



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. James Arvaluk, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Hon. Rebecca Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. John Todd, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Before we begin I would like to make a ruling.

Speaker's Ruling

On Thursday, February 18, 1993, the honourable Member for Thebacha, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, raised a point of privilege in response to remarks made by the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi. To put the issue into context, some background may be of assistance. The Member for Thebacha was questioning the Minister on the enrolment of a particular inmate at the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre in an Arctic College program in Fort Smith. The Member was interested in pursuing the Department of Justice's rationale in supporting the enrolment of the inmate in that particular Arctic College program.

The Minister responded by stating in part, "I have always been reluctant to discuss individual people and cases" and "I am becoming increasingly uncomfortable with this questioning." The Member for Thebacha then raised a point of privilege stating, in essence, that the Minister's response was an infringement on her right of freedom of speech as a Member. Mr. Kakfwi also stated in the debate which followed the point of privilege that, in his view, "the questioning should stay focused, without naming particular individuals, on the policy of the government."

The issue of naming particular individuals when asking questions is one which has been raised with growing frequency. Accordingly, I asked for a debate on the question of privilege to provide all Members with an opportunity to express their views on the matter so that I could decide if there was a prima facie

case of breach of privilege. Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules & Forms, 6th edition, citation 75, refers to the privilege of freedom of speech as being both the least questioned and the most fundamental right of a Member. Erskine May, 5th edition, page 70, states that freedom of speech is a "privilege essential to every free council or Legislature." Speakers throughout Canada have consistently upheld the importance of protecting Members' freedom of speech. The Honourable John Fraser, Speaker of the House of Commons, stated on May 21, 1987 in relation to a similar issue raised in the House, that freedom of speech was necessary because "Members of Parliament have to be able to speak freely without fear."

Clearly, the essence of democracy is that a Member must feel free to raise, in the Legislature, all issues of concerns to his or her constituents without fear of retaliation or action being taken by others. I think all Members would agree with these learned comments on the importance of this privilege.

Nonetheless, the freedom is not absolute. On some occasions, the right of a Member to speak freely on an issue must give way to other rights that the Legislature feels are worthy of protection.

One example of this is the sub judice convention, a Member may not speak on matters that are currently pending before the courts. Another example is the limitation with respect to unparliamentary language. The importance of protecting the dignity and respect of the parliamentary process is deemed to take priority over an individual member's right to free speech. These limitations on free speech are rare and, generally speaking, are well known and supported in parliamentary law.

On the facts of this particular debate, the Minister of Justice appears to be reluctant to answer the honourable Member's questions on the basis that her questions referred to an individual and as such were inappropriate.

I find that asking questions which name a particular individual is not contrary to parliamentary law or tradition in most cases.

However, I find that the honourable Member for Thebacha does not have a point of privilege. When asked a question in the House, a Minister may answer the question, take notice of the question or refuse to answer the question. There is nothing in

parliamentary tradition or law which compels a Minister to respond to a question in a certain way.

Indeed, Beauchesne states, in citation 416, that "A Minister may decline to answer a question without stating the reason for refusing, and insistence on an answer is out of order."

Beauchesne goes on to state, in the same citation, that "A refusal to answer a question cannot be raised as a point of privilege." Confusion sometimes occurs because two strong parliamentary traditions are in seeming conflict; the right of the Members to freedom of speech and the right of the Ministers to refuse to answer questions.

It must be made very clear that in most cases, a Member has the right to refer to an individual by name when asking a question of a Minister. A Minister has the right to refuse to answer a question, but it must be clear that in most cases, the

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decision to refuse to answer a question is not based on parliamentary law and tradition. However, in the complex dynamics of the Legislative Assembly, parliamentary rules and procedures cannot be the only road map to guide us. All exchanges between Members must be tempered by consideration, common sense and civility.

While questions naming specific individuals are, generally speaking, appropriate, I must caution all Members to take care when asking questions about specific individuals, the effect of which might harm the reputation of an individual outside of this Legislature who is unable to defend herself or himself.

Members have the privilege of free speech and immunity from criminal or civil prosecution for statements made inside this Legislature. In the interests of order, common sense and courtesy, I would ask all honourable Members to be extremely careful in these matters. Our Legislative Assembly has a long and proud history of respect, civility and cooperation which has been an example to the world. I ask Members to attempt, at all times, to show respect for each other, for the Assembly and for all northerners, no matter what their circumstances. Thank you.

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 40-12(3): North Slave Kitikmeot Mineral Development

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of publicity lately about mining activity in the region between Yellowknife and Coppermine. You have heard about Minnova's Izok Lake base metal property and Lac De Gras diamonds. There has been much talk about a deep water port near Coppermine, ice breaking ore ships and a road corridor between Yellowknife and Coppermine.

I would like to share with you and Members of this Assembly, the government's position on these developments.

The region we are talking about is called the slave geological province. It extends in a broad band north from Great Slave Lake to the Coronation Gulf. The geologists tell us that this is one of the richest and most promising regions in Canada, perhaps the world. We are told it contains unknown billions of dollars in gold, base metal and diamond reserves. Despite the formidable challenges presented by climate and poor access, this region is the exploration hot spot in Canada - and it is getting hotter. Exploration and mining companies are pouring tens of millions of dollars into finding minerals, proving reserves and assessing the economics of production. The opening of a single new mine, such as Izok Lake, will require the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Should we encourage exploration? Should we welcome investment? Should we participate actively in mineral development in this region? Yes, Mr. Speaker, and I will give you ten reasons why we should.

Our mineral wealth is one of our major strengths. It is the envy of most nations. Mining offers, by far, are the best short and medium term economic growth potential of any sector of our economy.

Mining offers jobs for northerners, and lots of them. Not just as miners, but in construction, transportation and a variety of service industries.

By taking an active role, we will be in a better position to ensure that northerners receive the necessary training and get first consideration for these jobs.

Mining and its support activities will provide a wide range of business opportunities for northern entrepreneurs.

There will be promising new opportunities for northerners to invest in northern development.

This development will stimulate major improvements in our infrastructure including road, marine, air and hydroelectric developments. Our participation will help ensure that this infrastructure serves all our needs, not just those of individual developments.

Business and employment income will result in significant new sources of revenue for government to help pay for a wide range of public programs.

These revenues will reduce our dependence on federal transfer payments and thereby increase our ability to determine our own future.

These developments will and must provide considerable benefits to aboriginal claimant groups.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you to consider the spin-offs resulting from re-spending of income and from the better facilities which will reduce living costs, encourage tourism and improve mobility.

Mr. Speaker, just for good measure I will throw in one more. Roughly half of this region falls on each side of the line which the two new territories will share.

Mr. Speaker, I have said we should encourage and welcome these developments, but there are conditions. I think with our active participation we can ensure that the following conditions will be met.

We must ensure the maximum benefits to the north and to northerners. The benefits must far exceed the costs.

We must protect our environment - our water, our game and our fish for the continued use and benefit of future generations.

Just so there is no misunderstanding, we will not be supporting this development at the expense of other regions. We cannot and must not abandon the transportation, economic development or other program priorities of other regions.

Communities must be fully involved in all aspects of any development in their region. This means being informed and consulted and participating in decision-making.

Mr. Speaker, how do we propose to participate? The answer is by providing the public transportation infrastructure. There

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needs to be a land transportation corridor connecting Yellowknife to a sea port near Coppermine. How will this infrastructure, costing tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars be paid for? This will happen only if it is a sound investment. If it is, the project can be financed through contributions by mining companies and through a share of the increased revenues which will be accrued to the federal and territorial governments. In other words, this investment should be financed by the new wealth it would generate, not by taking money from other programs or from other regions.

Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, by telling you what we plan to do next. We are consulting with northern stakeholders to ensure that we fully appreciate their objectives and their concerns and I invite Members to help us in this task. We are also consulting with the mining companies to ensure an understanding of their plans. Based on this input, we will propose a rational approach to the development of this region. This must involve the federal and territorial governments, industry and all the stakeholders. We must then convince the Government of Canada that this is a worthwhile investment and that they should provide financial assistance.

I believe everyone can be a winner in these exciting developments - governments, the mining industry, small business and most importantly, all northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Need For Overhaul Of RCMP Complaints Commission

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In November, 1992, the RCMP Complaints Commission released a report on the complaints laid against the RCMP by Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds. I am sure no one in this House will forget the heart-wrenching story of the abuse and humiliation that this sexual assault victim suffered at the hands of the Northwest Territories justice system.

The RCMP Complaints Commission report makes it very clear, for anyone who may have doubted, that our justice system is failing the needs of the victims. The system simply does not care.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see that the report has exposed some of the lack of consideration and insensitivity that victims have to face, especially when they happen to be women of aboriginal descent.

Mr. Speaker, the process took far too long. Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds was assaulted in her home in June of 1990. Her ordeal at the hands of the criminal justice system continued through August and September of 1990. She complained, by letter, to the RCMP in October of 1990, yet the commission to inquire into the complaints was not constituted until January of 1992, nearly one and a half years later. By the time the report was issued, over two and a half years had passed since the incident occurred. Mr. Speaker, this delay demonstrates that the rights of victims do not have any priority. This attitude must change.

I also have serious reservations about the process used to inquire into the treatment of Ms. Nowdluk Reynolds. The justice system is failing miserably to meet the needs of aboriginal people. I do not think anyone needs to read the formal report to recognize that. The review of the system, once again, uses an adversarial court like process. This is not the aboriginal way to resolve issues. As my honourable colleague for Baffin Central pointed out to the former...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Gargan, your allotted time has elapsed.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to complete my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. As my honourable colleague for Baffin Central pointed out to the former Minister last June, a victim testifying before the complaints commission could find the review process even more stressful

than the trial itself. When this was raised last June, the former Minister of Justice stated he would be willing to direct the department to evaluate the RCMP Complaints Commission process once it had been concluded. Nearly one year later this evaluation is even more crucial.

The federal government is now apparently giving some consideration to combine the complaints commission with the RCMP internal review committee, as a cost-saving measure. The territorial government must step in now to represent the views of aboriginal people on the RCMP review process before things go from bad to worse.

Mr. Speaker, there is much talk about re-designing the justice system to make it relevant to the needs of aboriginal people. A complete overhaul of the RCMP Complaints Commission must be included in this process. It is time to see some action.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to be addressing this whole issue of justice of the aboriginal people. Thank you.

---Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Globe & Mail Article Re Current State Of Legislative Assembly

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An article appeared on the front page of the Globe & Mail, yesterday, written by Miro Cernetig who has been following the workings of our Legislature for some time now. I know that many of his comments upset people because some of the non-aboriginal people tend to be cast in the mould of the "continually critical" of the consensus form of government that we have in the Northwest Territories.

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Mr. Speaker, I have been interested in our development for the last 30 years, beginning with the Carruthers Commission and the travel in the eastern Arctic in the mid 60s. Now that I am in political office, I value my freedom of speech and the right to express my opinion on situations in our system.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that we are in the process of evolution, and although I

am seen as one of the strong proponents of party politics, I would like to make it absolutely clear that party politics, as it exists in this country, is not in good shape. I am not in favour of any kind of system where a party dictates every single thing you say, every movement you make because it is, in my opinion, as inconsistent with the idea of being a representative of people. That is fundamental to our system of government, we represent people. Although what we have now has its weaknesses, I see us evolving in a way that is consistent with the idea that we are represented by people and that we are not controlled by big, large, powerful interest groups. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Statements In Globe & Mail Article On Current State Of Legislative Assembly

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that certain comments I made in the Globe & Mail article, tabled yesterday, have given offence to some Members. My comments were intended to describe what I saw as a spirit of antagonism, intolerance and ill-will in this House that has rarely been seen before and that has surprised and disappointed many of our constituents through the Northwest Territories.

If we search our hearts, most of us have felt the negative forces. Perhaps, my own very painful experience while attempting to be a Member of Cabinet in this 12th Legislature has coloured my view of the situation. Perhaps I was too candid in suggesting that some of the undercurrents swirling beneath the surface are rooted in racial intolerance. Undoubtedly, I have offended those who are least deserving of those comments. However, Mr. Speaker, even though in my view it is battered and bleeding, as I once described myself as a Minister, I still believe in the spirit of consensus government which I saw working so well in the 9th to the 11th Assemblies. I certainly do not believe in the quick fix of political parties suggested by some observers. I am aware that Members of the western caucus have been working hard recently under the guidance of Mr. Koe as chair, and making good progress on a new Committee of Western Political Leaders to plan for the constitutional future of the western territory. I know

that this work has the full support of Mr. Kakfwi, as the responsible Minister, and the Cabinet. I am looking forward to hearing the results of this work and discussing the report of the Commission on Western Constitutional Development during this session.

