raise revenue or remove inequities. The people directly affected by these actions should be assured that the increased burden they are being asked to bear is necessary and justified. The government must ensure that public money is spent where it is needed most. In this budget there are few areas where government is spending more money. However, the limited spending increases that are being proposed are necessary to support essential services.

In 1993-94, increased spending is needed to operate new public housing and to maintain new transportation and municipal infrastructure. Funding will also be needed to pay the higher costs of providing health care and ongoing policing services. Social assistance costs have risen, and more money will be needed to operate schools in the face of higher enrolments. Maintaining these essential services will require almost \$12 million more in the upcoming year.

Investing In The Future

We are prepared in the future, Mr. Speaker. Even in times of restraint, government has a responsibility to the future. The groundwork must be laid for better and more productive times. Government must invest in people to ensure that the Northwest Territories has

the educated and trained work-force needed for economic progress.

Mr. Speaker, this budget includes \$6 million in one-time funding to establish the Northwest Territories workers' training fund. Many residents of the Northwest Territories need upgrading and skills training to have a better chance to become employed and more self-sufficient. This fund will be available for community-sponsored employment training projects. Access to funding will be kept simple and communities will have considerable flexibility in developing the employment training projects most suitable for their needs. Further details on this fund will be provided by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs.

Mr. Speaker, a further \$500,000 has been budgeted for grade extensions in the communities of Tuktoyaktuk, Rae-Edzo, Cape Dorset, Fort Good Hope, Coppermine, Cambridge Bay and Coral Harbour. Many students from small Northwest Territories communities have had to leave home to attend high school. Often this has resulted in higher drop-out rates and lower academic achievement. Although all grades cannot be offered in all communities, the government remains committed to making a high school education more accessible to Northwest Territories students.

Mr. Speaker, last June the Premier announced a number of decentralization initiatives, most of which will be implemented during 1993-94. These initiatives are designed to bring the operation of government programs closer to the clients being served, and to invest in training and employment in the recipient communities. The implementation of the announced moves is proceeding on time and communities are starting to see evidence of this. Contracts for office space and housing are being entered into, community training programs are being advertised, and communication and computer facilities are being upgraded. In 1993-94, the bulk of the one-time implementation costs will be realized and in recognition of this the supplementary reserve for 1993-94 has been increased by \$5 million. Detailed requirements will be identified and presented in the 1993-94 Supplementary Appropriation, No. 1.

Taxes And Revenue

The September, 1992 budget address outlined the first phase of a two-year plan to balance the budget. Mr. Speaker, this first phase included tax increases,

some of which are going to come into force this year. There are no further tax increases in this budget.

Mr. Speaker, it was, however, impossible to achieve a balanced budget for 1993-94 without some revenue measures. A number of government charges for services have been increased to more accurately reflect the costs of providing the services.

Changes To Fees And Charges

Many government fees have not been increased for some time. Ministers, therefore, reviewed the fees, licences and charges that are levied by their departments. Cabinet approved a number of changes that better reflect both the cost to the government of providing the services and the benefit received by the user. These include fees for examinations, tender documents, sale of publications, sales of maps and for other government services.

In addition, effective 1993-94, the government will recover 50 per cent of the cost of Public Utilities Board operations from utility companies. The liquor commission will also apply a surcharge to reflect the full cost of freight to the point of sale for beer, wine and spirits.

The Minister of Personnel recently announced a new staff housing strategy, designed both to ensure that staff housing is provided more equitably and to encourage home ownership and the development of private housing markets. When fully implemented, rents for staff housing will increase to the lesser of Yellowknife or local market rates and tenants will be paying for all of their utilities. A number of programs will also be made available to employees to encourage them to become home owners. The implementation of the strategy is reflected in this budget. The Minister of Personnel will be providing more details during the session.

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Tax Initiatives

Mr. Speaker, several tax changes were announced in the September, 1992 Budget Address for implementation this year. The proposed one per cent payroll tax is scheduled to come into effect on July 1, 1993. The tax credit also announced in September's budget would apply to the current year.

The government chose a payroll tax over other taxes which could have raised similar amounts of revenue, in order to spread the tax burden fairly among all

those who benefit from the economy. All those who work here will pay the tax regardless of their province of residence.

At present, there is a large group of individuals who earn income in the Northwest Territories, but who do not pay Northwest Territories income tax. It is estimated that there are at least 3,000 people, who earn in total about \$200 million annually in the Northwest Territories, but who, for various reasons, pay income tax to another province, not to the Northwest Territories.

Because of the structure of our economy, this problem is unique to the Northwest Territories. The proposed payroll tax is specifically designed to address these special circumstances and to help ensure that all participants in the economy share in the tax burden. The employers' contribution will be to collect the tax on behalf of the government.

Another reason for the payroll tax, as with any tax, is to raise money for government programs. We estimate that in its first full year the payroll tax would raise about \$12 million.

The government will introduce an income tax credit to provide relief to Northwest Territories residents from the high cost of living. Combined with the cost of the tax credit, the payroll tax should result, on average, in a taxpayer earning \$40,000 per year benefitting by a net \$32, a taxpayer earning \$55,000 per year approximately breaking even and a taxpayer earning \$100,000 per year paying \$283 more.

The Economy

Mr. Speaker, I will now speak with regard to the economy.

Non-Renewable Resources

Because of recession in most industrialized countries, Northwest Territories mining production and employment weakened in 1992 and this accounted for a soft economy. Latest data indicate that by the third quarter of 1992, lead and zinc production was up by less than one per cent, while gold and silver declined by ten per cent. For the same period, production of oil increased by 2.4 per cent while production of gas fell by 3.6 per cent.

In 1991, there were 1,856 people employed in metal mining. This number is estimated to have dropped to about 1,700 in 1992 as a result of the 1991 closure of the Colomac gold mine and of layoffs at the Lupin,

Nerco and Treminco gold mines during 1992. Operations and production in Northwest Territories mining are not stable.

The Northwest Territories is the place to be in Canada for mining exploration. In 1992, it is estimated that between \$50 and \$60 million dollars were spent on mining exploration and the amount will likely be higher in 1993. The spending, which accompanied this intense exploration, is responsible for significant associated economic activity in industries supplying goods and services for exploration.

The bright spot in mining exploration is diamonds, but gold exploration is also on the rise. In addition to the well-publicized Lac de Gras diamond find north of Yellowknife, the Keewatin, not to be outdone, has been featured in recent announcements of diamond finds. I should tell the Assembly that when I was researching this last night, I found out there are diamonds in the Baffin region as well. The Northwest Territories could well become the first diamond producer in North America. Currently, the Government of the Northwest Territories is looking at ways to ensure that maximum benefits from processing remain in the North.

Interest in oil and gas development is also on the rise. The Inuvialuit Development Corporation, the Hay River reserve and Deh Cho communities have expressed interest in developing the rich oil and gas reserves in the vicinity of Cameron Hills. As well, the Deh Cho Tribal Council has hired consultants to examine the technical feasibility of extending the existing pipeline in order to transport additional gas reserves from Pointed Mountain.

Tentative approval has been given by the Sahtu communities for the investigation of a group seismic shoot next winter. In this instance, industry would work with the communities to gather seismic information on the area and employment and ownership terms would be worked out to ensure that maximum local benefits accrue to the communities. Further, as the Sahtu and Gwich'in land claims reach settlement, there is increased potential for oil and gas rights to be issued in these areas.

Infrastructure

The potential of the resource-rich Northwest Territories is immense. Medium to long-term strategies are being developed to improve access to resources so that they may be developed for the benefit of all residents of the Northwest Territories.

Transportation infrastructure figures heavily in the economic development initiatives of the government.

One of the richest mineral deposits in the Northwest Territories is found at Izok Lake. It is a world class ore body of lead, zinc, copper and silver. To access this wealth, the government is studying the feasibility of constructing an all-weather road from Yellowknife to a new deep-sea port on the Coronation Gulf. Construction would begin at both Coppermine and Yellowknife. The road from Coppermine to Izok Lake would make this rich base metal area south of the Coronation Gulf accessible and would accelerate mining development in that area as economic thresholds are lowered. This infrastructure would be developed in partnership with the private sector. The segment of the road from Yellowknife would pass through the Lac de Gras diamond activity area and in the vicinity of other gold ore deposits and would open up the Kitikmeot to tourism.

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Such a major transportation initiative would have benefits not only for the Northwest Territories, but for all of Canada. By creating jobs for northerners and business opportunities for our northern firms, it would also provide stimulus to firms in the rest of Canada which are major suppliers to the Northwest Territories.

A consensus actively supporting this major transportation project has been reached between the federal and territorial governments and the leaders from the Dogrib and Kitikmeot communities. The basis for this consensus is that the project will be structured in such a way that the benefits will flow primarily to Northwest Territories residents and businesses. The Dogrib leaders have expressed an interest in constructing part of the road north from Yellowknife. The next step is to build on this consensus and initiate the planning process. The Premier has mandated the Minister of Transportation to take the lead on this project.

---Applause

Significant aboriginal involvement in the provision of hydro power to the north is currently the topic of negotiations between the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. These negotiations contemplate a two-phase hydro development, owned and operated by the Dogrib. Phase one would include a dam on the Snare River at Snare cascades and phase two would include a dam on the Lac La Martre River. The Northwest Territories

Power Corporation would enter into a lease agreement for the operations of the facilities and use of the power. This initiative, once signed, would give the Dogrib people immediate employment opportunities and a permanent stake in the use of a renewable resource.

The employment and business opportunities created by these economic development initiatives would go far in reducing the economic and fiscal dependence of the Northwest Territories. On a recent visit to Yellowknife the Honourable Tom Siddon, federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, made several statements supporting northern development initiatives. Continued support is certain to strengthen the partnership between the two levels of government, Northwest Territories individuals and businesses.

Developments in mining and infrastructure investment promise to create significant employment opportunities for northerners. However, the government is actively working to generate jobs in other sectors of the economy as well. Initiatives in renewable resources, construction, tourism and manufacturing will ensure that all residents of the Northwest Territories obtain the benefits from economic development.

Renewable Resources

Mr. Speaker, things are happening in the Baffin fishery. For the first time, there has been a major winter char fishery. Through funding from the Northwest Territories Development Corporation and the economic development agreement, the government is revitalizing the market for Arctic char. The development corporation is arranging for the purchase and distribution of char from communities in the Kitikmeot, Keewatin and Baffin for sale in North American and Northwest Territories markets. It is also taking steps to stimulate interest in char by wholesalers, restaurants and consumers. Combined with the continuing effort to develop inshore fisheries in Broughton Island, Igloodik, Clyde River and Pangnirtung, these initiatives will contribute to the broadening of the fisheries industry in the region.

Hay River will be the site of a pilot project for the processing of 100,000 pounds of fish in 1993-94. Local fishermen will be supplying the fish and local labour will be involved in the processing.

