



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Madam Premier.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 72-12(3): NWT Power Corporation

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today I will be tabling a report titled "A Proposal to Privatize the Northwest Territories Power Corporation."

The report was prepared by consultant Fred Abbott, a retired partner with Coopers and Lybrand, and does not represent a position of the government at this time. Ultimately, any decision on the privatization of the Power Corporation will be made by this Legislature.

The government purchased the Power Corporation in 1988, in order to make the utility more responsive to the concerns of the NWT customers and to allow it to operate as an independent regulated business.

The report concludes that these objectives have largely been achieved and that the corporation could now be successfully privatized, as a single entity, without sacrificing any of the gains made over the five years of Government of the Northwest Territories' ownership.

This opportunity raises some interesting questions about government ownership, opportunities for government investment and subsidy funding.

Government ownership of the corporation involves some indirect costs:

1. The government guarantees the corporation's debt and, although the corporation makes all the payments on that debt, the existence of the guarantees restricts the government's borrowing ability.

2. The government has \$80 million tied up in its investment in the corporation. These are dollars that could, perhaps, be put to other uses. At a time when we are facing severe funding shortages, we have to ask whether this money could be used in ways that are more directly responsive to the needs of NWT residents.

There are, of course, advantages of owning the corporation. The chief benefit is probably the annual dividend paid by the corporation to the government to fund the electricity subsidy programs. However, while it is recognized that subsidies must be continued, it is not clear that they must, or even should, be funded with dividends from the corporation.

The proposal to privatize the Power Corporation provides us with an opportunity to discuss these issues and to consider our fiscal priorities. The coming months will allow time for discussion about whether continued ownership of the corporation is the best way of investing \$80 million of government money.

Mr. Speaker, if a decision is made to privatize the corporation, the report proposes that the sale be made in a way that encourages northern ownership and prevents control by one or two shareholders. The report contains a number of recommendations to ensure that northerners retain some control over the utility. For example, it is proposed that Northwest Territories' residents be given the first opportunity to purchase shares and that no one can hold more than ten per cent of the shares.

The report considers the creation of Nunavut and concludes that the unique concerns of the two territories could be addressed by separate Public Utilities Boards. The report notes, however, that division of the corporation into two utilities to serve Nunavut and the west, respectively, would increase costs to a point which would make private sector ownership unattractive.

Critical issues to be examined prior to privatization include the continued employment of existing staff

and the integrity of the pension plan. As the report stresses, good business practice requires that employees continue to receive an equitable level of benefits.

It is expected that Cabinet will examine the report shortly, and will make formal recommendations to this House regarding the privatization proposal when the Assembly reconvenes next fall.

Mr. Speaker, this is an exciting opportunity for northerners. The government looks forward to hearing your views on the proposal over the coming months. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ms. Mike.

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Minister's Statement 73-12(3): The Month Of April Is Cancer Month

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of cancer month is to direct attention and provide information on the work of the Canadian Cancer Society in research, education, community programs, and to raise funds to support these endeavours.

The aim of cancer month is to reduce the occurrence of cancer by encouraging people to change their lifestyles.

Cancer is a life threatening and disabling disease presently under intensive research to determine its cause, and to provide more information regarding its prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

The Department of Health will be collaborating with regional health and hospital boards regarding awareness of cancer month. Also, the department's health promotion section will liaise with boards to facilitate planning of awareness activities supporting the theme. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On CBC News Report - March 30, 1993

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my concern with the recent tactics of the Yellowknife media in publicizing personal financial matters involving honourable Members of this House. I refer to reports which aired on CBC Mackenzie this morning that some current and previous Members owe money to a local Yellowknife business. As the dean of the House, I have seen some examples of negative media reporting during my 18 years as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, but I do not believe that I have ever seen such an outright personal attack as the one which CBC broadcast this morning. No one minds when reporters dig around to find out about news which affects the people of the Northwest Territories, however, this matter was not that kind of news item.