I also welcome the initiative of the government to sponsor a strategy session between MLAs and Cabinet to discuss, among other things, the issue of consensus government and how it can be improved. I believe that the people of the Northwest Territories expect us to confront and openly discuss this difficult issue. I do not think we should pretend that everything is all right. I hope the work of the Committee of Western Political Leaders and the joint strategy session goes well. These are encouraging developments in the spirit of tolerance, cooperation and hard work, which I believe all of our constituents expect and deserve from our Legislature. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Member's Statement On Delay Of Speaker's Ruling On Point Of Order On February 22, 1993

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the topic on the point of order that I raised yesterday was discussed in the Ordinary Members' Caucus. We had very much hoped that a ruling would have been made today. The Members of the Ordinary Members' Caucus agreed that the language used by the Minister of Housing yesterday was inappropriate, and will not be tolerated by Members on this side of the House.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate you are unable to make a ruling on my point of order of yesterday. I am not, by any means, challenging your procedures. However, I do not feel I am an irresponsible Member. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, until a ruling is made, I have decided to leave this House in a form of protest. I want you to be aware, and Members to be aware, that I contemplated the idea of moving to adjourn the proceedings of this House, however, I do not feel it is in the best interest of the public. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I would like to remind Members that it is very important to remember that the Speaker must remain impartial. The Speaker must be allowed to take the time to deliberate on a decision, enough time that he thinks is necessary to give a proper decision. The Speaker cannot be seen to be, or be intimidated by the views of individual Members or blocks of Members. So, the Speaker will make the decision in due course and the Speaker's decision will not be affected by any of the concepts put forward here or anywhere. Thank you.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Cruise Missile Testing In The NWT

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because I want to talk about cruise missile testing in the Northwest Territories. Honourable Members will know that for several years the Government of Canada and the United States have had an agreement to test cruise missiles in northern Canada. There are no warheads on these missiles, I am told. They are unarmed and are only being tested. However, these missiles fly through Dene airspace in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, I have talked to people who are in the bush on their trap lines and they have seen these missiles fly above the trees. They

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are followed by B-52 bombers. From the way they described it, it was a very awesome and astonishing sight.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I am opposed to cruise missile testing and I am also opposed to war. Last January I saw the coverage on television which showed how cruise missiles were used in the war in Iraq. I saw how destructive these cruise missiles could be. I saw on television where they wiped out a hotel and a bomb shelter. We were not allowed to see all the destruction that was caused by these cruise missiles. In both cases, there were pictures of Iraqi people who were bleeding, including women and children. I had troubled feelings in my heart, Mr. Speaker. I felt like the Northwest Territories had contributed to that destruction by allowing those missiles to be tested in the air over our traditional lands.

I am still troubled today, Mr. Speaker. The 1983 pact between Canada and the United States which allows cruise missile testing over the Mackenzie Valley, is about to expire. However, last week Ottawa announced that it will be renewed for another ten years. Mr. Speaker, I am sure you recall that three previous Legislative Assemblies have passed motions expressing their opposition to continue with cruise missile testing in the Northwest Territories. My predecessor, Nick Sibbeston, and my honourable colleague from Deh Cho have spoken out in the House many times against using the peaceful north as a testing ground for these war machines.

I truly hope that our Premier and her Cabinet make these views known to our federal counterparts in Ottawa. I think all northerners would be very interested in knowing more about the process that surrounded the decision to involve the Northwest Territories in further testing of the cruise missile. Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Ms. Mike.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 259-12(3): Support For Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a reply to Mr. Antoine's question on Thursday, February 18, 1993.

Funding for non-insured health benefits for alcohol and drug treatment outside the Northwest Territories is provided, in full, by federal government contribution dollars. This program has had a financial ceiling on it for the last two years. Funding for this contribution agreement has been fully utilized before the end of each fiscal year.

The contribution agreement clearly states that this funding is provided solely for the treatment of the chemically dependent person. Unfortunately, this fund cannot be used to provide services for non-addicted family members.

While there is currently no family treatment available in the Northwest Territories, the Department of Social Services is currently reviewing options to consider the

provision of family treatment services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 307-12(3): Cause Of Power Outage

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, last evening at approximately 11:56 p.m., we had a total outage in the city, with the exception of places that had their own generating station. This is the second outage, Mr. Speaker, in two weeks. What was the cause of this outage?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 307-12(3): Cause of Power Outage

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, in addition to what was broadcast over the news, at 23:51 on February 22, a total system outage to the Yellowknife/Snare system did occur. Relaying indicated a phase to ground fault on the Nerco feeder. Subsequent line patrol located a location where wire had been thrown over the circuit. The power was restored at 12:25 a.m. Mr. Speaker, this matter is presently under investigation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 307-12(3): Cause Of Power Outage

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I regret I did not listen to the news, so I did not get that last part from the news. The previous outage was not quite as long, Mr. Speaker. I think the public is quite concerned, as the public in the whole of the Northwest Territories should be concerned, when there is an outage within their community. Is it mechanical or weather? We have

enjoyed many months of trouble-free service. It causes a great deal of concern when all of a sudden, within a matter of a short time, we have two outages. Is the cause of the previous outage known? Can the Minister share this information with us?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 307-12(3): Cause Of Power Outage

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member did ask a question on the previous outage, and I did not receive any information from the NWT Power Corporation. However, I will take this into consideration, find out what happened and report back tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

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Question 308-12(3): Cruise Missile Testing In The North

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Premier. Like many northerners, Mr. Speaker, I was annoyed to learn that a ten year agreement had been renewed between Canada and the United States to allow more testing of the cruise missile over the Mackenzie Valley. I am not satisfied with this, Mr. Speaker. I was further annoyed by the silence from our government. Can the Premier indicate whether the Government of the Northwest Territories had any input into the decision to finalize this deal between the federal government and the United States? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 308-12(3): Cruise Missile Testing In The North

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, over the last number of years there have been several initiatives to have the voice of the

Northwest Territories, on behalf of its people, be heard. The former Government Leader had endeavoured to have this relationship considered on a discussion paper. In October, 1991, the Department of National Defence responded to the discussion paper, which we did send in, regarding the ongoing negotiations to determine measures which can contribute to world peace. They said it did not include the establishment of a circumpolar zone of peace and security. The federal government considers cruise missile testing and low level training missions in the north as an important contribution to NATO's defence capabilities.

Canadian Armed Forces will continue to maintain considerable air and sub-surface surveillance to reinforce Canadian sovereignty in the north. National Defence is committed to working with the Government of the Northwest Territories respecting its military activities in the Northwest Territories and has established a new directorate in Ottawa to assess the environmental, economic, social and community relations impact of defence activities. Changing the national/international circumstances are contributing to an ongoing review of the Canadian military's mandate and future direction. As Minister Campbell's recent announcement demonstrates, this review produces decisions even though United States administration has only been in office for a few weeks. A letter has been sent, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Defence Campbell expressing the Government of the Northwest Territories' concern about the absence of advanced consultation on recent cruise missile testing missions and notification of the decision to renew the agreement. Mr. Speaker, we were not consulted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 308-12(3): Cruise Missile Testing In The North

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is sad to see that people of the Northwest Territories are powerless to influence what happens in the skies over their own homeland. The Premier knows that the people of the Northwest Territories, many times in the past, have passed motions in previous Assemblies and that we do not favour testing of these destructive missiles. Can she explain why her government did not take a more

forceful position in making these views known, before this agreement was renewed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 308-12(3): Cruise Missile Testing In The North

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I feel that the previous Minister did take a forceful position by preparing a position paper to be presented to identify the areas of concern which have been put forward and the need to look at the north in a circumpolar concept, and deciding on future policy and strategic military decisions. Mr. Speaker, we certainly did anticipate or expect to be consulted, be knowledgeable and be told about any reinstatement. Even though we did receive an October, 1991, response to our draft paper, we did feel that there would be some honour and respect paid to the concerns of Northwest Territories' residents and that we would continue to try to agree on a set of guidelines which would satisfy the residents. Mr. Speaker, in the relationship with the Department of National Defence, as the honourable Member knows, this particular segment of the Government of Canada tends to have a very insulated activity mandate where they do not really like interference on the mandate of what they call "peace and security." Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that we would have a detailed response in reply to the response from the Department of National Defence on our issue paper for November, 1993. I hope the honourable Member knows that, as Government Leader, I am fully aware of the issues which this House has raised and the position which people feel in regard to having no involvement and no input into terms of particular cruise missile testing and military activity. However, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to try to press for recognition, and we will do this in any way we can. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 308-12(3): Cruise Missile Testing In The North

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At Expo in Vancouver and in Seville, the people of the Northwest Territories have tried to show the rest of the world how we live in

a peaceful homeland with traditional values. Also, we are trying to build economic links with countries where previous traditional relations have been poor, such as Russia and former communist countries of eastern Europe. I am concerned that the decision to renew this agreement will show other countries that we are the home of the cruise missile. This is not an image I think the Premier should be proud to present. It is not a very good image. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister agree to meet immediately with the Honourable Kim Campbell, federal Minister of National Defence, to express our displeasure with this agreement? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 308-12(3): Cruise Missile Testing In The North

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I have sent a letter to the Honourable Kim Campbell requesting a meeting to

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review the substantive issues related to military activity in the Northwest Territories. This letter has been written. We have had an acknowledgement, but no date set. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome in the gallery, Bertha Allen, the president of the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Mr. Gargan.

Question 309-12(3): Medical Counselling And Information Services For Women

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. Honourable Members will recall that in June of 1992, the abortion service review committee submitted its report to the acting Minister of Health, the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea. This report was subsequently tabled in this House. The Minister will recall that the review

committee made a number of recommendations that responded to various problems raised at that time. I understand that, with respect to medical care and the complaint procedure, the recommendations have been addressed. However, I am interested in the recommendations that suggest improvements in the information counselling and education services available to women. Can the Minister advise the House whether policies and programs that address each issue are now in place?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 309-12(3): Medical Counselling And Information Services For Women

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will provide the information and the policy to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Microphone turned off)

MR. SPEAKER:

That was not taken as notice. I have said many times, I have to take it as notice verbally. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 309-12(3): Medical Counselling And Information Services For Women

MR. GARGAN:

The review committee found that patients who are given an accurate description of the intended treatment will experience less anxiety and, as a result, less pain. Can the Minister indicate whether she has requested management of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital to periodically review case files to ensure that patients are provided with this information?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take his question as notice and provide the Member with more information at a later date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 310-12(3): Environmental Assessment Projects

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. In 1992, when I was an ordinary Member, I brought an issue up in the House regarding funding provided to Sanikiluaq for environmental assessment projects. Some communities in Nunavut were also given funding to do environmental assessment projects. They will hold public hearings. Could the Minister of Renewable Resources update me as to what has been happening in that area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 310-12(3): Environmental Assessment Projects

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be able to table the report regarding the environmental assessment projects. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 310-12(3): Environmental Assessment Projects

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary to my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Since the environmental committees have been provided by the Department of Renewable Resources, should the Minister be thanked for providing the funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 310-12(3): Environmental Assessment Projects

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding my involvement with Sanikiluaq and the Keewatin committees, when they wanted an environmental assessment panel, I applied for funding from the federal government, funding that would be used by Sanikiluaq and other communities. My department will coordinate any presentations by our government at the environmental assessment hearings in regard to the hydro project in northern Quebec. However, at the hearing, I am not really involved. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 311-12(3): Revenue Generated By Staff Housing Strategy

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Can the Minister of Finance advise how much revenue this government will generate in the 1993-94 O and M budget by implementing the new government staff housing strategy?

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 311-12(3): Revenue Generated By Staff Housing Strategy

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I think it was somewhere in excess of \$5 million. Now, there has been a setback, Mr. Speaker, that would have to be taken off, so I think there is \$3 million to be gained. I will check those numbers and confirm them tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 311-12(3): Revenue Generated By Staff Housing Strategy

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise us how much savings of expenditures will result by the government getting out of the staff housing business?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, we are not looking at getting out of the staff housing for a savings, per se. There is a great deal more to it than that. There will be savings to us. I cannot give you those numbers. It depends on the number of houses we sell, the areas that we sell those houses in and the price that we get for those houses. Cabinet is approaching selling our houses for a different reason. It is to get an economy and home ownership going in communities, to get people investing in equity which is ownership of physical structure, as opposed to just paying rent out constantly and having nothing to show for it at the end of a period of time. I will go back and see if we have any long-term numbers crunched, Mr. Speaker, and bring them back to the House. I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 312-12(3): Classification Of Drivers' Licences

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. There is a problem that has been ongoing in my community. A driver's licence has to have a picture of the person on the card. The people who have taken the driving test have their own numbers. Once the driver's licence has been sent to Yellowknife and it has been sent back, they always categorize it as class five. I wonder why there is a different classification after it has been returned from Yellowknife. They send it off as a class three and it is returned as a class five.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know. I will have to ask the department why. It does not seem to make any sense to me why it is determined in Resolute Bay as a class three, and it comes to Yellowknife as a class five. I would have to check with the department and get back to you. I will take it as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

Well done, Mr. Todd. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister will surely know, on January 27 and 28, I was in Inuvik with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. At that time, Mr. Speaker, we had a chance to visit the Inuvik hospital and we visited with Ms. MacDonald, the acting CEO for the health board and the senior management team. They provided my colleagues and I with an excellent tour of the facilities, they are quite impressive. I must say that I was a bit dismayed and concerned to learn about the current state of the X-ray equipment in the Inuvik hospital. Mr. Speaker, it is obsolete and it is very old. It is so old you cannot get parts for it. The assessment I get is that it is not only old, but dangerous. The only way the hospital is allowed to use it is to take special precautions for the patients and also for the technicians who use it. I have discussed this matter with my colleague prior to raising the question, but I would like to ask the Minister, recognizing that the radiation protection branch has raised safety concerns about the X-ray machine and has told the hospital that it must be replaced by August of 1993, is the department planning to replace this equipment and, if so, how is the Department of Health going to pay for this major capital item?