The muskox and caribou harvests are providing work opportunities in Kitikmeot, Keewatin and Inuvik

communities. A first time ever commercial caribou hunt will result in the harvest of 400 animals in the Keewatin. The animals will be both harvested and processed locally and sold back into the Northwest Territories market.

Higher lumber prices and more community involvement bode well for the short and longer term health of the forestry industry.

Activity levels may increase with a test cut planned at Fort Liard and an interest in logging expressed in Fort Resolution and Fort Providence. A review of the Government of the Northwest Territories forest fire fighting program is also under way to identify ways to keep employment and business opportunities in the Northwest Territories.

Construction

This is the first year of the new strategy for training in construction. The Minister of Government Services and Public, in consultation with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, and the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, will introduce the strategy for training in construction which will forge a new relationship between communities and government, and increase employment with local construction projects. The Minister will be providing additional information later in the session.

Tourism

The government is receiving a high number of enquiries from potential tourists, which is encouraging. A contributing factor may be the new cooperative marketing program developed by Economic Development and Tourism and Northwest Territories tourism operators.

In the Baffin region, the government is providing support to the growing tourism industry. Sales of package tours bounced from \$1.9 million to over \$2.2 million in 1992. Interest in the region as an adventure travel destination is leading to inquiries from tour wholesalers and prospective visitors. In 1993, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism will be coordinating tours with adventure travel companies from Japan, the United States and Europe. For example, parks such as Katannilik at Lake Harbour and Kekerten at Pangnirtung are providing employment opportunities for local residents as well as customers for local businesses. Tourism in

the Baffin offers excellent long-term economic development opportunities.

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Mr. Speaker, planning for the Inuvik Regional Visitors' Centre is well underway. Site selection is complete. This regional centre will provide a focal point for the increasing number of visitors travelling the Dempster Highway. It will encourage visitors to travel onwards to off-highway communities such as Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour, Aklavik and Paulatuk.

Other Sectors

Manufacturing should see permanent improvement in employment and business potential. For example, northern firms now have an opportunity to get involved in the manufacturing of furniture and fibreglass tanks as a result of a decision by the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to break down housing packages. In addition, the government is currently developing a manufacturing component of the business incentive policy to stimulate the establishment of manufacturing facilities in the Northwest Territories.

The government has increased its effort to market Northwest Territories arts and crafts. A catalogue of Northwest Territories arts and crafts was produced by a local Yellowknife company with the government's assistance. In addition, retailers are showing a greater interest in purchasing our arts and crafts. This bodes well for the individual producer as well as for the production facilities such as those in Holman Island, Baker Lake, Pangnirtung, Fort Liard and Rankin Inlet.

Land Claims

Mr. Speaker, the settlement of land claims will provide significant momentum for economic development. The investment environment in the Northwest Territories is improving as residents of the claims areas show more and more interest in actively pursuing economic development opportunities.

The Gwich'in agreement was finalized in December, 1992, including a detailed implementation plan. As well, an agreement was reached by negotiators on the main elements of the Sahtu claim in January, 1993. It is anticipated that, if ratified by the claimants this spring, this agreement will be formally signed in late summer.

The Dogrib Treaty 11 claim has been accepted by Canada and negotiations will begin soon. The Treaty 8 Dene have undertaken discussions on a framework for the negotiation of treaty land entitlements.

Finally, the ratification of the Nunavut claim has set the stage for division of the Northwest Territories in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, the settlement of these land claims will provide certainty, and certainty is essential to investment. Claimants, in addition to acquiring financial resources to participate in economic development in their claim area, are receiving control over the nature of that development. As for the Government of the Northwest Territories, it should be a facilitator, providing a liaison between corporations and claimant groups. It will also support their efforts to obtain maximum local benefit from development.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, before concluding I must repeat that there are risks that the 1993-94 budget targets may not be met. The outcome of the health billings dispute, of the pay equity issue and possible unforeseen and uncontrollable growth in the demand for some essential services could each cause the budget to go into a deficit position.

The balance between revenues and expenditures is fragile. It will require close monitoring. Expenditure initiatives, beyond those that are contained in this budget, should not be contemplated without identifying compensating re-allocations of resources. Departments will have to manage their budgets carefully since any additional savings may be needed to cover non-budgeted expenditures elsewhere.

There is reason to be optimistic about our financial health. However, our optimism should be cautious. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement Regarding Tribute To The Late Leah Nutaraq

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to pay tribute to a great lady who died last weekend in Iqaluit after living 107 years on Baffin Island, Leah Nutaraq.

Nutaraq was born in 1886 at Omanardjuaq, Blacklead Island in Cumberland Sound. She lived at Kekerten, other Inuit camps and in the 1950s in Pangnirtung. She moved to Iqaluit in 1962. She has had five children and five husbands, including Nukiruaq, a well known R.C.M.P. special constable.

Nutaraq lived life to the full. Here is how she was described by writer Matthew Fisher in a front-page article in the Globe & Mail, December 31, 1987, when she was 101. "Her face bore distinctive brown frost-bite scars, her eyes were red and watery, but despite these physical reminders of her age and of the 70 years she lived in snow and sod houses and tents, she was animated and loquacious. During an interview of more than five hours her arms frequently chopped the air. Her salt and pepper hair was pulled back in a jaunty braid. She wore seal skin boots and power blue checked trousers under a silvery green print dress. Ms. Nutaraq spoke insistently and with great passion, stopping only occasionally for a sip of tea or a few mouthfuls of boiled Arctic char head. Once or twice during the afternoon her legs moved smartly to demonstrate the complicated steps the whalers taught her."

Nutaraq vividly recalled the arrival of the first Europeans in whaling ships every summer when she was a toddler. She was always willing to tell these stories of the early days, of seeing the black smoke from the coal-powered whaling ships each summer, and of the stories of the great mounds of bowhead whale carcasses told by her grandmother who raised her. She told Mr. Fisher about a ship's doctor who came with the

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whalers and she recalled how, for the first time, they were told about God in their own language.

I will need some more time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is that a statement of fact, or are you requesting more time?

MR. PATTERSON:

I am requesting more time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. PATTERSON:

This ship's doctor and preacher told Nutaraq about loving her mother and father and learning the ten commandments, she recalled. These were good teachings she said, so we started to like the idea of Christianity and left Shamanism. She recalled being terrified and running away when the first airplane arrived. In 1962 she moved from Pangnirtung to Iqaluit by Twin Otter.

In the fall in 1987, Nutaraq achieved a long-held dream and returned to her birthplace at Omanardjuaq, on the Coast Guard vessel Norman McLeod Rogers. Although she endured a ferocious storm in Davis Strait on the five-day trip from Iqaluit, she was never seasick and she was utterly thrilled by the trip. She had said she could never rest until she set foot on that place again.

What were the secrets of longevity for this much beloved Baffin resident? She advocated always being at peace with yourself and minding your own business. Never hate and never take revenge.

---Applause

I am sure we can all profit from her advice. Her advice to youth was: never lose your language and speak to your elders.

Mr. Speaker, this wonderful lady always encouraged young people to listen to elders and follow their advice. She was always willing to attend public events, such as official openings where she would often dance. Also, she was very willing to go on radio or TV to talk about her life. We are fortunate we have much evidence now of her wisdom preserved on radio and television tapes.

Nutaraq was well-known for helping elders herself when she was young. At her funeral in Iqaluit, earlier this week, a story was told about how as a child she helped a helpless old man at their camp by always bringing him food and water and looking after him. Before he died, the old man told Nutaraq that she would live a long, good life. That she did.

She is survived by one child, 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, this great lady is

now at peace. She was much loved and we are all very much enriched by her example. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 4, members' statements. Mr. Lewis

Member's Statement On GNWT Advertisement In Globe & Mail

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For at least part of my life I was involved in trying to help people use English in a way that was absolutely clear and well communicated. Many people do not communicate in a way that is understandable and clear.

I refer today, Mr. Speaker, to an advertisement that appeared in the Globe & Mail on February 17. I will read a little bit of it just to give a hint of how bureaucrats miscommunicate. It is called "Request for Information."

"The GNWT requests submissions to address the development implementation on ongoing support of distributed financial systems. This initiative is a high-priority project for the regional hospital health boards and department of health."

This is the sentence that bothers me.

"The deliverable is a suite of financial applications suitable for distributed implementation in health care facilities through the Northwest Territories."

After reading this article, Mr. Speaker, I was confused as to what a "suite" was. I have heard of a suite of music. I have heard of a suite that goes in the living room or the bedroom, but what a suite of financial applications is, I really do not know. It bothers me that our government would allow its bureaucrats to communicate with the rest of the country believing that they were using proper language, because this is a perfect example of the misuse of language. This can do nothing but confuse those people who may be interested in helping us solve some of our problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

That was very sweet, Mr. Lewis. Item 4, members' statements. Ms. Mike.

Member's Statement Regarding Tribute To The Late Leah Nutaraq

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to make comments regarding Leah Nutaraq. She passed away last week in Iqaluit at 107 years. (Translation ends)

Nutaraq was known throughout the Inuit community as an elder of great wisdom. She was a source of traditional knowledge which she always used to assist people in their lives.

Nutaraq was born at Blacklet Island in Cumberland Sound at the end of the last century, approximately 1887. She was born into a traditional Inuit life-style and culture of hunting, fishing and self-reliance. In her life she witnessed many significant changes. As a young girl she saw the end of the historic Cumberland Sound whaling industry at Kerkerten. Just as important, Nutaraq experienced the beginning of the Christian religion in the eastern Arctic under Reverend Peck.

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Mr. Speaker, people travelled from Pangnirtung and Broughton Island to attend the service in Iqaluit. Many people from outside Iqaluit who could not attend sent beautiful bouquets of flowers to show their respect. The service was broadcast on CBC radio to the Baffin and Keewatin, and I know that people in the Keewatin appreciated the eulogy given by Alacie Joamie.

Mr. Speaker, Nutaraq was a respected elder, a great counsellor and a person who had a very high moral standard. People were always asking for her wisdom and counsel. Her most important advice to all people was that a person should always be serious and honest about his or her life and that nobody should take life for granted.

Mr. Speaker, I have known this lady from as far back as I can remember. She was not the type of woman to just sit around and do nothing. When the Kekerten Park was opened in 1987, she would have been 100 years old.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike, your allotted time has elapsed.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) I would like to ask for unanimous consent to continue with my Member's statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is requesting unanimous consent to continue with her Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my honourable colleagues. (Translation ends) At the ceremony she got up and danced and jigged along with the six and seven year old students who performed. She will be missed by many people because she knew just about everyone in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the spirit of Nutaraq will be with us for a long time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Allooooloo.