If customers have outstanding bills then those should be left as a personal matter between the individual and the businesses involved. I do not believe that Canadian taxpayers want to hear CBC spreading gossip about personal financial matters which do not affect the public at large. The CRTC has not given CBC reporters a mandate to act as bill collectors for their friends and acquaintances.

To my honourable colleagues in this House, I want to stress that, as politicians, we must be more careful than ever before in our personal lives, as well as our public lives. I remember a time when we could count on the media to report the news, and now it seems we must be especially cautious because the media is more interested in reporting personal problems and presenting present MLAs as disreputable people.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pudluk, your allotted time as elapsed.

MR. PUDLUK:

I am asking unanimous consent to continue my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, honourable Members. Unfortunately, Yellowknife businesses are the ones that are going to suffer from this situation. Like most honourable Members, my family and I have always shopped at many local businesses when we come here for the sessions of the Legislative Assembly. If Yellowknife merchants, especially those within the so-called hospitality industry, are going to surprise out of town Members by turning outstanding accounts over to the media, then we must question the ethics of the people with whom we are doing business.

The unfortunate result is that our view of Yellowknife and its business community has been changed by this incident. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On CBC News Report - March 30, 1993

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to rise today to speak about this issue which was raised in a CBC news report this morning. Mr. Speaker, I received a letter from Mr. Jack Walker, who is president of the Yellowknife Inn, and I would like to read this letter into the record. I received permission from Mr. Walker to do this.

The letter is addressed to myself as chairman of Caucus and it is regarding the CBC report dated March 30, 1993.

"In my opinion, the information is not newsworthy and does not fall within the realm of professional investigative reporting. I believe the conduct of the reporter in question should be investigated by CBC and CRTC with a view to disciplinary action.

"The Yellowknife Inn and the Legislative Assembly have had a nine year relationship during which confidentiality has been viewed as paramount. The hotel has taken precautions to ensure that there will be no re-occurrence of this unfortunate lapse on the part of its staff in the future.

"Without in any way excusing the culpability of my staff in this instance, I consider that it is a very sad commentary on the state of CBC's northern

journalism when a reporter of Ms. Morphet's capability becomes more concerned with MLAs' personal credit ratings than with the many

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urgent and weighty issues of government. This tabloid approach to journalism has very little place in Canada and certainly none in the north where constituents know their elected representatives personally."

This is signed, yours sincerely, Jack Walker. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. As Speaker of this Legislative Assembly I would like to make a comment about this, which I also consider to be a very serious incident. I think by listening to the statements of the two Members, we can see a clear case where the MLAs were satisfied with the process, the owner of the hotel was satisfied and there were no complaints by the two partners in this arrangement. Suzanne Morphet fabricated a problem, because there was no problem with the MLAs and no problem with the business. It seems to me, after two weeks of very effective work by this Legislative Assembly, where the Assembly has been most effective in carrying out its duties, there was not, in Suzanne Morphet's opinion, a story. It is a clear case where a story was fabricated. I, for one, will bring to the attention of the management of CBC both Members' statements, because both Members' statements were very well spoken. Thank you.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Day Care Centre For Lake Harbour

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two weeks ago I had tabled a petition regarding a request for day care. Often the children are left behind alone in their homes. This is a concern to the people of the north. In the small community of Lake Harbour there has been a petition signed requesting a day care centre because the parents are working. Through this petition we are requesting a day care so the children will have a safe place to go while the parents are working. It could be taken advantage by the other parents, even though they are not working, because often the children are left alone in their house when

they are too young to look after other siblings. For this reason, I have tabled a petition and wanted to comment on this petition from Lake Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On Minister Of Personnel's Comments Re Home Owners' Property Tax Rebate

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over recent comments made by the Minister of Personnel regarding recommendations of this Assembly on the home owners' property tax rebate. Mr. Speaker, I was very disturbed to hear the Minister's comments of March 23, 1993, in response to questions from my honourable colleague from Inuvik. Mr. Koe was questioning the Minister as to Cabinet's response to the motion of the Assembly that the home owners' property tax rebate be reinstated at \$400 per year. This motion was carried in the House on March 11, 1993. Yet, on March 23, 1993, 12 days later, the Minister replied and I quote from unedited Hansard, "Mr. Speaker, the particular issue of the tax rebate was one that arose in the course of discussions by MLAs in the latter part of the debate in the back room. As the Minister of Personnel, I could not find a way in the few days I had, to rationalize how it tied in to the staff housing strategy."

Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat confused as to how a motion passed in this Assembly can be characterized as an issue that does not deserve a response because it arose at the end of a debate in the back room, that is unless the Minister believes that this Assembly chamber has now become a back room. Mr. Speaker, I am also at a loss to understand why the Minister had such difficulty relating the tax rebate to the housing strategy. Although the Minister indicated on March 23 that the issue had come up only a few days before debate on the motion, ordinary MLAs had explained the relationship previously in the House. He did not have to work it out for himself at all. For example, on February 26, 1993, the issue was raised in the House by my honourable colleagues for Inuvik and Thebacha and also by myself. It was pointed out that the reduction of the property tax rebate was inconsistent with the goal of the Minister of Personnel to encourage home ownership and to develop a private housing market through the staff housing strategy.

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs agreed that the program might be considered part of the housing strategy and agreed to re-examine the rebate.

I agreed then with my colleague for Thebacha that this is another example of how the housing strategy is not part of a cohesive government plan, and I still have the opinion today.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. DENT:

Thank you honourable colleagues. Mr. Speaker, in case the Minister was not listening on that day, a motion for the reinstatement of the property tax rebate had also carried in this House on September 24, 1992. Again, the tax rebate was related to the encouragement of private home ownership.

Mr. Speaker, I am disturbed that the Minister has tried to characterize this issue as one which has taken him by surprise. It is not new in this Assembly, and it is not the first time it has been related to the housing strategy. Although the Minister may not have been able to respond to the suggestion on the day the motion was debated, a response by the government is still required. The direction of this Assembly should not be so easily dismissed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On CBC News Report - March 30, 1993

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The CBC news item of this morning is indeed a very sad commentary on the depth to which some journalists will go to provide the public with news. It is a shame that our public broadcaster, the CBC northern network, has to degrade itself to a tabloid style of news gathering such as the broadcast at 7:30 am this morning. This type of news gathering and this type of news can only

harm the relationship our city has developed with the out of town MLAs and members of their constituencies.

Many of my constituents are upset and appalled over this kind of activity. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, this was but the elbow in the bath water of experimentation in journalism and if it is, I hope the water proves to be too hot for it to continue.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Zoe.

Member's Statement On Concerns Re Department Of Health

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my very real concern and frustration with the manner in which the Minister of Health and her officials responded to questions about the Health budget yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, it should be very clear that the Department of Health is indeed in trouble. That is what the Auditor General's report showed, that is what the reports of standing and special committees of this House have showed, and that is what honourable Members have been hearing from committee witnesses and constituents all across the Northwest Territories. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the responses received by the House to this critical budget have continued to be either evasive, incomplete or both.

I am very concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the fact that the development of MOUs between health boards and the Department of Health appears to have been delayed. I am concerned about the way a functional review which was included in the definitive objectives for 1990-91 have not been completed, and about the fact that the current Health budget contains neither objectives nor funding for this important initiative. I am concerned that the relatively simple question, "Do you have a list of internal research projects?" should prove almost impossible for the Minister and her officials to answer. She wants us to wait 120 days for it. I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that during the review of the 1992-93 budget the Standing Committee on Finance told the department to include a series of statistics to show whether our efforts are making a difference. If you ask them today, you will see that the department did not provide those statistics. I do

not even know if the Department of Health bothered to try.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Public Account's report indicate that some positive changes may be taking place within the Department of Health. However, the manner in which the department has presented its budget shows there is still a long way to go. I find the review of the Health budget to be a very frustrating experience. However, Mr. Speaker, I hope and I trust that the Minister will take all the steps necessary to improve the necessary capabilities of her department. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Conference On Family Violence In Fort Simpson

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say that in Fort Simpson last week, March 23 to 25, there was a conference on family violence and sexual abuse. This conference was very well attended by approximately 100 delegates from a number of communities throughout the north, and people from as far as Spence Bay and the Delta participated. I would like to thank them for coming to Fort Simpson and participating in this conference.