MR. SPEAKER:

That was two questions, Mr. Whitford. Would you like to ask one question?

Question 313-12(3): Replacement Of X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first question will be, is the department planning to replace this equipment?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 313-12(3): Replacement Of X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Inuvik regional health board has three x-ray units: a primary unit - Picker 6X-650 with starlight Fluoroscopy; a secondary unit - Picker K-300; and a portable unit - Hitachi DGC-100. We are planning to replace that sometime down the road. It will be replaced with a new unit in the proposed new health facility when it is built.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 313-12(3): Replacement Of X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I took great care in pointing out that this equipment is old. It is not only old but it is dangerous. I am concerned as to how long this equipment is going to be in use under these conditions. I still have not heard a date when this X-ray unit is going to be replaced.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

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Further Return To Question 313-12(3): Replacement Of X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will be replaced in approximately five years.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 313-12(3): Replacement Of X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

MR. WHITFORD:

Mr. Speaker, at a later date I will be talking about the effects of radiation on people, but it alarms me that the operators of this equipment and the patients have

to wait for five years before this is replaced. I would like to know if the Minister can assure me that she will look into the specific instance, familiarize herself with it and be able to see if she could have her department replace this before the date that was specified for replacement, by August?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To 313-12(3): Replacement Of X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The representatives from the Department of Health, the Inuvik regional health board and Department of Government Services and Public Works will be meeting on February 25 to 26, 1993, to develop options and prepare a plan of action for replacing the X-ray unit at the Inuvik regional hospital.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 313-12(3): Replacement Of X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the radiation protection branch has raised this concern as I indicated earlier. They said it must be replaced by August of 1993. Will the study be undertaken and done by August of 1993?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 313-12(3): Replacement of X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize this X-ray unit has to be replaced, but at the same time, the electrical wiring cannot handle this type of machine. Even if we could replace it by August 1993, up until the time DPW goes to Inuvik and makes the assessment on the electrical wiring on the hospital, we would not be able to replace it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 314-12(3): Delay For X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, the X-ray machine in question is going to be condemned by May of this year. The estimated cost to renovate the rooms is about \$900,000. Why should the hospital have to wait until the department gets their act together. Why can the department not act now?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 314-12(3): Delay For X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have just stated in responding to Mr. Whitford's question, representatives from the Department of Health, the Inuvik regional health board and the Department of Government Services and Public Works will be meeting February 25 to 26, 1993, to develop an option and prepare a plan of action for replacing the X-ray unit at the Inuvik regional hospital. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 314-12(3): Delay For X-Ray Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this Assembly, during the last capital budget session, a motion was passed recommending that the planning for a new health facility in the Inuvik region be started at the beginning of this fiscal year. What is the department doing to start the planning for a new health facility in the Inuvik region?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice and get back to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 315-12(3): Temporary Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Health regarding the antiquated radiation equipment in the Inuvik hospital. Because my colleague and I have raised this issue and it has been raised in the past by people who know about safety and the concerns they would have, not only for the patients, but also for the operators, given the state and condition of this equipment, will she instruct her department to look into this potential safety hazard and take steps to put temporary equipment into this hospital to protect patients? Will the Minister assure this House that she will look into temporary equipment?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 315-12(3): Temporary Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated earlier, representatives from the Department of Health, Inuvik regional health board and the Department of Government Services and Public Works will be meeting February 25 to 26, 1993, to develop options. Up until that date, I cannot provide you with any more information.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 315-12(3): Temporary Equipment At Inuvik Hospital

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to belabour the point, but my colleagues and I are concerned that if a point is raised about the safety to the public, the question to the Minister is whether or not she is going to immediately do anything. I realize it is not that far

off when these departments will be looking at this issue, but by the time you write the report, there are X-rays being taken daily, and given the concern about the safety of the staff and patients, is the Minister concerned?

MR. SPEAKER:

You are asking an opinion of the Minister. I think the Minister has answered on three occasions the question that has been asked in a slightly different way. I think that line of question is closed. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 316-12(3): Establishing A Teacher Education Program In The Beaufort/Delta Region

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. In November of 1992, a joint submission was prepared by the Beaufort/Delta board of education, the Inuvialuit social development program, the Gwich'in tribal council and Arctic College. This proposal was submitted to the Department of Education to establish a teacher education program in the Beaufort Delta region. As far as I know, they only received acknowledgement of this proposal a few weeks ago from the new Minister. What is the status of this proposal to establish a teacher education program in the Beaufort Delta region?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 316-12(3): Establishing A Teacher Education Program In The Beaufort/ Delta Region

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to indicate to the honourable Member that the status is that we, as a department, supported the proposal. We have submitted it for funding, through the aboriginal language program funding, but we have not yet received indication as to whether it is going to be funded or not, other than to indicate Cabinet is supporting it as a priority.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 316-12(3): Establishing A Teacher Education Program In The Beaufort/Delta Region

MR. KOE:

Who is responsible for the aboriginal language funding?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 316-12(3): Establishing A Teacher Education Program In The Beaufort/Delta Region

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, if I could clarify that particular matter, the actual responsible agent is through the Government Leader's office. However, I want to indicate to the honourable Member that all the submissions which have received approval and support require a meeting between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government to agree on the priorities and expenditure of the funding that has been allocated under the languages agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. We have supported the submission, now it is a matter of an agreement between the two parties.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Koe. New question, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Patterson next.

Question 317-12(3): NWTPC Finances Affected By Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, if the government's new long-term staff housing strategy is implemented July 1, 1993, some 1,800 staff housing units will change their status from government housing to a private residence and thereby subsidized rates for the purposes of billing power to each one of those units. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, will this change of categories for these 1,800 or so units affect the revenues of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 317-12(3): NWTPC Finances Affected By Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 317-12(3): NWTPC Finances Affected By Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

In preparing for this budget session I would expect, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister has calculated the impact of this revenue adjustment. Could the Minister provide this House with an estimate of what precisely this revenue change will be on the Power Corporation's revenues in the coming fiscal year?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 317-12(3): NWTPC Finances Affected By Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, we are not sure yet. It is impossible at this time to calculate. I can give an estimate, but mainly because we do not know how many people are going to take the offer and how many units will continue to be paid, such as nursing stations with various categories of houses. So, we have not done the precise calculations on exactly what the change of revenue would be. It is premature for me to make a guess right now. As you know, the staff housing policy has not been passed through the House. We have some calculations, but I am hesitant to make a guess or a presumption at this time. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 317-12(3): NWTPC Finances Affected By Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear the Minister is somewhat uncertain about the future of this staff housing strategy. I would respectfully suggest to the honourable Minister that there should be no doubt whether employees buy their houses or continue to live in them, as I understand the staff housing strategy as announced by Mr. Kakfwi on February 17 and detailed in his statement, all tenants will pay their own electrical bills as of July 1, 1993. I believe that will put them all on the residential power rate. I would ask the honourable Minister if she would undertake with that information based on that assumption, to inform this House precisely what the revenue impact will be from that change of category, and also whether the loss of revenue that I forecast to the Power Corporation will be passed on to consumers in the form of rate increases across the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 317-12(3): NWTPC Finances Affected By Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, certainly I can try to fine tune the calculations we have now and provide it to the honourable Member. As the Member knows, many of the units we have are very energy inefficient and we know we are going to be making some remedies to that because people will be in the position to demand much more response to upgrading of units because they will be paying their own way in those units. As well, we anticipate people will be more conscious of energy efficiency because they are going to be paying their own bills. There are a number of factors involved.

As for the second question, will we provide the statistics we have, yes, I am prepared to do that. Secondly, will the shortfall require a rate increase and will that be passed on to the consumers? Mr. Speaker, any rate increase that the Power Corporation advocates in seeking has to go through the Public Utilities Board which assesses whether

there is a requirement for such. If there is a requirement for such, yes, that does get passed on to the consumer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question 318-12(3): Framework For Advisory Committee On Housing

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Members will recall that earlier in the 3rd session, the Minister sponsored a bill which eliminated the board of directors for the Housing Corporation. Members will also recall that serious reservations were expressed about the loss of community input into housing policies. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the first time the bill was introduced in this House it was defeated at second read, but it got passed in December only because the Minister provided the standing committees and the rest of the House with his personal assurance that he would establish a special advisory committee on housing comprised of a working group of MLAs. Because of that, Members of this House passed the bill earlier on in December, Mr. Speaker. Since then, Mr. Speaker, Members have not heard a word from the Minister about his plan to establish this advisory committee. My question to the Minister today is how can he explain the delay in meeting his commitments to establish a framework for an advisory committee on housing?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 318-12(3): Framework For Advisory Committee On Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As instructed by the Members of SCOF to establish a framework for an advisory committee on housing, that has pretty well been done now. I will be taking it to Cabinet this week and then I will write to the chairman of caucus to see if I can get it on the caucus agenda for next week. It is basically done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 318-12(3): Framework For Advisory Committee On Housing

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the Minister. Mr. Speaker, I know for a fact that the Minister had a plan. He brought his plan to the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions which is chaired by my colleague, Mr. Koe, way back in December, 1992. That is almost three months ago, Mr. Speaker. Fourteen weeks have already gone by since that time. To date, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee requested that the Minister table the terms of reference in this Legislature. When is the Minister planning to do this?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 318-12(3): Framework For Advisory Committee On Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This process has taken some time. I had to go through the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, then present it to SCOF, and I have also had to go through the Standing Committee on Legislation in December. It was passed in December in this House. The work is done and once I get it through the Cabinet I will be presenting it to caucus on next Tuesday's agenda. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 318-12(3): Framework For Advisory Committee On Housing

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not quite answer my question. I asked when he would be tabling the terms of reference for the special committee on housing.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 318-12(3): Framework For Advisory Committee On Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will table the terms of reference once I have advice of caucus. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Last supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 318-12(3): Framework For Advisory Committee On Housing

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the terms of reference and the establishment of the special advisory committee on housing, will the Minister be willing to provide the House with a chronological summary of all the steps he has taken and the dates on which they were taken to establish the committee which he has promised to set up as a replacement to the Housing Corporation board of directors?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 318-12(3): Framework For Advisory Committee On Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 319-12(3): Consultation With Public On Housing Issues

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my honourable colleagues questions to the Minister of Housing, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear we are on the verge of seeing the terms of reference and framework for the advisory committee on housing. Mr. Speaker, as I understand this committee and the other mechanisms which were announced by the Minister in December, they are to replace the Housing Corporation board of directors and they are to be a device for consulting and communicating with the public on important public housing issues. Mr. Speaker, recognizing that

these new mechanisms of public consultation are almost in place, will these new mechanisms be utilized by the Minister as a means of consulting on the changes in public housing rents which have been discussed in this House in recent days? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 319-12(3): Consultation With Public On Housing Issues

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they will be used. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 319-12(3): Consultation With Public On Housing Issues

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, can I take it that the rent increases which the Minister has hinted at in this Legislature during this session will be discussed at the proposed annual meetings in six districts which were described by the Minister

in his commitments made at the time the Housing Corporation board of directors was dissolved?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 319-12(3): Consultation With Public On Housing Issues

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Member said I hinted at rent increases. I also hinted at rent decreases. The terms of reference will be taken to the Cabinet and then I am also going to write to the chairman of caucus to see if I can get it on the agenda. If the terms of reference are agreed to by Members of this House, then this will be the process we will use on any policy or program change or rental structure change. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 320-12(3): Reinstating Assistance For Hunters And Trappers

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Speaker, I believe at one time there was a program called the Special/ARDA which was very popular in the area of providing assistance to the hunters and trappers. It was introduced when the value of fur declined dramatically. This program was very popular and it supplemented the limited income which was derived from other sources. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister undertake to reinstate the program, with a joint agreement between the federal and territorial government? I am wondering if the Minister will approach the federal government to see if the program could be reinstated? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 320-12(3): Reinstating Assistance For Hunters And Trappers

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct, the federal government was involved. I believe it was totally their program. There has been some outcry from people across the territories who miss this program. It was very handy. It was able to provide funds quickly when people wanted to get out on to the land. I will undertake to approach the federal government to see if they will consider reinstating that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 321-12(3): Investing WCB Funds In The NWT

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. I was pleased to hear about the positive outlook for the economic future of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, my question deals with WCB investment policy. The honourable Member will

recall questions have been raised in the past with respect to the investment of WCB funds in the Northwest Territories. Before assuming his portfolio, the current Minister expressed his support for the idea that board funds should be invested in northern construction and development projects, and I expect, Mr. Speaker, that his position is still the same