Member's Statement Regarding Tribute To The Late Leah Nutaraq

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too was saddened to hear of the passing of Leah Nutaraq. When we were opening the elders' centre in Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson and I went over to greet the elders, and she was there. When she met me she said, "You are a Minister?" She was really surprised and then she said, "Are you a real Minister? I have never seen my people at that level." She told me that I should be kind to other people and she also said, "Make sure that our people govern our land." She was well over 100 years old at that time and she told me the land that once belonged to my people does not, under the law, belong to our people. She said, "Make sure we get it back." That was all she said and we had a great time at the opening of the elders' centre. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, Members' statements. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to Members' statements.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement Congratulating The NWT Power Corporation

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I choose this opportunity to make a statement concerning the NWT Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, recently my colleagues travelled to the Baffin to the communities of Cape Dorset, Lake Harbour and Iqaluit. While in those communities, Mr. Speaker, it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to visit two older power plants and one new and relocated plant in Lake Harbour. Mr. Speaker, it was reassuring to see well-designed, well-built, well-equipped and well-maintained plants generally and to learn that the corporation was moving towards standardizing of equipment, at a time when most of the current diesel engines they have now are on their last legs.

Mr. Speaker, I saw engines that were so old they were in use when I was a power plant operator. We all know how long ago that was.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, standardizing and updating of old equipment is the corporation's biggest challenge. We live in a part of the country where we have long, dark and cold months and dependable electricity is not only needed, it is essential to our very lives. Old and worn out equipment must be replaced, not just kept running. Standardizing of equipment whose parts are interchangeable is also essential.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that some time ago failure at a power plant lead the NWT Power Corporation to acquire parts from offshore, and certainly from out of the province.

Mr. Speaker, to conclude it was reassuring to my colleagues, Mr. Pudlat and Mr. Patterson, to see the great improvements that the corporation offers. I wish

to congratulate the corporation and their staff for a very interesting visit and for a job well done.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On GNWT Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will continue from yesterday.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, the honourable Members will know that for a long time I have been an advocate of changing the benefits we

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provide to the government employees to better reflect the economic times and the devolution of territorial public services.

I have also been a strong proponent of eliminating the waste of time and dollars which has been associated with staff housing programs. When I learned that the government was about to bring in some new policies in this area, I was glad. However, I have become increasingly concerned with the type of policies that have been brought in.

Mr. Speaker, right from the start this whole issue has been surrounded by confusion. Many workers simply do not understand the policy. It seems as though every public meeting, press release or Ministerial statement that has been made, has only seemed to add to the confusion. From watching the department's actions, it seems as though some of its own regional management, and even some headquarters personnel, do not understand the policy either. I believe that some of the Minister's own comments have served to make the situation worse.

No matter how much we want the government to stop being a landlord, it is not right to leave employees feeling devalued, abused and uncertain about their future. This government's decision has received national publicity. I wonder whether the hard line position taken by the Minister and his department may have caused to create a situation where it will be

more difficult to recruit professionals who are unavailable within our northern work-force.

I would say to the Minister that I fully support the basic principles behind this initiative, but I simply cannot support the wording of the current policy or the unreasonable way it is being presented to the public service in the Northwest Territories. I encourage him not to slow down the process and involve all parties in meaningful communication. That way we will be able to eventually come up with a position that everyone, employees and management alike, can live with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Member's Statement Regarding Housing Corporation Minister's Handling Of A Complaint

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my disappointment and concern in the actions undertaken by the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation in dealing with a serious matter, which I brought to his attention. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, I wrote to the Minister to indicate that one of my constituents had approached me in exasperation and frustration with the attitudes of Housing Corporation personnel in the Hay River district office. In doing so, I had faith that the Minister would take the issue seriously and would take responsibility to find an appropriate resolution.

I remember clearly, that on November 13, 1991, in reviewing the edited Hansards, the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe said some things when he was asking Members of this House to select him for a Cabinet position. He stood in this House and said, "I am still committed to working with all 24 Members of this Assembly in the next four years, whether I be a Cabinet Member or an ordinary Member, guaranteed, you are going to hear from me, regardless of what position I am in because I am here to represent my people who are aboriginal from small communities." He also said, "When you vote today, my friends, vote for someone who is here to do a job and not someone who is just here for the job." That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am so disappointed and concerned with the cavalier manner in which he dealt with my constituent's concern.

The constituent who approached me had a serious problem with his housing unit and had waited months for an answer to queries placed with the Housing Corporation. He found corporation personnel unresponsive and negative in their dealings with him. These are the sorts of concerns that, I believe, the Minister should know about. I believed he would take a professional approach and attempt to resolve the matter. However, he did not. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue with my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. What did he do, Mr. Speaker? It seems that he delegated and then he forgot about it. He delegated the matter to one of his senior officials in the Housing Corporation. That person delegated it to the district manager. The district manager delegated it to the staff person who had caused the problem in the first place. That person took the matter to his lawyer. Instead of getting help from the Minister and resolving an attitude problem within the corporation, I ended up with a cease and desist letter from an employee's lawyer. Who knows what they might have in store for the constituent who brought the original concerns to me in the first place. What was the Minister thinking about when he responded in this way? I wondered where his management skills were. Where was his commitment to working together, and his concern for constituents, that he told us about on November 13? Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the teflon is starting to rub off.

---Laughter

---Applause

I recognize the Minister wrote and apologized, Mr. Speaker. However, I want the Minister and the people who he is allowing to do his job for him to know that I will not cease and desist from continuing to express my concerns on behalf of my constituents. The fact that one of his employees tried to hire a local lawyer to intimidate me makes no difference. Should another constituent come to me and raise their honest concerns with respect to the behaviour of a civil servant, I will not hesitate to communicate those concerns to the appropriate people. My privilege to do so, as a Member of this House, is clearly defined

and has been protected by court decisions in countries served by parliaments all over the world.

In confirming what type of privilege I have, through legal counsel, I was advised it was called qualified privilege, when it is outside of the House. However, in researching cases in 1972, judgement of a case in England, the court found, and I quote, "It will be a sad day when a Member of Parliament has to look over his shoulder before ventilating to the proper

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authorities criticisms about the work of a public servant, which he honestly believes to merit investigation." I strongly believe that all Members of this House would do no less in bringing the concerns of their constituents to the appropriate Minister. I trust that their issues will receive a more conscientious treatment than what was displayed toward me by the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 269-12(3): GNWT Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel. It deals with his new staff housing policy. In some of the public comments that have been made about this new policy, the Minister has seemed to suggest that this approach will enhance current home ownership initiatives undertaken by this government. In reality, this link is rather weak. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister explain how the proposed removal of the private accommodation allowance will provide an initiative to private home ownership? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 269-12(3): GNWT Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the way we see home ownership being encouraged is by raising the level of rents to a point where tenants will see that it is in their interest, by whatever means is possible to them, and we will make those available as much as we can, to get into home ownership. We said we will sell government units to the tenants who are currently occupying them. We said we would do it by appraising the units jointly with the tenants, taking into account the age and condition of the units, and look at reducing the appraised value of the rent. We will reduce it by a certain percentage before agreeing on a price on which to sell the units.

The feeling is, once the rents are uniform and have been based on the Yellowknife market rents, which is considerably lower than the overall majority of communities' real rental rates, that people will be encouraged to get into home ownership.

The particular allowance that the Member is referring to is an allowance called a household allowance, which was given to private home owners some years ago. That was to offset the cost of running their households. This was done at a time when there were no subsidies for electricity, water and sewer. These subsidies are now in place for residents across the north. We felt it was not fair to give employees a double subsidy. We have removed it. We do not see it as discouraging home ownership in any way whatsoever. We think the approach we have taken, by raising the rents to a level that is equitable with what people are paying in other communities, social housing and what the real cost of living is, as reflected by private home owners, is going to make more people in the north see that home ownership is a real and attractive alternative.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 269-12(3): GNWT Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Kitikmeot region we do not have much choice of buying government staff housing. Mr. Speaker, there is not much of a choice. How would the Minister deal with the situation in the small, isolated communities where we do not have much choice in terms of buying houses or moving to

the other houses? The only houses we have in the small communities are the houses that the government employees are currently living in. Aside from that we have public housing, but public housing is over-subscribed. We do not have a choice. How would the Minister deal with that situation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 269-12(3): GNWT Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, what we have set out to do is raise the rents of employees to a level that is equitable with employees in all other communities. The small communities in the Kitikmeot, Keewatin, Sahtu and all the communities across the north are going to be paying the same levels of rent. This is not the case now. The offer we made to the staff, is if you are staying in a staff house in Pelly Bay and you see your rent going up and are unhappy about it, the offer of the government for you as a government employee in Pelly Bay to buy the unit you are staying in, should be a very attractive option because in very simple terms it means instead of saying "good-bye" to a certain amount of your income every month which goes to the landlord, you can put yourself in a position where you would purchase the unit. Instead of paying rent, you would be making a down payment on your house through mortgage payments over your length of time in that community. Eventually, you could own it. If you decide after a year or two to leave, then you will find that the amount of money you would have kissed good-bye in rent, as is the case now, you will receive it back because the government will buy that unit back from you at the end of your term.

That is a real deal, in my opinion. People who have not had any experience in buying houses are grappling with the size of money that is being talked about. If you do not have the money to make a down payment on the house, we will work out a lease to purchase arrangement with you. This is a real deal. People have to appreciate that.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 269-12(3): GNWT Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister saying buying the house back is 100 per cent guaranteed by

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this government if the employee decides to leave the community? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 269-12(3): GNWT Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, we have said that the government would buy back the unit. This is how the financing has to be done. Someone has to guarantee that unit is worth something. For any lender to be assured they are going to get their money back, we had to guarantee the market. The government has said they were prepared to do that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 270-12(3): Lack Of Consultation Regarding Staff Housing Strategy

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Personnel is well aware that one of the biggest criticisms about this new staff housing strategy is that the people affected are saying that the government has gone ahead with this policy of rental rate increases without consultation. Democracy is not supposed to operate that way. We know, for example, the changes in the housing policy that took place a few years ago in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith resulted from a tripartite consultation process. Can the Minister tell this House why meetings were not held with government employees who would be affected by this policy in order to listen and make note of their concerns before going ahead with the policy?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 270-12(3): Lack Of Consultation Regarding Staff Housing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I am not certain that I could go into a community and tell people "I am thinking about raising your rent, what do you think about it?" That is not normally the kind of thing we do, especially when it is not a new initiative. I think we have to get our heads around another issue which is the terminology that is being used here. I remind Members it is not a policy. It is not a rigid, fixed rule by which this government is going to operate. It is simply a strategy. It is a very flexible strategy that says the government wants to get out of housing, the government wants to make sure employees pay is fair and equitable and takes into account the situation of everyone else in the north.

The fact is this strategy is not a new initiative. It is one that was started some years ago. It started in Hay River, Yellowknife and Fort Smith with the implementation of the user-pay. By next year at this time, the government is going to be completely out of staff housing in all of those communities. We are phasing in the approach we are taking to employees across the north. The Member knows that this has been talked about for quite some time. We are at the tail end of trying to complete a long-term strategy. I agree it was done with no notice. It would be nice if we had a year or two to give notice to people. The Member knows, particularly in light of what the Minister of Finance had to say today with regard to the budget address, that the fiscal situation of this government is very tenuous. Right now, as I see it, by introducing this strategy and by trying to implement it this government has put all Members on notice that there is a potential \$5 million bag of money in front of us. This bag of money has historically been used exclusively for the benefit of less than 2,000 people in the Northwest Territories. We are saying "Yes, it is true, we have done it very quickly, with hardly any notice. Yes, there were a few flaws in our introduction, but aside from that, here is the benefit. We have about \$5 million we could spread out and use in ways that could benefit all 57,000 people." That is the way I see it.

If you want to bash me for the next few days about not having thought this through and about some of the technical problems we have had in introducing this, that is fine. I accept that. In the end, that is the way I see it. You can give it back to them and say, "It is your fault, it was not done correctly, it was not well thought out. Therefore, we are going to punish you and give back the \$5 million to the 1,800 employees." We should get on with it and ensure public money is

used and redirected where it is needed the most. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 270-12(3): Lack Of Consultation Regarding Staff Housing Strategy

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am just as concerned as the honourable Minister about public funds. However, I believe if this situation is not managed, all of the gains are going to be wiped out by employee morale and staff turnover. It costs \$30,000 to remove and replace a teacher in Baffin Island. This is what I am concerned about. The \$5 million will be quickly erased by the turnover costs if this is not managed and if something is not done about employee morale, which is now spiralling downwards. Mr. Speaker, recognizing the majority of employees who are affected by this policy are in fact members of legal collective bargaining units, and recognizing that the Minister of Personnel has a responsibility for developing, wherever possible and even with difficult matters, good relations with the legally elected representatives of the employees, can the Minister tell this House whether he bothered to involve the UNW or the NWTTA in any of the planning discussions which eventually led to the establishment of this policy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 270-12(3): Lack Of Consultation Regarding Staff Housing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, as I have pointed out earlier, union representatives, teachers, government employees, present and former Cabinet Ministers, present and former MLAs are all aware this government has had on its books for quite a number of years the idea that we should get out of government staff housing and that somehow we have to develop a strategy which would create a more equitable situation in the communities amongst our employees and the private sector, and also among people who live in social housing. The question of whether I talked to union members about this particular strategy which was announced, no I have not, because the commitment

we made to the unions during the negotiations on the collective agreement was, that during

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1992, we would not do anything to change the rent of employees. We have lived up to this commitment. In 1993 we announced our intentions to raise the rents and to get out of staff housing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 270-12(3): Lack Of Consultation Regarding Staff Housing Strategy

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable Minister is saying he did not consult because it was done before in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith, and because he would have received a bad reception if he had consulted on something which was going to be unpopular. Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary, is it true that the Department of Personnel did not even consult their own regional staff in the development of this policy? This was a headquarters policy and they did not even consult their own staff in the communities outside of Yellowknife. Is this true?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 270-12(3): Lack Of Consultation Regarding Staff Housing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the strategy was dealt with by the Cabinet right into late December. The Member knows our staff are not allowed to discuss Cabinet documents which have not been discussed by the Cabinet. Surely the Member knows this. I do not understand the focus of his question. We do not consult regional staff about the acceptability of certain documents which are to go before the Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 271-12(3): Eligibility Of Yellowknife Residents To Housing Program

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Personnel. With the attempt of the housing strategy to create housing markets across the Northwest Territories, and with the levels of GNWT housing rents going up to the Yellowknife market levels, does this mean that, in fairness, Yellowknife residents would be eligible for the housing access program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 271-12(3): Eligibility Of Yellowknife Residents To Housing Program

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, that is a question for the Minister of the Housing Corporation. It is not a program which I run. Yellowknife was not eligible for the previously run home ownership program of the N.W.T. Housing Corporation, the HAP.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Mr. Arngna'naaq, please feel free to pose the question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Question 272-12(3): Eligibility Of Yellowknife Residents To Housing Program

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will pose the same question to the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. With the attempt of the housing strategy to create housing markets across the Northwest Territories, and with the levels of GNWT housing rents going up to the Yellowknife market levels, does this mean that, in fairness, Yellowknife residents would be eligible for the housing access program?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 272-12(3): Eligibility Of Yellowknife Residents To Housing Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 273-12(3): Absence Of Ministers From The House

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, there used to be protocol established in this Legislature that the Premier would advise the House as to the whereabouts of the Ministers, if they were absent from the House. Where is Mr. Todd?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 273-12(3): Absence Of Ministers From The House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my apologies. Mr. Todd was at work at 7:00 a.m. this morning and I am used to him being here, however, he has gone to have more medical tests done. He will be back on Tuesday.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 274-12(3): Tabling Of Payments To NWTPC President And Board Members

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister if she would table the salaries and stipends paid to the chairman and members of the board for the NWT Power Corporation. At that time, she indicated she thought this information had been provided to the House. Mr. Speaker, I have been unable to find this information tabled anywhere. I would like to ask the Minister if she would table this information in this House?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 274-12(3): Tabling Of Payments To NWTPC President and Board Members

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will table it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. New question, Mr. Dent.

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Question 275-12(3): Disposal Of Inventory And Assets From Expo '92

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. The Minister will recall on other occasions I have risen in the House to ask him about the "pain in Spain", our experience at Expo 1992. I am certain he will also know that there are many more questions which will probably be asked on this episode. I am hoping, Mr. Speaker, that by taking a hard look at what has happened, or rather what maybe did not happen with this venture, we may be able to learn some valuable lessons for the future.

Mr. Speaker, on December 10, 1992, I asked the Minister some questions about what his officials did with the approximately \$500,000 in surplus assets and inventory left over after we closed down our territorial operations in Seville. At that time the Minister indicated that the Inuvialuit would be assisting with the disposal of left-over muskox meat. Mr. Speaker, can he now advise the House about the results of those efforts?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 275-12(3): Disposal Of Inventory And Assets From Expo '92

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, we still have some inventory. Some of the items were shipped back to Canada. Some of the fixed assets we had in Spain were sold in Spain. The Inuvialuit are helping us sell some of the musk-ox meat. The audit is due to be completed in six weeks and I will certainly table an interim statement, if not the full audit, in the House prior to the House rising, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 275-12(3): Disposal Of Inventory And Assets From Expo '92

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand from the Minister's response that not all of the assets or inventory may have been disposed of. On December 10, he indicated we would not be selling all the inventory and assets for only \$.10 on the dollar but would try to find other places to use it. Could the Minister please advise us whether it looks as if they are going to be able to find places to take the inventory, whether it be to our kiosk in Toronto or if, in fact, this is now looking like it may be a more difficult sale.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 275-12(3): Disposal Of Inventory And Assets From Expo '92

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, obviously when you have an asset on the ground and it has been used you are going to have to take a reduction on what you get for it. As far as inventory of arts and crafts we anticipate being able to move those items and not lose money on them. Some of those items have been moved into galleries in Spain and other parts of Europe. On those items I certainly do not intend to have large sales. We expect to recover a good portion of the inventory we ended up with at the end of Expo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 275-12(3): Disposal Of Inventory And Assets From Expo '92

MR. DENT:

Supplementary to the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. The Minister just referred to there being some losses with assets on the ground. I was wondering if we could gain a little more information as to what sort of losses we are expecting on those assets on the ground in Spain.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 275-12(3): Disposal Of Inventory And Assets From Expo '92

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the equipment from the kitchen, and so on and so forth, was sold. I do not have the numbers available, but I will provide as much information as I have, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your last supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 275-12(3): Disposal Of Inventory And Assets From Expo '92

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's offer to provide that listing of information. I was wondering if at the same time he could also provide me with a listing of assets which may have been dumped, items we could not possibly sell.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 275-12(3): Disposal Of Inventory And Assets From Expo '92

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 276-12(3): Calculation Of GNWT Rental Costs

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Personnel. In as much as the Minister feels that he should not be bashed by our questions, we are still obligated to raise these issues which were raised to us by our constituents. My question is regarding the housing strategy. Can the Minister explain why Yellowknife market rates are being used

as a basis for calculating rental costs for units in outlying communities?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 276-12(3): Calculation Of GNWT Rental Costs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I go to work every day with the optimistic view that I am going to be bashed by someone in some capacity or other. It is part of the job. Some

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take more pleasure in it than others, it is just part of the job as far as I am concerned.

Why do we use the Yellowknife market rents as a basis for calculating our present rents? Yellowknife has one of the lowest rent levels in the Northwest Territories right now.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

What about Fort Smith?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I said it is one of the lowest rents in the Northwest Territories right now. The rent in Fort Smith, because they have their own market rent, is actually lower. Fort Smith has a lower rate than Yellowknife. We have contracted a private company to complete a study of housing rental costs in the north. We were told that the idea of using, for instance, regional market rents would be too costly for administrative purposes, but also would create great hardship for employees. We have decided that the Yellowknife market rent because it is checked by CMHC twice per year, they survey Yellowknife and check to see what a realistic market rent should be. Based on that, we know that the rents will be assessed by the federal government at least twice per year, and we should take advantage of that.

The final point, which the Member should know, is that the salary structure for NWT government staff is based on the Yellowknife cost of living. This is the level we use for salary structures, so we decided using the Yellowknife market rents as the basis for our strategy was the fair, reasonable and logical thing to do. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 276-12(3): Calculation Of GNWT Rental Costs

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume that some kind of formula or calculations are used to determine the rental rates outside in the other communities. Many of my constituents would be interested in knowing what kind of formula or calculations are used and the year used in determining rental rates in the communities.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 276-12(3): Calculation Of GNWT Rental Costs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, CMHC, as I understand, take the reading of what the Yellowknife market rents are at least twice per year. As I understand it, the criteria for rent calculation is based on square footage, but I think they have now moved to metres. Aside from getting into technical details, as I said the other day in response to concerns raised by the caucus chairman, I will try to provide as much technical detail and I think we may be circulating some of that right now.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 276-12(3): Calculation of GNWT Rental Costs

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The concern of some of my constituents, and an assumption that they are making, is that rents were based on the Yellowknife market some time in 1989 or 1990, which I believe was probably at its highest peak. Can the Minister confirm whether or not Yellowknife market rents were based on those years?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 276-12(3): Calculation of GNWT Rental Costs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, there were more recent surveys done by CMHC and we based it on the most recent survey. I can give the Member the year and the month the last survey was done.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 277-12(3): Definition Of Gross Household Income

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Personnel. The government has had a hardship allowance in place for some time and I understand we do not call it that any more, we are supposed to call it a "shelter allowance." I believe that this allowance is based on gross household income. Can the Minister indicate whether the definition of "gross household income" covers the situation where dependents and extended families are being cared for out of that income?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 277-12(3): Definition Of Gross Household Income

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the definition of "gross household income" is largely arrived at knowing what Revenue Canada is going to use when you have to do your tax at the end of the year. It lists what "gross household income" is and I am providing the detailed definition of "gross household income" to Members. My understanding of it is the gross household income does not reflect some of the social fabric of our own family arrangements here in the NWT. I think it will become more clear if the Member looks at the definition we are providing.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 277-12(3): Definition Of Gross Household Income

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In many of the communities in the territories, for instance, the income from aboriginal employees is derived from the wage economy and is supplemented by local harvest or food that is shared by other hunters in the community. How does the Minister's calculation of gross household income account for the impact of that domestic harvest?