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today. Mr. Speaker, what has the Minister done to ensure that members who he has appointed to the Workers' Compensation Board are not biased against the idea of investing WCB funds in Northwest Territories initiatives?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 321-12(3): Investing WCB Funds In The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the honourable Member knows well the integrity of the appointments which we made and that the jurisdiction of investment lies solely in the hands of the board. I am confident that jurisdiction will remain where it was before, and where it is now, in the hands of the board.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 321-12(3): Investing WCB Funds In The NWT

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think I questioned the integrity of the present members of the board. I am quite aware of them. I wanted to know what the Minister has done to ensure that they are not biased against this. I think that the record will show that members of his board have stated publicly in early December that there has been a loss of investor confidence in the Northwest Territories as the result of various controversies which have arisen in this Legislature. Mr. Speaker, I was only asking what had he done to ensure that the people were not biased against that. He still has not answered.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 321-12(3): Investing WCB Funds In The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I have not discussed the matter of investment and investment portfolios with old members or new members. Under the legislation, the board has exclusive jurisdiction. At this time, I have said nothing with respect to the investment plans.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 321-12(3): Investing WCB Funds In The NWT

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the WCB has exclusive jurisdiction over investment decisions, but the Minister has been very vocal in the past about support of investing WCB funds in appropriate northern ventures. I would like to know whether he still has a strong feeling toward investment. I want to know if he has done anything to assure the people of the north that the north is a sound place to invest. Mr. Speaker, before I lose my place, I would like to request unanimous consent to extend question period.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Before you respond, Mr. Todd, I just want to remind Members that any statements made by any Member in a former capacity, before that Member was a Minister, are not relevant to the proceedings of this House. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 321-12(3): Investing WCB Funds In The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my former life, as an ordinary Member, I was a strong proponent of northern business and I still am. I want to remind everyone that the financial responsibility lies with the board and they have exclusive jurisdiction over it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 322-12(3): Status Of Teacher Education Program In Beaufort/Delta Region

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader, who I understand is part of the aboriginal language funding group. Can the Government Leader please advise as to the status of the joint submission on the teacher education program for the Beaufort/Delta region?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that we would have had an update last week on where we are with that. We are a bit concerned about the overall cuts in the federal policy. There was an indication that there might be a ten per cent cut in the overall aboriginal language agreement, but I will take the question as notice and see if I can hurry along the reply to some of the questions we have outstanding on that negotiation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 323-12(3): Teacher Recruitment Problems Because Of Housing Policy

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister is aware of a letter of February 1 sent to him by Mr. Joe Enook, chairperson of the Baffin divisional board of education, which noted alarming problems the board is already experiencing with respect to teacher recruitment next year. Mr. Enook, in his letter, states that prospective applicants ask about rent and type of accommodation for teachers. When informed of the rents they will probably pay, they have immediately declined any further interest in a position with our board. The high rents and utilities, coupled with the cost of living, are scaring away many potentially good teachers. We may be left with only those teachers who simply cannot get a job elsewhere. Is the Minister aware of this problem?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 323-12(3): Teacher Recruitment Problems Because Of Housing Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the letter that Mr. Enook wrote. However, I am not aware of those same circumstances existing in other regions.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 323-12(3): Teacher Recruitment Problems Because Of Housing Policy

MR. PATTERSON:

Is the Minister aware of the problem with teacher recruitment recorded by the chairman of the divisional board in the Baffin region?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 323-12(3): Teacher Recruitment Problems Because Of Housing Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the concerns that Mr. Enook wrote. However, I am not aware of any other concerns in other regions. That was a question in addition that you made a remark to.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Is the Minister concerned about the problems outlined by Mr. Enook with respect to teacher recruitment in the Baffin region? Will the Minister be taking any action to deal with this problem?

MR. SPEAKER:

There are two problems with your request. In the first part of your question, you asked for the Minister's

opinion. The second problem I have is that you asked a second question. Mr. Patterson, perhaps you would like to start over again. Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 323-12(3): Teacher Recruitment Problems Because Of Housing Policy

MR. PATTERSON:

I am still learning, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

---Applause

I thank your indulgence. It has been eleven years since I have asked questions in this House. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister be doing anything about this problem reported by the chair of the Baffin divisional board?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 323-12(3): Teacher Recruitment Problems Because Of Housing Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. I have already raised the matter of concern with the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and the Minister of Personnel.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 323-12(3): Teacher Recruitment Problems Because Of Housing Policy

MR. PATTERSON:

What solutions did the Minister of Education recommend to the Minister of Personnel about potentially good teachers apparently being scared away from taking jobs in the Baffin region?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 323-12(3): Teacher Recruitment Problems Because Of Housing Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, I think many of the suggested changes that have been announced by the Minister of Personnel were a result of some of the interventions that I made on behalf of the concerns that were raised. I think they were responsive and will accommodate many of the concerns that the teachers have. I think they will also ensure that there is an acceptable method of resolving some of the additional concerns that individual teachers have with regard to the housing policy. I think it is fair and it is going to be reasonable in solving some of the individual concerns.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 323-12(3): Teacher Recruitment Problems Because Of Housing Policy

MR. PATTERSON:

Is the Minister suggesting that the changes announced February 17 and 18, 1993, by the Minister of Personnel have effectively dealt with the concerns of the Baffin divisional board and that the recruitment problems they have experienced to date will now be over?

MR. SPEAKER:

Again, you are asking the opinion of the Minister, but the Minister may respond. Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 323-12(3): Teacher Recruitment Problems Because Of Housing Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that is an opinion, I am not absolutely certain that it will resolve all issues. I think the honourable Minister indicated he will have his department have discussions with those individuals who have concerns, including those who want to stay in our houses and have encountered problems as a result of the housing initiative that we have undertaken. We will address those particular concerns.

The other point is the changes that have been announced will address some of the concerns. I am not certain if every one will be addressed, but I think that what is clear is that there is an initiative on our part to get out of the responsibility of housing. It is not intended to get out of the responsibility without recognition of our commitment and responsibility to our staff, teachers and all staff in our communities.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 324-12(3): Upgrading Airstrip In Lake Harbour

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I raised a question directed to the Minister of Transportation. We have been requesting an update on our runway in Lake Harbour. I have no idea if our airstrip will be upgraded. I would like to know when the Minister will be able to respond to my question. If possible, I would like to get a response during this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 324-12(3): Upgrading Airstrip In Lake Harbour

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question yesterday raised by my honourable colleague was with respect to lighting, and I did take the question as notice. Hopefully I will have a response for this in the next two or three days with respect to the additional work he feels is required in the Lake Harbour airport. That particular project is currently under review by the department and it is part of the overall strategy to improve airports of that nature. At this time, I do not have the specifics as to when or what exactly would happen with respect to the airstrip. I would be prepared to provide him with that as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 324-12(3): Upgrading Airstrip In Lake Harbour

MR. PUDLAT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know if the Minister of Transportation has ever made a trip to Lake Harbour. In the months of November and December we usually have late flights and I am wondering if the Minister of Transportation can work

towards getting our airstrip upgraded? I am also wondering if the Minister can work towards upgrading the poor lighting on the airstrip, as that has always been a problem. Perhaps it would be better for the Minister to visit our community to see the problems we have been facing with the airstrip.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 324-12(3): Upgrading Airstrip In Lake Harbour

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last time I was in Lake Harbour was in 1975 when I was a local government development officer. I understand...

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Boo.

---Laughter

HON. JOHN TODD:

At that time, I was aware that the current airstrip was only capable of taking Twin Otter flights. I have said to my honourable colleague, I will look at it. We are looking at it as it relates to Lake Harbour and other areas across the territories. Once we finalize the strategy and determine the kinds of dollars that are required, I will report back to the House on it and to the honourable colleague.

He did ask me when I was last in Lake Harbour, gentlemen.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 325-12(3): Annual Meetings Of The NWT Housing Corporation

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. When the Minister decided to eliminate the board of the Housing Corporation, he assured this House that it would not lead to a loss of community input. He told Members, Mr. Speaker, he is going to hold lots of annual meetings in the west, North Slave, South Slave, Kitikmeot, Keewatin and the Baffin. He said he

would even hold more annual meetings, one in every community in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, recognizing that the Minister informed the House that by dissolving the board of directors for the Housing Corporation, he would save about \$630,000 in board costs, does the Minister have a projection of what it is going to cost the government to hold all of these annual meetings?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 325-12(3): Annual Meetings Of The NWT Housing Corporation

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Members of this House expressed a concern on how you are going to have community input into housing programs and policies if you do not have a board of directors. We worked and consulted with Members of this House to develop a process so that the communities can have input into policies and programs of the NWT Housing Corporation. There are housing authorities in every community right now. Those authorities will sponsor an annual meeting in their own community every year. That is straightforward and should be no great cost. I could get an estimate for the Member on that.

Presently there are regional annual meetings to deal with maintenance. What I had suggested was to expand those to not only deal with maintenance, but policies and programs. So there should be no great additional cost to that.

Other than that, we do not have the cost of the advisory committee that was suggested by Members of this House, but as I told the honourable Member for North Slave earlier today, I will be taking a paper to Cabinet tomorrow and writing the honourable Member Mr. Koe as chairman of caucus, a letter requesting this be put on the caucus agenda to be discussed and then table it in the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 325-12(3): Annual Meetings Of The NWT Housing Corporation

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister have a schedule of when these district and community meetings will be held?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 325-12(3): Annual Meetings Of The NWT Housing Corporation

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not want to dictate to the district or the communities when they should have their meetings. It is up to the communities and districts. We have just finished having our eastern and western workshop for the housing contractors to get their input into the new housing designs and make recommendations to the corporation on how we can get better bang for our construction

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dollar. I will be giving Members information on those workshops. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 325-12(3): Annual Meetings Of The NWT Housing Corporation

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not insinuating that the Minister dictate when meetings will be held. I assumed it was a community level process. I assume the Minister and the senior staff of the Housing Corporation would not personally be attending all of these meetings. Recognizing that the track record in dealing with constituents' concerns regarding housing issues, may not be all that great, can the Minister please advise us how concerns from these community and district meetings will be conveyed to senior management so they can deal with the issues?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 325-12(3): Annual Meetings Of The NWT Housing Corporation

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That would be completely up to the community and the region. Usually when people get together, they do make decisions and recommendations.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 325-12(3): Annual Meetings Of The NWT Housing Corporation

MR. KOE:

I know they make decisions and I hope that is why they meet. How will these decisions be conveyed to your senior management and perhaps yourself, so they can be put into new policy developments?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is all part of the paper I will be discussing and tabling in this House. So I will take that question as notice because that is part of the framework.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 326-12(3): Financial Impact On Municipalities From Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, as I understand the long-term staff housing strategy, within the coming year some 1,800 tenants of staff houses in communities in the Northwest Territories will change from the government to the residential rate categories when they start paying their own water and sewer bills. Has the Minister calculated the financial impact on municipalities when staff houses change from government to residential rate categories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 326-12(3): Financial Impact On Municipalities From Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is saying they will not charge for water and sewer until April, 1994. The department's assessment on this issue is preliminary at this point. The thinking of the department is that once user-pay becomes a reality, tenants would have to pay for water and sewage and the amount of water they consume. The thinking at this point is that the costs will go down. The hamlets, villages and municipalities will deliver less water to the houses when the consumers start paying for their own bills. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 326-12(3): Financial Impact On Municipalities From Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, thank you. I understand that water consumption may change when people start paying their own bills. I hope that is the case. My question to the Minister is about the financial impacts. Is it not true, Mr. Speaker, that private residential tenants pay less per litre for water and sewage pick-up than a government client in a community? That is my question, Mr. Speaker, are there going to be less revenues because of a subsidy to the private residential rate from the larger government rate? Will this have a financial impact on the municipalities? Has this financial impact been calculated by the Ministry of Municipal and Community Affairs? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 326-12(3): Financial Impact On Municipalities From Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will partly answer the question now, but I will need more information and time to calculate the financial cost to the government.

The rate for residential water and sewer is based on a formula that the government subsidizes hamlets for water delivery to \$.22 for residential units. That applies to the government units, as well, if they are residential. For commercial, we assist the hamlets and towns to \$.44 per litre. In coming up with a calculation I would need more time, Mr. Speaker, to fully answer Mr. Patterson's question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 326-12(3): Financial Impact On Municipalities From Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

I look forward to the Minister's response, Mr. Speaker. My other related question is whether the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs has calculated the requirements on municipalities. Will there be financial burdens on municipalities associated with billing some 1,800 new customers as opposed to consolidated bills from the Government of the Northwest Territories? Has that impact and those costs been calculated by the department? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

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Further Return To Question 326-12(3): Financial Impact On Municipalities From Changeover Of GNWT Staff Housing

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

No, Mr. Speaker, at the present time, but we will attempt to calculate those. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 327-12(3): Consultations On Mineral Developments

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. It was a nice statement the Minister made today on mineral developments.