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MR. SPEAKER:

I have allowed a great deal of latitude in the line of questions, but I would ask Members if they would consider the possibility of using the written format for more technical questions. Technical questions and answers take up a great deal of time that other Members might want to utilize for their questions. I will allow the question, but I would ask Members to consider that. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 277-12(3): Definition Of Gross Household Income

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, because there are some questions about it, I will try to speak quickly. I will read the determination of gross household income.

"The following forms of income for each member of the household are considered income for the purpose of determining shelter assistance.

"All forms of income, such as salary, self-employed earnings, wages, commissions, rents, investment income, part-time earnings, tips, alimony, maintenance payments, child support received from a separated or divorced spouse, court awarded child support payments, unemployment insurance benefits, old age security pension, guaranteed income supplement, CPP and QPP pension, private pensions or annuities, regular payments from WCB, insurance plans, legal settlements, employees granted housing allowances, and vacation travel assistance provided by the employer that is not used for vacation travel expenses by the employee.

"The following forms of income are not considered to be part of the income for purposes of determining shelter assistance.

"Child tax credit payments, maintenance payments for foster children, boarding allowances for students, living out or travelling allowances for any household member, lump sum payments received from insurance settlements, inheritance, disability awards, sale of effects, capital gains, legal settlements, windfall gain such as lotteries or bingos,"

That should interest all of you.

---Laughter

"Gifts of cash, retraining allowances, loans, grants and bursaries for education and business, all income with the exception of employees on paid education leave of any household member whose full-time attendance is at school, treaty payments, social assistance payments, VTAs provided by an employer which are used by the employee for vacation expenses and settlement allowances.

"The following items are considered deductions from gross household income.

"We deduct \$2500 per year or \$208 per month from gross income earned by any household member who is receiving CPP or QPP retirement benefits. We also deduct the amount of alimony payments from the income of any household member who is paying alimony."

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 278-12(3): Costs To Repair Government Staff Houses

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Personnel. I understand that under this new housing policy, employees who are currently in government housing will have a chance to purchase those houses. I also understand that many of those houses are old and in poor condition. Will this government be carrying out a cost benefit analysis to determine the costs required to improve staff housing? Specifically energy efficiency, interior design, plumbing and so forth prior to the purchase? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 278-12(3): Costs To Repair Government Staff Houses

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 278-12(3): Costs To Repair Government Staff Houses

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister should know that many of the government's current rental units do not have a uniform power metering system. Has he calculated the cost of individually metering all utilities so that there is one minimum acceptable standard?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 278-12(3): Costs To Repair Government Staff Houses

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, for those units that do not have their own separate metering, we will make adjustments and charge a flat rate based on the community average for a unit the size of which is being occupied.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In answer to my first question the Minister said, "Yes", and I am glad to hear this. Can he tell the House who will be carrying out the assessment to determine the cost of repairs, and when this will happen? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Those were two questions, Mr. Antoine. Can you please rephrase it and ask one question?

Supplementary To Question 278-12(3): Costs To Repair Government Staff Houses

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Who will be doing this assessment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

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Further Return To Question 278-12(3): Costs To Repair Government Staff Houses

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, there will be two things done. Where tenants are complaining about the energy efficiency of units, people from Personnel and DPW will set up a time to meet with each tenant to do an energy audit, and there will be some assessment of whether it is worthwhile to repair and how much it will cost to repair. If the tenant is interested in purchasing it, the cost of how much it would take to bring it up to standard would also be established. There is another process which we will set up for any tenant who wishes to purchase the unit, we will send in an independent appraiser by contracting a company or individuals who do this professionally. The appraiser will go to the unit and meet with the tenant and, with the tenant's involvement, complete an appraisal of the unit to arrive at a sale value of a particular unit.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 279-12(3): Difference Between GNWT Housing Strategy And Public Housing Program

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. With the creation of the Government of the Northwest Territories housing strategy and further plans to transfer GNWT housing responsibility to the NWT Housing Corporation, I would like to know if this strategy differs from the public housing program.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 279-12(3): Difference Between GNWT Housing Strategy And Public Housing Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It differs from the public housing program which is in existence at the moment. We are preparing papers for Cabinet approval to bring all of the housing programs in line, to be equal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When this takes place, I would like to know which program will prevail?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Mr. Speaker, can I get clarification on the question?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arngna'naaq, can you please restate your question?

Supplementary To Question 279-12(3): Difference Between GNWT Housing Strategy And Public Housing Program

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the GNWT housing program is transferred to the NWT Housing Corporation, and the corporation is trying to bring these two programs together, I am wondering which one of these programs would prevail?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 279-12(3): Difference Between GNWT Housing Strategy And Public Housing Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They will be separate programs. Some units will always be used for staff housing. The main reason for the NWT Housing Corporation administering the staff housing is to make better use out of our houses in the communities. For example, you can have a staff house sitting empty in a community when you need room for public housing and you cannot use it. This way will make the unit available. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 279-12(3): Difference Between GNWT Housing Strategy And Public Housing Program

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, people who are living in public housing units are paying up to 25 per cent of their gross income at the present time. The housing strategy from the Department of Personnel shows that tenants will pay no more than 30 per cent of their gross household income. I am wondering how this will affect those who are in public housing units. Will they also start to pay 30 per cent of their household income? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 279-12(3): Difference Between GNWT Housing Strategy And Public Housing Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The national standard is no more than 30 per cent. The NWT Housing Corporation uses this now and they will continue to use it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 280-12(3): Mortgage Financing For Housing

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Personnel with regard to mortgage

availability for this new strategy. We all understand the government no longer wants to be a landlord and with disposing of their rental units they will then no longer be faced with upkeep costs. I, as many Members of this House, have pointed out we have no trouble with this principle. Can the government assure tenants, who want to purchase the government housing they are presently renting, that all units will be in a condition which will be assessed as acceptable for mortgage financing? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 280-12(3): Mortgage Financing For Housing

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have indicated where tenants are unable to get mortgages from the bank we would look at assisting them, either by financing it ourselves or by looking at lease to purchase arrangements. Many tenants will not have the down payment necessary to get into a normal mortgage arrangement with the bank. If a unit is assessed at a value of \$50,000, it will be decided between the tenant and the government whether

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the unit will be sold as is, or if it will be brought up to standard and then purchased. These will be dealt with by the tenant and ourselves as a government. As a government, if we are faced with putting a new roof on a unit, and it is our assessment this will cost too much, we may not do it. We would then be faced with not repairing the unit and letting it go, and we would negotiate an arrangement this way.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 280-12(3): Mortgage Financing For Housing

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister have an estimate of what it will cost to bring all of the units in question up to standard?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 280-12(3): Mortgage Financing For Housing

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, we have not begun this work. We will begin once the tenants contact DPW and Personnel with a view of undertaking the process.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 280-12(3): Mortgage Financing For Housing

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate to the House when this work will begin? I am asking this because we are talking about costs and much interest from the communities. I would appreciate if you could indicate, to the House today, when this work will begin. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 280-12(3): Mortgage Financing For Housing

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, we can begin almost immediately. I think those tenants who are interested in having their units assessed and having energy audits done can contact the regional Personnel office and we can begin the process right away.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 281-12(3): Allocation Of Funding For Aircraft Maintenance Facility

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Renewable Resources told us the review of the forest fire management program would not be completed until the end of May. Further he stated that no proposals for constructing the

aircraft maintenance facility will be considered until the review of the forest fire management program is completed and assessed. When my honourable colleague for North Slave had questioned him, he further stated to my honourable colleague, and I quote from unedited Hansard, "nothing will change for this year for the 1993 fire season. Probably during 1993, the policy will be in place and changes will take place in the 1994 fire season." Can the Minister advise this House, when his department will identify the dollars to allow for construction of this aircraft maintenance facility which the government announced last year will be located in Fort Smith?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 281-12(3): Allocation Of Funding For Aircraft Maintenance Facility

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of coming up with such a facility, it needs to be planned and also the department has no resources at this time without going to FMB. A facility such as this would utilize capital dollars, and I would have to go back to Cabinet for the resources. At the present time, I do not know when we will be able to go to Cabinet to get the dollars. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 281-12(3): Allocation Of Funding For Aircraft Maintenance Facility

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated, for a facility such as this, he has no resources and no capital dollars identified, but he has to allocate the funding and bring it forth for Cabinet approval. Why did the government announce that a facility for the aircraft maintenance be in Fort Smith? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 281-12(3): Allocation Of Funding For Aircraft Maintenance Facility

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government thought the best location for a hangar and also an aircraft maintenance facility would be Fort Smith. That is our policy at the present time, but we have to do more planning as to how we are going to fight fires in the Northwest Territories. We are trying to streamline fire fighting, to utilize the resources we use to fight fires to employ as many people as we can who are from the Northwest Territories and also to utilize as many businesses that are in the Northwest Territories. We have been told we are using too many southern businesses in this program. That is the reason why we are reviewing the program. I understand the community of Fort Smith was working together to come up with a plan with the assistance of the Minister of Economic Development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I 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 will be extended. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 281-12(3): Allocation Of Funding For Aircraft Maintenance Facility

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MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No one argues the fact that we want the dollars expended for fire suppression to remain in the north because many of the dollars are now going south. The purpose of this facility would be to allow for water bombers, which currently go south every fall, to be repaired in the north. The idea was to build a facility in Fort Smith to keep these water bombers in the north. I believe the Minister has stated there have been no capital dollars identified, they have identified a location and nothing else. They have not completed any planning or whatever. I would like to ask the Minister what allowed the department to identify a location without any planning whatsoever done by his department?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question 281-12(3): Allocation Of Funding For Aircraft Maintenance Facility

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was not the department that announced the hangar facility location of Fort Smith, it was announced in the budget statement made last year. It is a government initiative. The hangar facility will be in Fort Smith. It is our plan to have a review on the fire management policy in the Northwest Territories. It is our job to find out what sort of facility should be constructed in Fort Smith. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 281-12(3): Allocation Of Funding For Aircraft Maintenance Facility

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, in as much as I know it is a government initiative and I respect that, I know the intention of the initiative came from the Department of Renewable Resources. The Minister had a review done back in 1991. In fact, he met with the town council in July of 1991 indicating to them that Fort Smith would probably be one of the most feasible sites to look at for this hangar. I would like to ask the Minister whether consideration for allocation of dollars would be looked at to a lease purchase concept as opposed to particular capital dollars being identified to construct such a facility? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question 281-12(3): Allocation Of Funding For Aircraft Maintenance Facility

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. That was your last supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Gargan.

Question 282-12(3): Inclusion Of Sobriety Requirements Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. Earlier I commented on the very positive steps that have been taken within the Department of Social Services to link the funding of alcohol and drug projects to counsellor sobriety. I believe this policy has been successful in providing clients in communities with effective role-modelling and has placed the Northwest Territories in a leadership role in combatting alcohol and drug abuse. I note that this policy has received support from the board of management of the alcohol and drug services, the Deh Cho Regional Council and tribal council and from many other individuals and organizations concerned with the health and welfare of our communities. Can the Minister of Social Services inform the House whether the same requirements for alcohol and drug workers' sobriety will be included in the 1993-94 contribution agreement with the alcohol and drug projects across the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 282-12(3): Inclusion Of Sobriety Requirements Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the alcohol and drug program, the policy will be extended and will proceed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 282-12(3): Inclusion Of Sobriety Requirements Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In previous years, certain alcohol and drug projects, notably the former Tuvvik organization in Iqaluit and the alcohol and drug project in Pangnirtung, express a certain reluctance to sign the contribution agreement just because this important policy was included. Is the Minister able to inform this House whether any alcohol and drug projects have indicated this year that they will not

accept government funding if the abstinence clause is included in their contribution agreement?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 282-12(3): Inclusion Of Sobriety Requirements Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Not recorded)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 282-12(3): Inclusion Of Sobriety Requirements Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. My question is for the Minister of Social Services, Mr. Speaker. Some time ago one of the Minister's predecessors, Mr. Whitford, assured the House that his officials would brief the alcohol and drug administration from other jurisdiction about the Northwest Territories' decision to proceed with this policy. Would the Minister be willing to provide the House with the report of when and how this briefing was conducted?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will take this question as notice and report back to the House.

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MR. SPEAKER:

The question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 283-12(3): GNWT Travel Policy

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Government Services and Public Works. For some time the government has

been concerned about the cost of travel in the Northwest Territories, with respect to staff and other types of travel. Ways and means were being sought to reduce the costs, or to at least get a better handle on it. Mr. Speaker, what steps have been taken towards reviewing this government travel policy, specifically, has the government consulted with agencies or companies in or out of the Northwest Territories with respect to dealing with the territorial government's travel policies?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That responsibility has been transferred to the Department of the Executive.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 283-12(3): GNWT Travel Policy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we did make a statement that there is a travel management office set up and we have requested responses to gather information from the industry and people who are interested in providing us with information and opportunities. The study will cover all travel undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories, including duty travel, student travel, third party travel and medical travel. The study is to examine the way in which the Government of the Northwest Territories manages the acquisition or reporting of the travel services it pays for, and it is to develop and recommend the approaches that should be pursued in establishing and operating the travel management office.

It was also to identify options available to the Government of the Northwest Territories which may be chosen or further developed for implementation in an overall travel management plan. It is also set up to identify options which will enable the Government of the Northwest Territories to better approve travel, track expenditures and capture travel data which will facilitate better travel management in the future.

What we have asked, in the advertisement, is to cover specific areas to provide to the government recommendations as to how the approval of travel

and the review of the resulting travel claims could be better managed, as follows: to indicate ways in which the provision of fair options and other travel information may be made available in advance to manager approving travel; the training requirements for GNWT staff, which would be involved in travel approval or claim processing; the identification of information which should be capture to enable the GNWT to better manage its travel and options; recommend an alternative use of travel points to the GNWT benefits; identify immediate cost savings achievable; identify areas in which cost savings are achievable over the longer term; what will be required to realize these savings; and to identify the impact that reduced travel expenditures may have on the northern travel industry and northern air carriers.

We have received a number of responses from industry travel agencies and other people to provide an overall outlook in those areas. We are presently assessing them and we will be making a determination on which proposal should be accepted. To note, there has been some misunderstanding that this advertisement was not very clear and that some travel agencies felt that we were going to take over all the travel arrangements, but that was not the intent as was stated in the budget address today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 283-12(3): GNWT Travel Policy

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a very long answer and I will wait for Hansard tomorrow to review everything the Premier has stated with respect to the question. Has the government already contracted someone to do this work?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 283-12(3): GNWT Travel Policy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

We have an individual who is coordinating the work to be done, but we have not contracted out to any agency at this point in time.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 283-12(3): GNWT Travel Policy

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It may be an unfair question, but would there be a consulting firm that has already been contracted to study the travel needs of the Government of the Northwest Territories? A firm outside of the territories familiar with the travel business.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 283-12(3): GNWT Travel Policy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the decision has not been made. However, I could inform the Member that submissions on the work outline were received from YZF Corporation Travel, Mack Travel, Inuvialuit Development Corporation and Marlin Travel Group, but no decision has been made. These are the proposals that have been received.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 284-12(3): Proposals For Construction Of Aircraft Maintenance Facility

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, since the Minister indicated that they may consider a lease to purchase concept for the maintenance facility, why is the department not entertaining proposals for the construction of this facility from the community of Fort Smith?

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question 284-12(3): Proposals For Construction Of Aircraft Maintenance Facility

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, we do not know what sort of facility we will require in terms of aircraft maintenance and training, et cetera. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 284-12(3): Proposals For Construction Of Aircraft Maintenance Facility

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister indicated they do not know what the plan to build is, but I was under the impression this facility was to accommodate water bombers which normally fly south in the fall. Can the Minister state, for the record, what is preventing the department from proceeding, knowing that this facility is to accommodate water bombers that fly south? Thank you.,

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloofoo.

Further Return To Question 284-12(3): Proposals For Construction Of Aircraft Maintenance Facility

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the current time we have four CL-215s, water bombers and we also use smaller aircraft or bird dogs as well as helicopters. We do not know, at the present time, whether we are going to have to maintain helicopters, the bird dogs and the other smaller aircraft that the fire operation uses. We also do not know what sort of training is going to be required by northerners to get into aircraft maintenance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 285-12(3): GNWT Policy On Contracts

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Government Services and Public Works. I

note that our government is becoming increasingly involved in negotiated contracts. I would like to ask the Minister, do we have a policy on the issue of proposals, tenders and negotiated contracts?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 285-12(3): GNWT Policy On Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally a community requests to negotiate a contract which I take to Cabinet to get approval to negotiate. Once we have finished negotiations I take it back to Cabinet and they either approve or disapprove it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 285-12(3): GNWT Policy On Contracts

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, is there any guideline on how you proceed with a negotiated contract? Since we are involved with the expenditure of public funds, what kind of base do you use to determine how you negotiate a contract with whoever has asked to have this particular contract?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 285-12(3): GNWT Policy On Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally we negotiate the contracts with a development corporation and it is to help native development corporations get off the ground as a business. In any proposal they negotiate they have to ensure it employs all local and regional people, all the subcontractors are northern or local in their design, to keep all the dollars in the north. It normally has a training component. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 285-12(3): GNWT Policy On Contracts

MR. LEWIS:

I would like to ask the Minister, is there any kind of premium or any kind of level that he would accept as a premium in order to get all these advantages from any kind of base you would establish as the value of a particular contract? Is it five per cent above what you would expect, or ten per cent? Can you give me some idea of how far above a reasonable price you are prepared to go in negotiating a contract to achieve the objectives you have mentioned in terms of training, local employment and so on?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 285-12(3): GNWT Policy On Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the contracts I have been involved in with the Housing Corporation and DPW have been no percentage per se above a premium cost. Most of the proposal calls this summer with the Housing Corporation, came in under budget. The projects came in before the time frame they set out for themselves. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 285-12(3): GNWT Policy On Contracts

MR. LEWIS:

Would the Minister, Mr. Speaker, be prepared to table in this House a list of all the contracts, just the names of them if you like, which have been negotiated?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

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Further Return To Question 285-12(3): GNWT Policy On Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 286-12(3): Status Of Bussing Policy

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Education. The former Minister of Education indicated there would be a bussing policy created with funds provided for that policy. I would like to know how this policy is proceeding?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 286-12(3): Status Of Bussing Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are still in the process of developing a policy. The policy will include two aspects, one is the need to ensure bussing wherever there is a requirement in all the regions and secondly, the requirement for the financial resources to accommodate that particular policy. Thirdly, I should say, Mr. Speaker, it is my view that when we are developing the policy it is our intention to move the funding from the Ministry to the boards so they can decide themselves where they should determine the priorities for bussing are. I do not believe it is my responsibility, nor should it be in my hands, to determine what priorities of bussing should occur in the particular regions, but that will be part of the policy.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 286-12(3): Status Of Bussing Policy

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When does the Minister expect to have the policy completed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 286-12(3): Status Of Bussing Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, hopefully before March 31, 1993.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 287-12(3): Participation In Wolf Control Program

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, currently there is a great deal of controversy arising in the Yukon, parts of Alaska, British Columbia and Alberta regarding the eradication of wolves in the provinces and territories. Mr. Speaker, it is not so much the program I am concerned with, but rather the effects on tourism in the territories. I would like to know whether we are participating in any kind of wolf control or eradication program which would fall

into a category that would be seen as a little out of the ordinary?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 287-12(3): Participation In Wolf Control Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we do not have an eradication for canine lupus in the Northwest Territories. We are not taking part in the initiative the Government of Yukon is taking. Mr. Speaker, at the present time perhaps the Minister of Economic Development would be in a better position to see what the impact on tourism in the Northwest Territories would be as a result of the eradication of wolves in the Yukon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may, I will direct this supplementary to the Minister responsible for Tourism. The threats from groups such as "friends of animals", regarding boycotting any kind of tourism, are of concern in the Yukon and certainly in the northern part of Alberta. I would like to know whether or not these groups, who are defending animals, have contacted our Department of Tourism to impose this threat on us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The original question was posed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. This is a supplementary to that question. Mr. Whitford, if you want a supplementary to the Minister who you asked the first question to, you can do that. If not, I am going on to the next Member. Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 287-12(3): Participation In Wolf Control Program

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, I was asking the Minister of Renewable Resources a question dealing with wolves and it was connected to tourism. It was the Minister who suggested perhaps I was directing it the wrong way. However, I will ask the Minister, has the group "friends of animals", based out of San Francisco, been in contact with his department threatening to boycott if his department is pursuing an eradication program of wolves?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 287-12(3): Participation In Wolf Control Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 288-12(3): Ceiling On Public Housing Units

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, with the Department of

Personnel's new housing policy being announced, currently the NWT Housing Corporation, particularly under public housing, has a rental ceiling of 25 per cent of their gross income. However, in my particular constituency, there is a limited amount to that