--Applause

However, on the last page, in his conclusion, the Minister states, "We are consulting northern stakeholders." Before that he says, "Let me conclude by telling you what we plan to do." By the words the Minister used, "we are consulting" implies they are already doing something. My question is, who are you consulting with?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 327-12(3): Consultation On Mineral Developments

HON. JOHN TODD:

I want to assure my honourable colleague, in preparing the necessary strategy for the Izok Lake proposal and others, I have asked the department, in fact insisted, that all stakeholders involved in this process be involved. To date, it is my understanding we have met with some of the Dogrib people, the Inuit from Coppermine, the NWT Chamber of Commerce and the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce. The process of access is what is important. You cannot develop something as significant as this proposal, or the transportation strategy that I will be talking about later on this week, without ongoing significant input by all the stakeholders. I have insisted that it take place, the department has responded accordingly and will continue to do the same all though the project.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 327-12(3): Consultations On Mineral Developments

MR. KOE:

I am pleased that all the stakeholders are going to be involved. I wonder, has the department hired consultants to do the consulting?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 327-12(3): Consultations On Mineral Developments

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, it is my understanding, in discussions with the deputy minister, that the work is all being done in-house. Consultation and communication with the stakeholders is under way. I will admit it is far from perfect, we are working towards trying to improve the communications. We are trying to get everyone to the table. The specific project at Izok Lake is national in its scope and it is absolutely necessary that we get all northerners behind this project so we can move forward in whatever strategy we develop, particularly as it relates to discussions with the federal government and their financial involvement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 327-12(3): Consultations On Mineral Developments

MR. KOE:

How are you going to determine who the stakeholders are?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 327-12(3): Consultations On Mineral Developments

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think I said when I was running for the Cabinet that I believe in the politics of inclusion, not exclusion. I still believe in that. The door is open. I have discussed it with Mr. Zoe and his particular group. Discussions are under way with the Nunasi Corporation, the Kitikmeot people, and discussions have taken place with the NWT Chamber of Mines and chamber of commerce. The door is open for discussion. I am serious about involving all of the stakeholders. This requires a territorial-wide strategy and support because we are talking about significant federal and territorial financial investment for the betterment of all of the stakeholders.

MR. SPEAKER:

Last supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 327-12(3): Consultations On Mineral Developments

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, the response prompts me to ask a final supplementary. The Minister keeps referring to "we" as doing this or that. The door is open for groups, people and industry to talk and consult. Is there going to be a one window approach? Who do they contact when they want to consult?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 327-12(3): Consultations On Mineral Developments

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, we are in the early stages of developing this strategy. This is what we are trying to do right now. We are trying to make sure the strategy is in keeping with the requirements of all groups, whether it is the aboriginal claimant groups, private sector groups, et cetera. Right now, we are in the early stages of discussion. I guess the department is taking the lead with directions from myself. I have spoken to both Mr. Zoe from the North Slave and Mr. Ningark from the Kitikmeot. I have met with some of the people from Yellowknife. As I have said to you, if there is someone missing in the equation, the table is large enough to bring everyone to the table. We are at the very early stages of developing a strategy as to how we are going to approach this as it relates to the federal government. If we are going to move forward on this proposal, as I have stated in my Minister's

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statement, there is a requirement for significant federal and territorial dollars. I want to make sure, and you have my assurances, that all the stakeholders involved in this venture will be, to the best of our ability, consulted and involved in the development of the strategy. It is not going to be a government-driven strategy. This is going to be a stakeholder-driven strategy.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question 328-12(3): Contact Person For Mineral Development Initiative

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. My question is for the same Minister, the Minister of Transportation with regard to the North Slave Kitikmeot mineral development statement which he made today. I think what my colleague is asking for is who will be the main contact, within your department, pertaining to this initiative?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 328-12(3): Contact Person For Mineral Development Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, we are at the initial stages of this thing. We have not formalized any kind of working committee or group. The door is open. The current contact is Mr. Gamble, the deputy minister. He has been making the direct contacts with the stakeholder groups. I am sure what will evolve, as we move forward in discussions, is a more formal approach to seeking input and dialogue which is absolutely necessary in a project of this nature. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 329-12(3): Standards For Airports In Small Communities

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow-up with a question to the Minister responsible for Transportation with respect to airports. Some time ago, the airport standards were set for building airports in the smaller communities, and particularly in Lake Harbour. It was done under federal jurisdiction. We have since taken this over. That was then and this is now. Many things have changed, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister consider reviewing the standards set for small airports to reflect today's transportation needs?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 329-12(3): Standards For Airports In Small Communities

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am glad the honourable Member asked me that question because in a recent discussion with his colleague to the left of him, he had given me an article in an aircraft magazine which talks about the new up-to-date state of the art navigation aids which are currently being considered in other parts of the world. In discussions with the deputy minister recently, I suggested we take a hard look at the need for evaluating the kinds of navigational aids we have and not only on the Arctic B and C airports, but also on the larger ones. Yes, we are looking all the time, particularly as it relates to safety. As a white knuckle flyer, I am particularly concerned about it. We are taking a hard look at this. As has been suggested by your honourable colleague, Mr. Lewis, we are looking at the new technology which is available. Hopefully in the coming months we will be able to bring a report into the Assembly and advise them of what we should do.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 329-12(3): Standards For Airports In Small Communities

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, perhaps my question was not so much regarding the navigational aids of today's technology, but to the physical facts. Today's planes are faster, the jets and the turbo-props. Some, because of the wing span, have a longer take-off and some are not as capable of stopping as quickly on a shorter runway as they were in the past. This is what I was referring to, the length and width of the runways, and certainly with respect to Lake Harbour. Lake Harbour has a mountain on one end and the ocean and town on the other. It has a bit of a curve to it. It may not be suitable to accommodate today's airplanes and transportation needs. I am not only talking about Lake Harbour but also the other smaller communities. The mechanical parts on the ground as well, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 329-12(3): Standards For Airports In Small Communities

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding the majority of airstrips across the territories are capable of Hawker 748s, which are used in the Baffin, the Kitikmeot and the Keewatin, and in some cases jets. The Lake Harbour situation is somewhat unique, and it has been unique for a long time because the mountains have been there for a long time. There are somewhere close to seven airports right now that perhaps require the kind of upgrading which Mr. Whitford has alluded to. It is my understanding there is an agreement between the federal government and the territorial government in the joint cost-sharing of these airports. It is our intent to move forward to try to upgrade them in accordance with the federal-territorial joint agreement in the next three, four, or five years. I believe this is reflected in the capital budget. The Lake Harbour situation is a unique situation and we are going to try to address that in the coming months.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 330-12(3): Responsibility For Ensuring Workplace Safety

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of all of the questions which have been asked this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, the one which still leaves me with grave concerns is about the exposure of people to faulty x-ray equipment in the hospital in Inuvik. I have a question for the Government Leader. Who in our government is responsible for making sure that people work in a safe environment? Safety and security of our people is a major concern. Who is responsible for making sure people

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who work in a place, and the people who get service in a place are, in fact, not exposed to undue risk?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 330-12(3): Responsibility For Ensuring Workplace Safety

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, occupational health and safety is an area which would have the responsibility for the safety factor. No doubt the Inuvik Health Board would have

been consulting with the occupational health and safety unit to determine how they can use the unit and to what degree is it safe. My understanding from the question is that there has been a determination that this unit can be used in a certain way. That would be the responsibility of Mr. Todd under his ministerial responsibility.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 330-12(3):
Responsibility For Ensuring Workplace Safety

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the department responsible for safety and health, have they done any calculations on the number of people who are exposed to this potential risk in that hospital?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice and deal with the appropriate Minister with a full report tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 331-12(3): Funding For Tourism Training Group

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in committee of the whole, when dealing with the Economic Development and Tourism budget, I raised some questions about tourism training. In one of the Minister's responses, I quote from the unedited transcript, "They told us that some of this stuff has gone to pathways and, of course, this is a community administered program so some of these things may be addressed through pathways." Pathways, as I understand, provides up to ten per cent of its funding on any specific project for administration. The tourism training group in the Northwest Territories is a group that coordinates tourism training for all operators and it includes a volunteer board with one paid employee. What support is this government giving to the tourism

training group to continue their initiatives to develop the growing tourism industry?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 331-12(3): Funding For Tourism Training Group

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, we were asked to write to the federal government and express our concern at the loss of these funds. We have done that. It does not seem that the federal government is willing to reinstate the program. We were advised that the money that was used for that program went to pathways, or part of it went to pathways. At the present time, short of putting more political pressure on the federal government, Mr. Speaker, we are sympathetic to the industry because of their loss of revenues, but are unable to do anything because of our own financial situation, Mr. Speaker. I am prepared to sit down and talk with the industry, but I believe the funding is in excess of \$1 million and that is hard to scratch up these days. We will continue to express our concern to the federal government and by all means sit down and talk to the people in the tourism training group, but we cannot come up with \$1 million to do that training ourselves. It is another example of federal off-loading and hope that we are going to fill the void. Unfortunately, we are unable to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 331-12(3): Funding For Tourism Training Group

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the department provide any direct funding to the tourism training group?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 331-12(3): Funding For Tourism Training Group

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I will have to check on that. Maybe we can address it in committee of the whole this afternoon when dealing with Economic Development and Tourism's budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 332-12(3): School Boards In Communities

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am directing this question to the Minister of Education. Although I appreciate his answers, the question was not completed. Some of the concerns of the communities are going to be addressed by the school board. Have they made any decisions as to how much of an effect they are going to have on school boards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 332-12(3): School Boards In Communities

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

I am not absolutely clear on the question. Perhaps in the supplementary the honourable Member can reiterate. I would just indicate to the honourable Member that we are still working with the school boards to develop a strategic plan, in conjunction with delivering programs and services to their communities. We are also developing a long-term strategic plan. We are trying to take into consideration the changes and needs of the students and parents in the communities with regard to education services.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Koe.

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ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 20-12(3): Costs And Savings To Be Realized From Staff Housing Policy

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I have a written question to the Minister of Finance.

1. What revenue will be generated by the GNWT in 1993-94 by implementing the new staff housing strategy;

2. What savings will result from the GNWT getting out of the staff housing business;

3. How many person years are going to be reduced from the budget because of the staff housing strategy, from what departments and from which region?

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, written questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 21-12(3): Disposal Of DEW Line Site And PanArctic Oil Garbage

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question to the Government Leader. We were at a meeting of the Canadian Armed Forces regarding the DEW Line site cleanup, and they indicated that they would bury the debris surrounding the site and have contracted PanArctic. They have been informed by the federal government not to bury the debris underground when they do the cleanup of the site.

I would like to ask the Government Leader why, when they are going to be cleaning up the site, they have different strategies to bury the surrounding debris in that site? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

We will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to call the House back to order. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, replies to budget address. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have scratched a few notes in response to Mr. Pollard's budget address,

which he delivered to us on Friday. This is the budget session and we are supposed to take this as the major item of business. So, Mr. Speaker, as I have done on every other occasion, I would like to make a short reply to it.

I think that Mr. Pollard demonstrated to us on Friday how weak we are as a government. We have virtually no room to manoeuvre in raising revenue because of our very low population base. As a result, we have to resort to the usual balance of tax initiatives and expenditure cuts to live within our means. Unfortunately, even the most powerful economies have had to resort to this conventional approach in recessionary times. Because of our low population, however, the emphasis is more on the cutting of services and the redistribution of wealth, rather than on any real significant tax measures.

The payroll tax at one per cent has proven to be controversial, Mr. Speaker, not because of the amount involved, but because it misses the target. To many people the government has created an elephant trap to catch a mouse. In order to hit a target of 3,000 non-residents, everyone is taxed to make it palatable to northerners. Tax credits are then returned to northerners according to levels of taxable income. This means that residents of large centres such as Fort Smith and Yellowknife would bear the cost of the system. Although references are made to the economy in the budget, Mr. Speaker, nowhere do I see an expanded economy and the creation of greater wealth as a solution to our fiscal problems. We will continue to see the usual measures of adjusting the formula funding of cutting benefits and services and tinkering with minor tax initiatives as the way to go.

We continue to be narrowly focused and we will continue to be cursed by this unless we get away from the one track approach to our economy. We seem determined to resist the creation of a genuine private sector. We have not felt the recession the same as other Canadians because we really have an artificial economy completely dominated by the government and we do not seem to want to get away from it.

If Mr. Siddon is sincere about giving us the tools to secure our economic independence, this would be a far more significant tool to secure our future than any minor changes to the formula funding arrangement that we currently have.

Even though we have, in my opinion, a third world economy with very little generation of wealth, I had hoped to see some indication that we were ready to create the conditions for genuine economic development. The \$6 million for training looks good but it is a one-time expenditure and human resources, unfortunately, cannot be developed in one year. It takes much longer than that. I see a great need to attract capital and to create wealth. To do this we need a stable political system where there is public confidence and certainty about the rules for development. We have talked about the need for infrastructure. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for infrastructure, to the level we would like to see, still rests with the federal government and we are still very dependent on someone else's vision of how this part of the world is going to develop.