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ceiling, there is a limit for any type of accommodation. For example, the ceiling may be fixed and set at \$650 a month for a three bedroom house. Knowing that this new rental income for the government's civil servants will exceed a ceiling amount of our public units, I am wondering whether or not the Minister is going to address the ceiling which is capped on public units, particularly in the eastern Arctic, or in any part of the western Arctic? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 288-12(3): Ceiling On Public Housing Units

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be addressing this in the very near future, to equalize the situation and make all programs fair and equal. The staff housing program, public housing as well as home ownership programs should all be fairly equal by next year, with the approval and support of Members of this Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 288-12(3): Ceiling On Public Housing Units

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister just announced his new housing programs in December. How does the Minister intend to propose changes to the public housing rental units? Does he intend to review the rental scale? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 288-12(3): Ceiling On Public Housing Units

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 288-12(3): Ceiling On Public Housing Units

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, when does the Minister intend to review the rental scale? I would like to know this so that I, and other Members, can make our constituents aware of this.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 288-12(3): Ceiling On Public Housing Units

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the next couple of weeks, I will hopefully have a paper to take to Cabinet to get approval. I will then be consulting with Members and the community people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 288-12(3): Ceiling On Public Housing Units

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, is it fair to ask the Minister that, not only are the rental units for public servants going to go up, but there is a possibility of the rents going up in the public units if the tapped ceiling is taken off? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 288-12(3): Ceiling On Public Housing Units

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it is fair to ask. Possibly some rents will go up, some will stay the same and some may go down. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 289-12(3): Regions Affected By Removal Of Cap On Public Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, to follow-up on Mrs. Marie-Jewell's question to the Minister of Housing, which areas of the Northwest Territories are going to be affected by the Minister's announced intention to lift the caps on public housing rentals?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 289-12(3): Regions Affected By Removal Of Cap On Public Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every community that we have public housing in. We will try to make the rents fair between all of the communities and for all incomes. For example, if you earn \$100,000 in Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Fort Smith, Fort Resolution or Tuktoyaktuk, you will be basically paying the same rent except for the living accommodation adjustment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 289-12(3): Regions Affected By Removal Of Cap On Public Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I understand there are no caps or ceilings on public housing rents in some communities in the Northwest Territories at the present time. Which areas of the Northwest Territories are going to be principally affected by the Minister's announced intention to remove the caps? Are there some areas which will be affected more than others because caps are in place, whereas they are not already in place in some communities?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 289-12(3): Regions Affected By Removal Of Cap On Public Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All areas will be affected. With the Member's patience, I will bring a paper forward within a couple of weeks once I get the Cabinet's approval. I do not want to answer the questions by hit and

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miss. I am not able to give you all of the information at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 289-12(3): Regions Affected By Removal Of Cap On Public Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is going to be the remote off-highway communities who will be hit hardest by the Minister's announced intentions. Having regard to the demoralizing effect on public servants of the staff housing increases, I wonder if the Minister for the NWT Housing Corporation would commit that these proposed rent increases, which will be staggering, will be discussed, in the communities and amongst the tenants affected before they are presented to this House. Will there be public consultation of the people who are going to be directly affected before any changes are finalized?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 289-12(3): Regions Affected By Removal Of Cap On Public Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whatever I do always has public consultation, Mr. Patterson. It will affect some people. Those people will be consulted. As I have said, in two weeks time I will be able to share all of the information with all of the Members of this House. I am aware that you have some information which other Members do not have. I do not know if you

believe that off-highway communities are going to be hit the hardest or not, but I think we should wait until I come forward with that paper so all Members can ask questions and discuss it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 289-12(3): Regions Affected By Removal Of Cap On Public Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister say he was going to bring a paper to the House. Will the people affected by these rent increases be consulted before something is announced in the House or something is taken to Cabinet? That is the kind of consultation I am talking about.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 289-12(3): Regions Affected By Removal Of Cap On Public Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You must understand the process, Mr. Patterson, you have been here for a long time. The process is that you take a paper to Cabinet, get an agreement in principle and then you take it to the public and the Member for approval. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Please try not to be argumentative, just respond to the question. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 290-12(3): Great Slave Freshwater Marketing Corporation

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Last summer, one of the groups of the Great Slave freshwater fishermen raised a problem they were having with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Some of the group's representatives met with the Minister and the Government Leader, but there did not appear to be any movement on the issue. The price that these fishermen were being

paid by the corporation was so low, it was not viable for many of them to continue fishing. The group wanted the ability to export fish so that they could explore their own markets. Can the Minister advise what action he has taken in the eight months since he last responded to this issue in the House to support the concerns of the Great Slave freshwater fishermen and assist them in opting out of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 290-12(3): Great Slave Freshwater Marketing Corporation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, not all fishermen around the lake want to opt out of FMC. I have never received clear direction from the majority of fishermen. I do recognize the fact that some fishermen would like to export fish on an experimental basis just to see what price they could get for those fish. We have done a study that says we could probably sell more fish into the Northwest Territories and consequently we are going to process, on a pilot project basis, 100,000 pounds in Hay River this summer to see whether we can sell more fish into the Northwest Territories. That should give fishermen a better price, if we can get a better price for those fish, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 291-12(3): Criteria For Home Ownership Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, last session the Minister made an announcement about new programs with the Housing Corporation. I am particularly interested in the program taking the place of the HAP program. What is the criteria with respect to land ownership to be able to obtain access to the home ownership program? Are you able to own the land outright, or can the band grant land?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

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Return To Question 291-12(3): Criteria For Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People can own the land outright or have a lease on the land. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 291-12(3): Criteria For Home Ownership Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate to this House if a particular band wants to allow a band member to have a piece of property in trust, and it is band lands, in order to access the home ownership program is this process allowed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 291-12(3): Criteria For Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 291-12(3): Criteria For Home Ownership Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said he believes it is, but I have been advised by my constituents otherwise. Will the Minister review and determine the eligibility for lands which are to be used in order to access the new home ownership program and advise this House of the criteria? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 291-12(3): Criteria For Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 291-12(3): Criteria For Home Ownership Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, will he make a commitment to advise this House next week? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 291-12(3): Criteria For Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as I get the information I will advise this House.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. You have used up your last supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Gargan.

Question 292-12(3): Apology From Canadian Armed Forces For Shooting Caribou

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a letter which was written by the government to Marcel Masse with regard to the Canadian Armed Forces shooting caribou. The Minister also met with Tom Siddon on the 13, and asked the Minister to convey the same message to Kim Campbell with regard to a written apology by the armed forces for their conduct. Does the Minister have any further information on that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 292-12(3): Apology From Canadian Armed Forces For Shooting Caribou

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, our request for any response and apology does not seem to be very high on their list. Subsequently, just to keep the paper flow going we have written on three or four occasions and the only response we have received back was that they are taking our request into consideration, but there has been nothing affirmative at this time.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 293-12(3): Review Of Home Ownership Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, this question is with respect to access to home ownership. Can the Minister review the home ownership program to see if there are any impediments that place barriers in front of the band members who may be trying to access these new home ownership programs announced in December? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 293-12(3): Review Of Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agreed to do that review to begin with. When I announced the access programs and new home ownership programs in this House, I made it very clear to Members and the general public that we would be interested in their input and willing to review those programs and look at changing them next fall to better suit the people's needs. If they have any concerns, they can bring them forward and we will address them. That was what was said when we announced the programs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 293-12(3): Review Of Home Ownership Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister whether he would take the time to review the programs which he announced last December in respect to determining whether there are any barriers on the new home ownership program to band members. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Do you want to try again, Mr. Morin?

Further Return To Question 293-12(3): Review Of Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I told the Member, yes, I would.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 17-12(3): Funding For Leadership Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have two written questions both addressed to the Minister of Education.

Would the Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs advise this House of the amount of funds provided to the western Arctic leadership program in Fort Smith for 1991-92, 1992-93 and the proposed funding for 1993-94?

Written Question 18-12(3): Lutsel K'e Student Group Home Residency

Would the Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs provide to this House a list of names of all students residing at the Lutsel K'e student group home as of September 1, 1992 and the current residents who are residing at the group home as of February 19, 1993? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, written questions. If there are no additional written questions we will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

We are on item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 1-12(3) and 2-12(3) asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Minister of Justice concerning summary of costs paid by the Legal Services Board.

Return To Written Question 1-12(3) and 2-12(3): Summary Of Costs Paid By The Legal Services Board

The honourable Member has provided a list of specific court cases and asked for a summary of legal aid costs paid on behalf of people involved in appeals and in new trials after successful appearances in those matters.

Legal aid is a form of social assistance. As such, there are issues of privacy involved in the provision of legal aid. Figures may be made available indicating the total amounts of legal aid costs or the number of civil and criminal clients over a period of time. However, even to suggest that any of the people

involved in the matters listed have received legal aid, would be a breach of the privacy of the individuals involved.

With that in mind, I am advised that some but not all of the cases you mentioned involved legally-aided clients. Of the 26 cases named, the total fees and disbursements or expenses paid out by legal aid for appeals and retrials was approximately \$160,000.

I believe in an open and accountable system of justice and would be happy to offer whatever assistance I can to the honourable Member in providing any other information that does not involve an infringement of the privacy of clients.

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

Mr. Speaker, I also have a Return to Written Question 5-12(3) asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister of Justice on expenditures from the public for judges' training.

For each of the three fiscal years 1990-91 to 1992-93 the Department of Justice contributed a grant of \$2,500 to the Provincial Court Judges' Association.

The fiscal year 1991-92 was the only year of the three when we set up a separate task for judicial training. We budgeted \$50,000 for the training of five territorial court judges. A total of \$41,000 was actually expended. This amount includes the cost of the annual western judicial education centre conference which was hosted in the Northwest Territories and all travel expenses related to training that year. The travel expenses, which include accommodation and per diems, accounted for approximately \$14,323 of the \$41,000.

The western judicial education centre conference included invited participation from community and aboriginal persons in the NWT as well as panel, lecture and workshop participation from northerners other than judges. The primary issues on the agenda were gender equality, aboriginal people and the justice system and sexual assault.

For the other two fiscal years training expenses came out of general O and M budgets from the territorial courts in Inuvik, Iqaluit and headquarters. Training expenses for judges were not distinguished from training expenses for court services staff.

For the 1993-94 fiscal year we could, if requested, begin to capture in our financial information, costs for the training of the judiciary, separate from training of the court services staff.

Judges in all cases have attended only courses and programs which have been sponsored by accredited educational institutions or judicial education bodies. All of the courses are related to such things as the administration of civil and criminal justice, to computer-assisted legal research and to official languages training hosted and paid for by the federal commissioner of Judicial Affairs.

Throughout Canada, the education of judges is universally administered by judges and judicial education bodies, but in no case by governments. Our government, like those in the other provinces and territory, has consistently provided modest

sums of money to allow judges to attend workshops and conferences on subjects chosen or approved by the chief judge of the territorial court or the senior justice of the supreme court.

In past years, there was public and press comment about whether a particular northern judge had or had not attended a particular workshop on a subject of northern public interest. The Member is correct in saying that public expenditures on judicial training may appropriately be scrutinized by the Legislature and its committees. This is a normal part of the accountability of the Department of Justice for its expenditures.

Judges are, of course, independent of the Legislature and not accountable to it for how they train themselves. Nor should this Legislature scrutinize the specific training taken by individual judges and make comment or criticism on it. On the other hand, in a general sense, the public and governments have in recent years urged judges at all levels, with due respect for their independence, to pursue training in all areas relevant to the work they perform and the environment in which they perform it.

Consistent with the principles, if there is other information which I can usefully provide to the Member, I will attempt to do so at his request.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to budget address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 49-12(3), Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy, February 17, 1993, in English and Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first read of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 18: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 17: Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq that Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94 be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 19: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 17: Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq that Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94 be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the Government of the Northwest Territories to make operations and maintenance expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1994. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 17 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to committee of the whole. Item 20, 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 the Commercial Tenancies Act; Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act; Bill 16, Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act; Minister's Statement 34-12(3), Long-

Term Staff Housing Strategy; Committee Report 10-12(3), Report on Tabled Document 21-12(3), Payroll Tax Act; and, Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The committee will now come to order. Yesterday we were dealing with Bill 5 which was deferred to a later date. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, we will continue with Bill 6 and Bill 11 and see if we can get to Bill 16. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, madam. Does the committee agree that we will deal with Bill 6 and Bill 11?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 6: An Act to Amend the Commercial Tenancies Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Would the Minister of Justice have any opening remarks on this matter? Mr. Kakfwi.

Introductory Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce an act to Amend the Commercial Tenancies Act. This bill will amend the Commercial Tenancies

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Act to ensure that a judge of the supreme court is available to conduct a hearing on the day that a tenant is required, by an eviction summons, to show cause why an order should not be made for delivering possession of leased premises. Currently subsection 41(3) of the act authorizes the issuance of an eviction summons that calls on a tenant to appear before a judge of the supreme court three days after the

service of the summons. This is, however, as we have learned, an impractical method of scheduling a hearing because it assumes that a judge of the supreme court will always be available to hold one and this is not the case. It would be preferable if, as the bill provides, the hearing was scheduled by the clerk of supreme court when issuing the summons for a day when the judge is known to be available. The bill will also ensure that the eviction summons is served on the tenant at least three days prior to the day of the show cause hearing. Those are my introductory remarks, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation have any remarks?

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Mr. Whitford to make the comments for the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

Comments By Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Legislation reviewed Bill 6, an Act to Amend the Commercial Tenancies 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 for presenting this bill and responding to the questions and comments of committee Members.

Bill 6 would amend the Commercial Tenancies Act to change the date on which a tenant is required to appear in court after being served with a summons. Currently, the act provides that when a tenant fails to pay rent for commercial property, as agreed under the lease, after receiving a written demand for the rent, the landlord may request that a summons be issued by the Supreme Court. The summons would require the tenant to appear in court to explain why the rent has not been paid and why an eviction order should not be granted.

At present, the summons would require the tenant to appear in court three days after being served with a summons. This is not practical because the court

cannot be certain as to the date on which service will take place, and a judge may not be available on the date that the tenant is required to appear. This bill would amend this section to require the tenant to appear in court on the date specified in the summons. The clerk of the court can then set a date when a judge will be available. The bill would retain the three day notice period by requiring that the summons must be served upon the tenant at least three days before the date that is specified for the tenant to appear in court.

The committee supported this amendment and carried a motion on December 7, 1992, that Bill 6 be reported to the House as ready for committee of the whole. This concludes our remarks, Mr. Chairman. I invite other committee Members to make additional comments on this bill should they choose to do so. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Would the Minister like to bring in any witnesses?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Perhaps in a few minutes when they arrive.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Are there any general comments? Is it agreed to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 6, an Act to Amend the Commercial Tenancies Act. Clause one, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Is the committee agreed we have concluded with this bill? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 11: Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard, do you have any opening remarks on Bill 11, an Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act?

Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the bill before you would amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to specify the indemnity payable to the Government Leader, other Ministers and the Speaker. The amendment also proposes that the Speaker shall table, in the Legislative Assembly, a report on the amounts paid in a fiscal year to Members by way of indemnity, allowances or expenses. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is a result of adopted Motion 9-12(2) which requested that these be introduced. Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to answer any questions the committee of the whole may have on this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the chairman for the Standing Committee on Legislation have any remarks?

Comments By Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation also reviewed Bill 11, an Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act at its public meeting on December 7, 1992. The committee thanks the Honourable John Pollard and the clerk of the

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Legislative Assembly, Mr. Hamilton, for appearing before the committee to present this bill.

This bill would amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Act to include in the act the annual indemnities paid to the Speaker and to the Members of the Executive Council. Committee Members noted that this bill would not provide for any automatic increase or indexing of the amounts specified in the bill. This bill would also amend the act to require the Speaker to lay a report before the Assembly each fiscal year showing the amounts paid to each Member of the Legislative Assembly in the previous fiscal year by way of indemnity, allowance or expense. These provisions had been recommended by the Legislative Assembly by a motion carried on March 25, 1992. The standing committee was in support of these amendments and carried a motion on December 7, 1992 to report Bill 11 to the Legislative Assembly as ready for committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Are there any general comments? Is it agreed we go clause by clause? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

General Comments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, it appears the old bill indicated the Speaker received the same rate as the indemnity paid to the Minister by directive of the Executive Council. The new bill specifically states the amount which is received by the Government Leader, the Ministers and the Speaker. Why is the amount specifically being stated in the bill? How are they addressing the idea of COLA which usually increases Ministers' salaries? Are they going to come back and change the bill accordingly every year? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, before you respond to the honourable Member, would you like to bring in any witnesses? Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I will try and field the questions. If I require assistance, I will call on Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Chairman, if there were to be increases in the Ministers' salaries, as outlined in this bill, they would have to be brought here for debate to change the actual legislation. There is no cost of living allowance in this bill that pertains to this section where

Ministers', Speaker's and Government Leader's salaries are listed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

General comments. The Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I may have missed something. Did the Minister indicate in order to give rate increases accordingly, this bill would have to be amended yearly and he would present an amended bill to the Legislative Assembly to reflect the increased rates to the Ministers', Speaker's and Government Leader's salaries?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. The cost of living allowance would not apply to these numbers. In the event that Madam Premier was to decide, in consultation with Ministers and the Speaker, that there should be a cost of living adjustment on this portion of the salaries, then there would have to be an amendment to this bill brought to this House, debated and changed if the House so wished. There is no automatic escalator applying to this particular section of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The concern I have is every year or maybe every second year or maybe every third year if they decide to increase the rates then they come in, try to increase it and amend the bill accordingly. Sometimes you get into what you would call a "catch-up rate." In the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, Ministers received a Member's basic salary in addition to their Minister's salaries. There is a COLA already in place in the bill, so why is that same procedure not used for this bill? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, please respond.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I discussed that with Madam Premier and the rest of the Ministers and they decided that in the event that they did want to increase their salaries that the fairest and most open way to do that would be to come to the Legislative Assembly and ask the Assembly for that increase.

Ministers were also cognizant of the fact that we are asking our employees to be vigilant and we felt at this time it would be incumbent upon us to act in a responsible manner and although we will, on our MLA portion, get the same as ordinary Members as far as cost of living is concerned, on the ministerial portion we decided at this time it was not a good way to go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I had some research done with respect to Speakers' salaries across the country to see how they compared. I will state that our Speaker gets the highest rate in the country, even above the House of Commons Speaker. What was the criteria used when they reviewed this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, just call me "chairman." Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, if I am not mistaken, prior to the last Assembly there was a report done by the previous Assembly, presented at the end of that Assembly's term and presented to the Assembly that began in November of 1987. One of the recommendations in that report was that the Speaker be paid at the same rate as a Minister. That is the reason the Speaker is listed in here with the same salary as a Minister. If the questions are going to continue like this, then I will ask Mr. Hamilton to join me and I will move to the witness table, Mr. Chairman, if you do not mind.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do we have the concurrence of the committee that Mr. Pollard move to the witness table?

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Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Minister, for the record, would you please introduce your witness?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Mr. David Hamilton, the clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Having done that would you be able to respond to Mrs. Marie-Jewell's last question.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I covered most of that, but I would also point out, as Mr. Hamilton is pointing out to me, that it was already in the act, clause 24(1)(a) "The Speaker shall be paid at the same rate as the indemnity paid to a Minister by directive of the Executive Council." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I think the intent of the review to determine the Speaker's salary was also to determine whether the duties required of a Speaker should also reflect the salary paid. However, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister that he review whether the duties and responsibilities that are imposed on the Speaker determine the rate of pay being expended. However, that is just a suggestion, Mr. Chairman. Now that I have made my questions and point across with regard to our salaries being placed by the amendments of this bill, I would ask to go clause by clause. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Do we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill 16, section one, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Section two. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Nerysoo.

Point Of Order

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, is it not normal that we deal with clause by clause and not necessarily sections?

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Sorry, Mr. Nerysoo. I did not think it was a point of order, I stand corrected. Clause one.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause two.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause three. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

On clause two, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister if the amount specified in those three categories is the current rate which the three categories are currently receiving?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mahsi cho. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank is correct, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause two.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause three. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause four. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act is now concluded.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to thank Mr. Pollard. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, just as a matter of clarification I would like to point out that it is not in the prerogative of the Executive Council, Cabinet, Madam Premier or any of the Ministers to comment as to what the Speaker's description should be. The Speaker is a creature, or a person who reports to...

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---Laughter

Well, he is kind of a tall creature. He is a servant of the House is what I am trying to say. I did not say serpent, either.

---Laughter

A servant of the House and consequently, his duties and all the other things that go along with his office are subject to the Management and Services Board of this Legislative Assembly, so the government will not be able to look into what the duties of the Speaker should or should not be. It is not within our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. I am sure the creature will agree with. Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and the witness. What is the wish of this committee? Mr. Henry Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mahsi. Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There is a motion to report progress and the motion is not debatable. I will rise and report progress. I am sorry, I am jumping ahead. There was a motion on the floor. Whoever is in favour please signify by usual manner. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your servant has returned.

---Laughter

Item 21, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Creature, I mean Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 6 and Bill 11 and wishes to report progress with Bill 6 and Bill 11 being ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Seconded by Mr. Zoe. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the western caucus at 2:00 pm this afternoon; on Monday morning at 9:00 am of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions and at 10:30 am of the

Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Monday, February 22, 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. Replies to Budget Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 8, Payroll Tax Act
19. 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 16, Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act
 - Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94
 - Minister's Statement 34-12(3), Long-Term Staff Housing
 - Committee Report 10-12(3), Standing Committee on Finance, Report on Tabled Document 21-12(3): Payroll Tax Act
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Commercial
Tenancies Act

- Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Legislative
Assembly and Executive Council Act

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned
until 1:30 pm Monday, February 22, 1993.

--ADJOURNMENT