The key issues of human capital development, investment and infrastructure go beyond, I realize, what Mr. Pollard has addressed in his budget. If we accept that the generation of wealth, the creation of a bigger pie and an expanded economy are the only real significant sources of new revenue and that we need new powers from the federal government, we must put our political house in order to inspire confidence among investors.

I think Mr. Pollard has done a credible job in meeting the realities of reduced funding from the federal government and also he has attempted to tinker with ways in which we can reduce some of the benefits which people have had in the Northwest Territories for a long period of time. The big problems we have to resolve go beyond what we can expect him to address in his budget address to us. I believe the solution, in the long run, is the creation of economy and the creation of greater wealth, not just simply cutting services and trying to find a few million in taxes. It is a far greater problem than that. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Item 9, replies to budget address. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Petition 11-12(3), signed by 192 tenants of the Taloyoak housing association, and it is prefaced with the following.

"To the territorial government and the MLA overseeing the community of Taloyoak, NWT, we the undersigned tenants of the Taloyoak housing association strongly oppose the proposed changes to the present rent scale. We cannot afford any increases which are planned, and ask you as our elected representative to take immediate action to ensure no changes take place for the public housing tenants of this community." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table three letters as one document. Tabled Document 56-12(3), a letter from Bill Thrasher and Angela Blatt who are expressing their concerns about the effect the government's housing strategy will have on them; and a letter from Steven Lawson who is expressing his concern about the long-term staff housing strategy; and, a letter from Michael Conway expressing his extreme displeasure with the government's recent housing strategy.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 57-12(3), a copy of a letter to the director of the Kitikmeot board of education from the staff of Quqshuun Ilihakvik in Gjoa Haven concerning the government's housing strategy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 58-12(3), a letter from Mr. Duncan Cunningham the chairperson of the Iqaluit education

council, expressing the council's concerns over the government's long-term staff housing policy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 17-12(3): Appearance By Members Of Commission For Constitutional Development In Committee Of The Whole

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 25, 1993 I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central that the members of the commission for constitutional development be invited to appear as witnesses in committee of the whole during the discussion of their report.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 2-12(3): "The Justice House" - Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality; Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Commercial Tenancies Act; Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act; Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94; 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; Committee Report 11-12(3): Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Main Estimates, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The committee will now come to order. When we concluded yesterday in committee of the whole, we were discussing Economic Development and Tourism, and when we concluded Mr. Zoe had the floor. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I recommend we continue on with general comments on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence of the committee that we continue on with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism budget? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department of Economic Development And Tourism

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister for Economic Development and Tourism, would you like to bring in the witnesses as you did yesterday?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Sergeant-at-Arms, would you bring in the witnesses?

Thank you. Mr. Minister, for the record would you introduce the witnesses, please?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I have with me Mr. Roland Bailey, the deputy minister of ED&T and also Mr. Jim Kennedy, director of finance for Economic Development and Tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does anyone have any general comments? Mr. Patterson.

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General Comments

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to compliment the Minister and his deputy minister on initiatives I am

aware of to devolve more authority to the regional superintendents and their staff in the regions. I have expressed my frustration openly to a previous Minister and former Cabinet colleague, that I felt decision-making was too centralized in the Minister's office and in the headquarters of this department in Yellowknife, and I am delighted to note a new approach from the Minister and his deputy. I want to say I have confidence in the regional superintendent and staff in the region and I am sure the department will be well served if regional people can be relied on to make more decisions and have more flexibility in the delivery of the department's programs. We will not always agree with their decisions, but at least they are accessible and approachable, with the greatest of respect to the capable people in headquarters, better informed about the priorities and the uniqueness of the region I represent. That is my general comment, Mr. Chairman. It does not require a reply. I wanted to note this change of direction and it is very welcomed to my constituents and myself. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Are there any general comments? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, my comment is not short. One of the obvious things in this year's budget is the limit to which our dollars can go. In all cases around the world where there are limited amount of dollars, the money is directed to improve or create more employment, to create opportunities for business and also to attract, through promotions, people to spend money in the north. Even in the communities where this possibility exists, there is still some difficulty with people getting money to start a business. One of the things which the Deh Cho region and in particular, the Hay River Reserve, would like to do is to get into the banking business, not commercial banking, but the trust company business. In this way they would try to create more opportunity for aboriginal businesses to come into place. At present, most commercial banks do not take chances on businesses for aboriginal people. If they are risky then they will not touch them.

This government invests millions of dollars in to those banks and do not get any kind of return other than what the ordinary customer gets. This government could do much more to try to get a return for the dollars which are spent in the banks.

Mr. Chairman, in most communities if you do not have collateral, you cannot get a loan. The reserve has been working with Peace Trust to try to come up with some kind of a new bank initiative for the aboriginal people. They have land claims money, core funding and regional funding. There are all kinds of monies which are being targeted toward aboriginal people. Even though the banks have benefitted from it, they are not providing any kind of incentive for aboriginal people. The banks have also met with aboriginal people. As recently as two weeks ago, there were all kind of articles in the newspapers on how the banks could offer their services to the communities. Not improved services, just services. This does not tell you much with regard to what they are willing to offer. This is one area which I am concerned about, Mr. Chairman. Most of the money that comes up north ends up in Las Vegas, London or Japan. It does not stay in the north. I think it is time we look at keeping our dollars in the north. This is one way of doing it. If the banking services do not change their attitudes toward the communities, toward the aboriginal people and this government, then we should look at our alternatives for banking in the north.

One of the big things the Minister has made with regard to opportunities up here is in the mining industry, gold, diamonds or staking claims. We could turn the clock back five hundred years and people would still be coming up here and putting a stake in the ground and counting it as their own. I think we should begin looking to create opportunities in the area of exploration. We should also be looking at joint ventures. In my constituency we have been trying to enter into a joint venture with the Inuvialuit development corporation. It has not yet materialized. I do not know what has happened to this since it was discussed. However, those are areas in which I think we should try to create more opportunities.

Mr. Pollard is aware of the fishing industry in the north and some of the problems which both the fresh water fish marketing industry and the Great Slave fisheries are having in trying to create new markets. Something which is happening with regard to the fishermen on the Great Slave Lake is that many of the fish which are not required for market are dumped back into the lake. The wasted fish should be utilized for cat or dog food. I do not think we should be dumping them back into the lake. We should try somehow to create more opportunities for people to make use of the wasted fish.

Mr. Chairman, about a month ago I heard through the media about the high demand for bison meat or

buffalo meat. The only people who are harvesting or have the opportunity to harvest are people through the Peace River bison ranching association. Those people have tapped into a market for which there is a demand. However, other than those people having this opportunity, they are not expanding. There is a shortfall of demand for bison meat. In Fort Providence the herd has expanded to the point where we should allow the community to start harvesting some of the bison. It can be done through commercial license. They should be given the first opportunity to start opening this up to big game hunters. The possibility exists, however, I do not know whether or not this government has explored this possibility.

One of the things I also wanted to mention is with regard to a search of revenue. With regard to a case down south on the reserves, Mr. Chairman, in order for reserves to collect revenue, they have established casinos and gambling centres as a source of revenue. I do not know if this government has looked at that opportunity. Fort Providence is an ideal place for such a facility to be put, since it is in the middle of all the major centres, including Yellowknife, Fort Rae, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith and Hay River. I do not know if it is possible, but it is something that this government should look at to create some revenue. I understand the church has gotten out of the bingo business. Wherever possible, we should try to create revenue. I hope that would be one area in which the government would also explore to create revenue.

I have one final comment. I am still not sure if we have an economic development officer in Fort Providence. The last time I was there, I do not think there was one. I know there

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was talk about putting a position there and they would look at designating the money required for them to put a position in Fort Providence. I do not know if we have one, but perhaps the Minister might be able to enlighten me on that.

Basically, as far as the economics in the north and in my own constituency go, I have touched on every possible avenue that could be looked at. Also, under the business incentive policy of this government, I would hope that the government would look at this. The requirement is for many non-aboriginal entrepreneurs. We may require that, but I would hope that permanent aboriginal residents are not required to register so they could have that added advantage

for opportunities. By virtue of them being aboriginal people should be enough for this government to look at that possibility. There are all kinds of things that this government is doing that is good and which is creating opportunities, but I would hope that, because aboriginal people have been here longer and do not intend to make their millions and then move back south, that they would look at that as an incentive too. That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman. I ask only that the Minister respond to whether or not we do have an economic development officer in Fort Providence.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The competition for the EDO in Fort Providence closed last Friday. The community will be involved in the selection process. We will be entering into an agreement with the community, whereby the community will give that EDO direction. We will be asking the community if that EDO, when he or she is requested to deliver Economic Development and Tourism programs, will be allowed to do that. Mostly, the direction will come from the community. That should be taken care of very quickly, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Are there any general comments on the activity summary of Economic Development and Tourism, on page 15-10? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

One of the objectives of a department, if we look at page 15-7, to implement year two of the musk-ox and caribou harvest for domestic and export sales. Are you only restricting it to those two categories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

In that instance, yes, Mr. Chairman. You will notice that the next one down is with regard to the caribou test harvesting, North Slave, but we are also looking at harvesting in Rankin Inlet as well, in the Keewatin. We would be open to any other group who wants to come to us and suggest they might want to get

involved with the commercial harvest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Are there any other general comments? We will go page by page. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a few general comments on Economic Development and Tourism. The deputy minister is new. He just started last fall. Hopefully, he has a fresh approach to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. In the Fort Simpson area, we have a new superintendent. Hopefully, there is another fresh look at economic development in my particular constituency. We have two new people who were involved in that area before. Hopefully, things will turn around in my constituency. In the constituency I represent, there are a number of small communities. There is nothing going on economically in any one of them. I would like to suggest to the Minister and to his new deputy minister that, if these new people could go into the communities and see what each community really wants to accomplish in terms of economic development from the community level up, this would be a good approach to take in these communities at this present time. It has been frustrating in the past, when I first got elected, that the communities were asking for a number of economic development initiatives, and nothing has happened to date, even though some of the communities have a clear idea of what they would like to accomplish. There has been frustration expressed by some of the members of the communities I represent of Wrigley, Trout Lake, Nahanni Butte and Jean Marie River, on the lack of support from department officials in my region. If improvements could be made, I would really appreciate it.

I want to continue and touch on an area that I am concerned about. It is the area of loans that were passed out. I do not know if this is true for other constituencies, but in my particular area, this was brought to my attention. Over the years and recently, it was stressed that some fairly large companies are in real financial trouble and on the verge of bankruptcy. They attribute this to the way loans have been handled within the department, where loans are given out to different companies with no follow-up. It seems as if there was no infrastructure in place to take care of them after the loans were given out. There are many inconsistencies in this area. It brings

a false sense of security and creates an artificial economy. I think we are having some trouble with some of the companies because of that. It is not only that, the companies themselves have to take some responsibility for the positions they are in. If Economic Development and Tourism gives money out to companies they should have a closer look at them as they go through the years and not wait until they are far behind in their payments before any action is taken.

I would like to suggest that Economic Development and Tourism try to improve people's skills through some sort of an education plan. One specific area that needs developing is improvement in the marketing skills of different people in my region so they can continue on in the type of business they are in. Perhaps this could be done by offering seminars in different areas of the business world. Some of the people who have gotten into business and some of the communities that are attempting to get into development corporations need much developmental work. The ideas are good, the people are willing to work, the possibility of funding is there, but once they get everything going, the financial support and so forth, they need ongoing development. I would like to see that part of the program enhanced, or if it is not there, to develop a program of some sort by Economic Development and Tourism to help people, corporations or communities that want to get involved with economic development. Mahsi. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

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MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am quite pleased with the development that has been taking place, especially in depressed regions such as the Keewatin. I heard the news that the purchase of carvings from Repulse Bay will take place, and that the fish and meat processed in Rankin Inlet has helped the fishermen in this region become actively involved in commercial fishing. I am hoping that more will take place to boost the economy in the small communities so people will be less dependent on government services such as social services, et cetera.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question to the Minister. We have been talking with the region and

headquarters regarding the economic development officer PYs in the Aivilik riding. For example, there is a .5 PY allocated for Chesterfield Inlet, Chesterfield has been serviced by Baker Lake and they are quite happy with that arrangement. We have been told that a full PY would be moved back to Coral Harbour sometime in April, the beginning of the fiscal year. We have also been talking that .5 PY would be moved from Chesterfield to Repulse Bay to replace the PY that is to be put back to Coral Harbour. What is the status of these discussions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, effective April 1, Coral Harbour will have its own EDO, there will be a PY there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about Repulse Bay? Will they lose that PY or has some other arrangement been made?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

The positioning of a PY in Coral Harbour will not affect Repulse Bay, it will remain the same, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. We spent quite a bit of money and also a great deal of time in the last Assembly to try to come to grips with the real nature of our economic problems. It still puzzles me that with only 58,000 people and with a budget of over \$1 billion that we continually still talk about the huge economic problem we have. It should be no great challenge to employ a far greater number of people than we do because we have a very small population. It is tiny.

In the past, and it may be in the nature of the weakness of political systems, each Minister of Economic Development tried to come up with some great scheme, a winner. Economics do not work that way. I was happy to hear some of the comments made, there seems to be a change, instead of trying to come up with some great mammoth scheme that is going to solve all our problems, there is a preparedness to listen to what people really want to do, locally.

Unless you really feel enthusiastic about something, you are really not going to put much work and much money into it. If you have your own dream and you are full of enthusiasm then there is a good chance you will follow through on it. However, if somebody dreams up something in Yellowknife, Ottawa or any other big centre and expects someone to grab it and say, "wonderful, I love your idea" human nature does not seem to work that way. There has to be a far greater receptiveness, if you like, to see what makes sense from the point of view of local people. They are not always right, they may be dreaming, but there is a good chance they will have a good feel for what they want to do, what their capabilities are and the potential for success.

One initiative that has been taken by many people over the last three or four years, and we have not really helped, is setting up some kind of banking system. It was the first recommendation of our committee when we dealt with the economy, we have to try to get people to understand personal economy. Before you can become a very significant part of any economic system, you have to understand the basics of how to handle your own money, what you do with it, and how you use it. For years now we have heard this proposal that we either have a credit corporation or a trust system, but instead of blowing your money on the weekend, you have some place where it is secure. No one can just come up to you and ask for a loan because it is in the bank. It is something you have set aside for some purpose. That is one weakness I see.

There is a great desire and demand to try to do something about banking and we have not responded to it. The federal government has not responded to it either in a way that would at least give us a start to try and get people to understand individual, personal economy. Nothing is going to happen until we get that.

It is all right for local people to say this is what I want to do, but there is a proportion of the small population

that we have, who do not have the necessary skills to do the things they want to do. When they get into a project or enterprise, they suddenly realize there is something they do not have. We have pointed this out for some time. If people want to focus on something that makes sense to them locally, it is not just in terms of what is needed and possible, but also in terms of the abilities they have to be able to pull it off. So I see that as being very significant and very important.

When I was growing up, Mr. Chairman, I was a socialist. That is a terrible word to use in North America. Where I lived everyone was a socialist. They believed that the main job of government was to redistribute wealth, get many other people to make it and then share it around among all the poor people and they would be happy. One of the weaknesses I see now, and I see it right throughout our system, especially in the bureaucracy, is that private enterprise is a dirty word. Those are bad people and they are a little bit smelly, if you are trying to make a dollar. I see that as a huge weakness. I have come 180 degrees around from what I was when I was a young man. I still see some very important social goals that every government has to pursue, but one thing which is missing is that we do not present successful entrepreneurs as role models. I see all kinds of pictures of Mr. Koe and Mr. Zoe, who have been successful in the bureaucracy, good at carrying briefcases and negotiating with the federal government on

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different things, but we do not see people who have dug into the hole and spent countless hours trying to make some money, create some wealth, to employ more people and make more taxpayers. There is nothing dirty about that. It took me about 50 years to figure that out. That is what makes the world turn. These people are a special breed. People who are not really nasty people who just want to make piles and piles of money to blow. They are people who are motivated by the idea that they want to do something. They want to do something they can be proud of because they created it and they can look back and say "Look what I was able to do with my life."

We do not have many of those kinds of people in the Northwest Territories. It is a role model that is missing. I would be prepared to say "Let us create one in every community." Someone who is doing all of this, so that people can see there is a different way of making a living. There are other ways of being

successful and contributing. I am not saying that public service is a terrible thing, it is a wonderful thing to do that. If you want to spend your life doing that, it is a marvellous thing. That is not to deny the people who are going to make the difference in the NWT, people who can grab an opportunity, run with it, create some wealth and employ many people so we no longer have the huge dependence on government that we have had for so long. If we can achieve at least the beginnings of that and get an entrepreneurial spirit going, it will be a major achievement.

People often say, "well, come up with something concrete. We are fed up with hearing all of this talk." Why can we not say, "these are the kinds of people we would like to see in greater numbers." How can we find ways of encouraging people to do the things they want to do in a way that would be of benefit, not only to themselves, but also the people in the Northwest Territories. I am tired of people saying life is carrying a briefcase, going to meetings and using the word "negotiate" all the time. It is not their money they are talking about, it belongs to someone else.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

General comments? Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Lewis has hit the nail on the head. There are two things and it has been something we have been saying for the last year and that is, "there is no point in trying to tell people what you want them to do." If they want to develop an economy, they are going to have to do it themselves and we are going to have to assist them. They are going to have to be happy about what they want to do.

Secondly, the way we are backing that up is by saying in the smaller communities, "you tell the EDO what you want that person to go out and examine for you by way of economic prospects. In return for that we would still like you to deliver our programs to the community."

I think Mr. Lewis is also correct in that lust for profits has not been as apparent as we would like to see it, but I want to tell you Mr. Lewis, that I have recently returned from Fort McPherson, Arctic Red River and Inuvik. I was there to meet with the Gwich'in. Their attitude is "let us make some money. Profit is not a dirty word." So I think we are beginning to see that in the Gwich'in, now that they have settled their claim

and they want to invest their dollars and put their people to work. We are seeing it with the Inuvialuit. It has been there for a considerable time. I think you will see that happen in the Sahtu as well, as people resolve their land claims and become landlords and owners of resources, then they are going to turn to the idea of making use of those resources and that land to make a profit. In each of the cases I have mentioned, those people are saying to us, "we are getting on to the economic stage right now and we want to be part of it."

If you move further down the valley and you get to the Dogrib nation, there is no question that they are out there trying to make a buck. There is that spirit beginning to evolve. As the land claim is signed off and completed with division of the territories, in the east you will see the same kind of thing occur. What we are seeing out there is some very aggressive northerners who want to get into business. That is causing us a bit of a problem. That is they want to get into business and there are already people in the Northwest Territories who are already in the business. For example, the construction industry are feeling threatened by the people who say, "well, we have watched these Yellowknife machines go by our door all the time with some driver from another part of the territories. We have seen the logos on the side of the Yellowknife machines and they are not representative of a company in our area, in fact, we do not own a company. We want part of the action." As these people get involved, they come to us and say, "we want to put our people to work." The rest of the construction industry in the Northwest Territories is saying to me, "hey, what about us? There are too many negotiated contracts." It is a question of balance. There is only one way to make sure that everyone gets a slice of this pie and you said it earlier on today, Mr. Lewis, that is you have to make the pie bigger. That is why, in addition to paying attention to these small things that are going on in communities and the regional issues, we are also, through Mr. Todd and Madam Premier, looking at these large scale developments as well. That is what it is going to take to make the piece of the pie bigger.

You also are correct, Mr. Lewis, when you say we do not have total jurisdiction over all of the things which are in the Northwest Territories, so consequently we do not have total power. This is a very real problem because it does hamper us when we want to see something go on in the Northwest Territories and find out that some agency of the federal government regulates this particular item, and it is not really within

our realm. We see corporations going to Ottawa for one thing, coming to us for another thing, and there is a great deal of confusion. This is another aspect which must be addressed through constitutional development. Certainly, having constitutional development take place in the Northwest Territories is going to lead to a better business climate once businesses understand the rules and regulations. As for the entrepreneurial spirit, it is out there and it is growing. Our job is to find more things for it to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Are there any general comments? Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I have a very brief comment, Mr. Chairman. When I talk about entrepreneurial spirit, I am talking about individuals, an individual who has some kind of vision or idea that he or she wants to pursue. I am not only talking about the various development corporations. They have their own

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structure and their own way of doing business and making decisions, et cetera. It seems to me that what is missing in the Northwest Territories, is that individual who says, "Look I am going to do this," and goes ahead and does it. Perhaps he does it with a small amount of money of his own assisted by whatever system is in place to do it. The way we are going is really cutting the ground from under that particular development.

As far as the other concern about sectors which are already filled, nearly every one of those was filled because one person had a vision, went after it and created it from nothing. That is the challenge. What other people are around who could do exactly what Robinson Trucking has done, for example, where one man started off in the 1960s and created a huge enterprise because of hard work, investment, and everything else that he has made. He was not a rich man, he was a poor man.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Are there any general comments? Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief question for the Minister. In the Northwest Territories there is a committee which oversees economic development. I would like to clarify this question. During the last month there was a person who went into Lake Harbour to set up a bank to assist entrepreneurs. They said they were able to lend this particular person some money to start up a business. He was told that if he did not have sufficient funds to start the business up then they would be able to help him. However, he had a little bit of money to start out with so he was denied the funding. I would like clarification from the Minister as to whether this is in fact true? Do you need to have a certain amount of money to get start-up funding? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, access to GNWT programs varies on whether you are a level I, II or III community. I am not sure of the individual case which the Member is talking about. However, I will certainly have someone take a look at it and meet with the Member to discuss this case. To reiterate, there are varying levels of contributions for business. In the level I communities it would be the highest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Are there any general comments? Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make myself clearer. For instance, if a person is to start up a business there are some programs or special committees which oversee these kind of operations. This person who went to Lake Harbour went around asking if there were any people who were interested in starting up businesses. There was this one person who indicated that he had some interest in it. He talked with the EDO. He was told he would need to have a lower income in order to be eligible for this contribution program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to check this out because I know the community economic development officer, who is funded by the federal government through DIAND, went to Lake Harbour from Iqaluit with regard to starting up a lending circle. I am not sure if this was something which this person did or something which one of our employees through Economic Development and Tourism did. I would like to research this more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, I questioned the Minister with regard to community and regional plans for Economic Development. If I recall correctly, the Minister indicated that they were working on updating various plans. Mr. Chairman, the Minister is aware the North Slave region is anticipating to conduct the industrial development strategy. I have raised this similar concern with the other affected departments, Education, Renewable Resources and others. I have informed them our group is undertaking this initiative. I was hoping to see something within the definitive objectives for this year to assist the North Slave region to do this work. Is the department going to be assisting our region with the request which was made to him with regard to the development of this particular strategy? I believe this is the only request to date that has come forward to the government in terms of developing a particular regional strategy for a particular region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bailey got a call on it last night from Al Jamal so I have not been brought up to speed on it. We will sit down with Mr. Jamal to discuss the issue and see if there is some way we can assist. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been keeping close tabs with my region and they have been putting more meat on the paper per se and they came out with draft three last week with regard to what they want to do. More and more it is getting to be close to the final document and I hope, before the end of this current fiscal year, that they can get started. Can the department assure our region that Economic Development and Tourism will be assisting them in terms of human resources or actual resources, cash in other words?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I think Mr. Zoe was quite frank there because I was going to say what he was putting on the paper, Mr. Chairman, were more zeros on the back of the numbers. I do not know what the extent of the request is going to be, neither does the department. It will be handled just like any other request through the department. We are interested in sitting down with them and working out with Mr. Jamal exactly what it is the Dogrib Nation wants and how we can assist them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I have been looking at the department's overview and the definitive objectives. Do you have anything

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with regard to Expo in Seville, or is that hidden? Do we have a report?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pollard, a question about the "pain in Spain."

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I knew you were going to say that, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to say there is nothing in this budget about Seville, however there will be two documents which Members will see this session. One will be a supplementary appropriation for a write-off and the

other will be the audited statements of the Expo extravaganza. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Line by line.

Directorate

Total O and M, \$2.629. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Policy And Planning

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Policy and planning on page 15-11. Total O and M, \$678,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Moving on to Tourism and Parks. Mr. Gargan, what chapter were you... Policy and planning, page 15-11, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

With regard to the department's management for results system. The JEPP tracking systems are coordinated and maintained by this division. Exactly what are we talking about here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we did not get the question. I wonder if Mr. Gargan could repeat it, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan, please repeat your question for the Minister.

MR. GARGAN:

The department's management for results system and objective tracking systems are also coordinated and maintained by this division. I am trying to get some clarification on exactly what we are talking about here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pollard, yourself or your witness.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, all the departments have a management for results system and the definitive objectives are tracked by this particular policy and planning area in the department. Consequently, they put together the management for results report and forward that to FMB. That is what they are doing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

With regard to affirmative action business education development program. Is this a training program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Pollard, a question for you.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, it is the training program we talked about yesterday where there are two trainees this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan, another question?

MR. GARGAN:

Based on the way this program is written, are we looking at two aboriginal trainees?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Policy and planning. General comments. I have Mr. Koe, Mr. Zoe and Mr. Ningark.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like further explanation on the affirmative action business education development program. A few years back the department had a fairly good program where they sent people to Trent University to get their degrees in economics and business, and come back on an in-service training or on-the-job training and do their practicum. Has this affirmative action business education development program, AABED, replaced the old program that used to exist?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

The program, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Koe is talking about, was the basis for this program you are seeing right now. I do not have the policy here, but I will make sure the policy is circulated to Members so they understand it better. The training could take place in an institute, or it could take place as training on-the-job. One of the training positions is going to Coppermine and this is what it will be, a training program for an EDO in Coppermine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Do you have any statistics or tracking of the people who were on the old program? Where are they now? Many of the ones who went to Trent graduated and are pursuing other careers. I know this is before your time, however, do you have any information on this? The department must have some sort of results and tracking of these people. I am trying to get a feel for how successful the department was.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

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HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I do not have that information with me, however, I will provide the information to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Do you know who the two people are on this current program, and where are they?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, as I have said before, the first one is an EDO training position in Coppermine, the second one has just been selected, I do not have the full details on it as of yet, but it probably would be in Cambridge Bay. This one is not signed, sealed and delivered. The first one is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Are there any further questions? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, in terms of training and the developing of aboriginal staff, does the department have a current plan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there is a priority given to the department to hire northerners. At present we are looking at our job classifications to see if they are overstated, so that it makes it difficult for northerners to get into those particular jobs. This should be completed this year, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I am glad to see there has been 100 per cent increase in the senior management ranks of aboriginal people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Are there any general comments? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, my colleague was questioning the Minister with the same line of questioning I was going to pursue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will wait until we move to the business development activity. However, Mr. Chairman, I think we can feel the economy. It is getting very cold in here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

There is a bit of a chill in the air all right. The business of the House is heating up, however, the air is cooling down. I wonder if the Sergeant-at-Arms can look into this. I am informed, Mr. Ningark, that the issue is being addressed. Are there any general comments? We will move on to line by line. Total O and M, \$678,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Tourism and parks, total O and M, \$7.608 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Business development, total O and M, \$12.788 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I have a question with regard to tourism and parks. Is there a coordinated effort between this department and the federal government with regard to the diseased bison herd in Wood Buffalo National Park? Has this been discussed? Is this only a federal initiative?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, in as much as I am the Minister responsible for parks in the Northwest Territories, when it comes down to the animals within those parks or the federal parks, and a large topic such as the bison problem, this is handled by the Minister of Renewable Resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I have one other question. I am not sure if this is the appropriate time to bring this up, however, what is the situation with regard to the Toronto operation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, this comes under the development corporation. We have had pretty good sales through Christmas. We are about 50 per cent of forecasts. The Toronto airport has informed us that sales will probably drop off in the next couple of months because it will be a slower traffic season. We can expect to see them pick up again. Because we have not had as many sales as we had anticipated, we have cutback on the amount of money we have been spending there. It is still within, or perhaps a little bit below, the subsidy level that we had allowed for.

Things are still going fairly well. We hope they will improve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Are there any other general comments? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the arts and crafts, such as carvings, provide a major source of income for many of the carvers in the smaller communities. In fact, thereby making welfare dependency to a minimum in places such as Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Pelly Bay and I am sure in other smaller communities within the territories. We have a group in Gjoa Haven who started a carving shop on their own initiative and using their own money. Up to this point in time I know they are not wholly developed yet. They still have some money problems, as most of the businesses in the territories have, in the early stages of developing to a full extent. I would

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like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism if the department has a policy to provide financial assistance to a group such as the one in Gjoa Haven?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, depending on the kind of funding they require, there are a number of different avenues they can take with us. I will undertake to see that our people in Gjoa Haven get together with this group to see if we can address their needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for his response to my question. It is my understanding from the Minister's response that the Minister will be instructing his staff to meet with the group in Gjoa Haven. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think we are already working with them. If it is not going well, then I will see if we can improve the situation. If they are a bona fide group, we are working with them and they have a good idea then I do not see why they would not qualify to be able to access our programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the session before Christmas I talked about acquiring a building from the Department of Public Works, and they are already utilizing that building to the fullest. They even have their own inventory in that community, a very good stock of carvings. I am sure Economic Development and Tourism will be making every effort to provide financial assistance. That was just a point. Thank you.

Business Development

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I do not believe there was a question there. That was just a general comment. We are on business development, general comments. The next on the list was Mr. Dent. Mr. Zoe, we did go past tourism and parks, we are on general comments on business development, however we can return to tourism and parks if you wish. But, while we are still on business development, Mr. Dent... Mr. Dent on business development.

MR. DENT:

Is it my turn now? Thanks, Mr. Chairman. My questions are on page 15-13, business development. I was encouraged earlier to hear the Minister reply to Mr. Lewis that there is a great deal of entrepreneurial spirit out there and that the department is looking for ways or things for it to do. I am a little concerned when I take a look at how this budget in the course of two years has been cut by more than one third, from \$29.5 million to \$18.788 million in total expenditures. It just does not seem to mesh with the department

being out there looking for things for the entrepreneurs to do. This is the area where business counselling is providing contributions, loans and grants. Could the Minister address how it is that the department is actually doing this seeking out of the wide entrepreneurial spirit that is out there when, in fact, the budget is being reduced so significantly?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, part of the decrease is in the area of capital, and that is some \$4 million. Members will recall that the capital budget for the development corporation this year, or the funding provided to the development corporation from ED&T's capital budget this year will be \$6 million. So, there is a \$4 million drop. Mr. Chairman, the development corporation has many assets out there and many partnerships right now, joint ventures and all kinds of things going on. I have said to this House before that I do not want to see this thing get so large and become unmanageable and start to fall down. I would rather consolidate what we have out there and do a very good job at keeping those people employed and keeping those businesses going, than getting too large and not being able to handle it. So, that is where \$4 million has gone.

When we turned over all of our enterprises to the development corporation, you will see a reduction in other O and M because our enterprises are gone which the department used to handle. That is all with the development corporation now, except for one that is still in limbo at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

I take it from the Minister's answer that nearly \$5 million was formerly used as subsidies for businesses that were operated and that this is now coming out of the development corporation. If that is the case, would that indicate that the \$6 million capital contribution this year will almost totally be eaten up by business subsidies which will be the same level as what was happening in 1991-92 and that we are not actually any further ahead?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

No, I think, Mr. Chairman, we will still be making some investments this year through the development corporation. We just will not have as much as we have had in previous years. I would advise Members that the development corporation is getting fairly large and I would like to see all those things operating properly, all those things operating efficiently before we start to tack on more and overload the ability of us to handle those particular ventures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think most Members in this House would want to be sure that the money was being invested wisely when there is not much money to throw around. I think, as Mr. Lewis was saying earlier, we want to make sure there is some assistance for those individuals and groups who are showing entrepreneurial spirit. Members will

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be watching very closely to see that spirit nurtured by the department and the development corporation. That was not a question, Mr. Chairman, just a comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you very much for your comment, Mr. Dent. Mr. Zoe, do you wish to return to tourism and parks?

Tourism And Parks

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, yes, I would like to return to tourism and parks. I think tourism and parks is a prime candidate for privatization. What is the status of privatizing this activity or components of it? I notice there is a great deal in this tourism and parks activity.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. The question, Mr. Pollard, is under tourism and parks.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it is part of the privatization package that FMB and Cabinet will look at later on this month. We have already agreed to report to the Standing Committee on Finance on that. Yes, we feel the same, that it has good potential for privatization and it is one of the things that is on the menu. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, in this activity, the marketing section, I cannot recall the number associated with the marketing task in this activity. Could the Minister indicate to the House what the amount is in the area of marketing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it is \$1.9 million. That is not one of the areas we are looking at privatizing, the marketing aspect of tourism in the Northwest Territories. The parks and campgrounds are the kinds of places we would be looking at for privatization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it the same amount that was budgeted last year, or is there an increase or decrease in the marketing component of this activity?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

No, Mr. Chairman, it remains the same. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, if you recall I think there has been much dissatisfaction about the way in which some of our marketing has been done. I wonder if his marketing people, who are involved in this activity, have any other plans as to marketing or are they going to do the same thing as they were doing last year? Is there any change in the method of their marketing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we have changed a little in the way we are marketing. We are doing more cooperative marketing with people who are in the industry, and initial feedback from the industry is that it is working for them. It seems to be working for us as well. There is more participation by industry, and if they come back to us with some advice on how we can better improve it this year, then we will look at that too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within this particular activity, if I recall correctly, there is a task called product development. I cannot recall the amount of money that is allotted for that section, but would that area not affect the way the marketing section operates if our product is not developed properly?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

The Member is correct, one affects the other, Mr. Chairman. They are working closer together than they have before, in fact it may be that those things may merge together, the product development and the marketing section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, another component of this activity in a branch or a task, is research. My understanding is that these people do all types of research in terms of the type of facility, the type of parks we have and I do not know what else, but my understanding is that they pull in all this information so they can provide this information to these people who are doing marketing. I am not too sure how much money is allotted for those people in that particular task, but are the same people still involved in that whole area in terms of PYs? I know these people are the ones who are supposed to be looking at the number of facilities, lodges and all these types of things so the people on the other hand know what to market and how to market them. They do the basic research, if my recollection is right. Is there a path in this activity that does these types of things?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, there is a task of such nature and there is one PY in it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, in the area of parks, could the Minister indicate -- there are five or six tourism zones -- could we get a breakdown of how much these individual zones are getting from this activity?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I will provide that information to the Member, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Zoe.

Tourism and parks, total O and M, \$7.608 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Business development, total O and M, \$12.788 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you clarify if the economic development strategy concentrates on development industries which have significant impact on small traditional communities which will encompass the arts and crafts, small business and renewable resource sectors? What are you referring to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, when we are talking about concentrating on the industries in the small communities, I think I have explained it this way before, there is a bunch of trained people in those small communities whether they are doing arts and crafts or doing something with renewable resources. The training is already there, so what we are trying to do is build on the strength that is already in the community, assist them to get more efficient, assist them to get some exposure and training, and assist them most of all to get markets for their products. That is what we are talking about, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you very much, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, back in 1967 they used to have a program in which women were paid to do hides and arts and crafts. They were on salaries. The program was beneficial to the communities. Has the Minister ever revisited that program in which women were actually getting paid for developing arts and crafts, and whether there is an incentive in there for revenue?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we sort of do that in the development corporation in some areas. That is, we subsidize jobs for people to go to work. Our hope is that by subsidizing their jobs, ultimately they will become more efficient and productive and be able to sell the products they are making at a profit. We are doing it in a similar fashion. I want to tell you that when it comes to flushing hides and so on, there are not many ladies who want to do that any more. It is hard work, it takes a long time. I think the Science Institute has been looking at better and more efficient ways to do that because there is still a demand for the finished hide, but there are not many people who want to go through all the work. We are trying, through the Science Institute, to come up with some better ways to prepare the hides and make it easier for people to do it.

On the other aspect, yes, we are still subsidizing people to go to work in the arts and crafts area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad the Minister brought up this issue regarding women disliking preparing hides in the traditional way. This is one area in which it is a dying art. It concerns me, Mr. Chairman, that we should allow something like this to die. I do not think it is a question of the methods, it is a question of whether we wish to hang on to what little we have with regard to the way we do things traditionally. At least it should be put on record when you do those hides. In Fort Providence quite a few women still do this. I am not sure about Hay River but I am sure if Mr. Pollard were to go to the reserve he would see activities of this sort still taking place. I am concerned about hanging on to the process in which you develop moose hides and also other types of hides, and how you utilize every part of an animal.

I am not sure if this is the appropriate place to bring this up, but how is our sawmill doing? We have had the Patterson sawmill now for two years. We have not heard much more about it since we purchased it. We do not know whether it is making money. In a time of economic difficulties, I would think this

government would move full force on this sawmill which could be an industry to give us a return.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the sawmill fired up this year for the first time on February 17, 1993. I think it cut 117,000 board feet in the first week. We anticipate achieving 133,000 board feet a week once the mill is up and all of the bugs are worked out. It has just started this year. The price of lumber has skyrocketed. The price of lumber in some cases is almost \$590 a 1,000. When we were forced to buy the sawmill the price of lumber was probably down around \$225 a 1,000 board feet. It should not lose money this year. It did fairly well last year. I think it broke even compared to what we had anticipated that it would do. This year we would anticipate it to make money, particularly if the price of lumber stays up. We have expanded into Fort Resolution. There are logs being delivered to the mill from Fort Resolution this year. Providence has expressed an interest in doing some logging and delivering logs to the sawmill. We are also actively looking at making an arrangement with Fort Resolution whereby Patterson Enterprises Ltd. would take over the sawmill in Fort Resolution and make use of some of the wood from there to fulfil some orders that we certainly see in the south. There has been a big demand for lumber. The final part is that two companies have come forward and asked to look at the books, appraised value and other details of the Patterson Sawmill with a view to perhaps purchasing it. This is as much as I can remember right now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Is the committee agreed that I rise and report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Pollard, I would like to thank you and the witnesses for appearing before our committee.

MR. SPEAKER:

Good afternoon, again. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 17 and Committee Report 11-12(3) and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Secunder to the motion, Mr. Zoe. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried.

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 16: Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that Bill 16, Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order, Mr. Morin. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 16 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, Item 22, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the ordinary Members' caucus at 10:00 am tomorrow morning and at 12:00 noon a meeting of the Nunavut caucus and of the western caucus. Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 24, 1993.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 pm Wednesday, February 24, 1993.

---ADJOURNMENT