The comments I heard about the conference was that it was worth it, and that especially the healing part of the conference, the healing circle it is called, was worth it and the people who participated feel that it was a very good experience for them. The information and plan of action from this conference will be gathered, recommendations will come from that and a plan of action will be developed. Because we will be concluded this Friday and we will not be getting back together until next fall, I wanted to thank the Minister who is responsible for Social Services, the Honourable Rebecca Mike, for coming to Fort Simpson last Thursday and participating in the feast and drum dance.

---Applause

On behalf of my constituents, it was important that you, as the Minister of Social Services, came to this conference and made a statement to the people on the position of the government with regard to the

whole area of sexual abuse and family violence. The people who participated felt it was worth it for you to come to Fort Simpson, and I appreciate that.

(Translation) What I am trying to say is, last weekend there was a meeting in Fort Simpson. Many people from different regions and areas were involved. Rebecca Mike, Minister of Social Services, attended the drum dance and the feast, and she talked to the delegates there. I would like to thank her for attending this conference. (Translation ends)

...developing recommendations. Through the spring and summer you will hear about the recommendations and follow up on this course of action. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Workers' Compensation For Traditional Harvesters

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have stood in this House on many previous occasions and commented on problems with the workers' compensation coverage for traditional harvesters. Honourable Members already know what the problem is. Workers' Compensation Board policy does not consider an aboriginal person to be principally engaged in traditional harvesting unless they meet arbitrary and unfair criteria, based on a southern wage economy.

Mr. Speaker, we have been over this issue many times before. Each time we receive promises that this problem will be solved; none of these promises have been kept to date.

The Workers' Compensation Board says it is a problem to be solved by the Department of Renewable Resources because the money is supposed to come from their budget. Now the WCB and the Department of Renewable Resources are both saying it is up to the Minister of Justice to draft terms of a memorandum of agreement. Everyone is passing the buck.

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In the meantime, aboriginal people who net fish for their families this summer will not have the protection of the Workers' Compensation Board, and hunters who bring caribou meat to the elders of their

community will not be covered either. Mr. Speaker, there should be no mistake about where the responsibility for solving this problems lies. It lies with the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. The Workers' Compensation Act is clear about that. For a long time we have considered the current Minister to be a man who gets things done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. GARGAN:

He is known as a problem-solver. It is time for him to take some decisions in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

Member's Statement On Keewatin Chamber Of Commerce Annual General Meeting

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today and extend my congratulations to the Keewatin chamber of commerce for their annual general meeting held this weekend. There was approximately 150 delegates attending from across the north. It was an historic occasion in that there was a clear recognition that there is going to be an orderly transfer to a Nunavut government. I was pleased to see, as always, that the Keewatin chamber of commerce is taking an initiative to move forward in the development and the organization of a Nunavut chamber of commerce which is long overdue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 564-12(3): Actions To Inform The Public Re Health Billings Dispute

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Antoine on March 23, 1993, regarding the nature of the health billings dispute.

Mr. Speaker, the dispute is described in the Government of the Northwest Territories statement of claim document which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 20, 1992, Tabled Document 11-12(3).

The nature of the dispute was also described in a March 26, 1992, letter sent from the Premier to Northwest Territories chiefs, a copy of which was provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 499-12(3): Intention To Change Hay River Facility

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on March 16, 1993, regarding the intention to change the Hay River facility.

On January 19, 1993, the Hay River secure facility received a third designation, that of an open custody facility. There are three types of custody under the Young Offenders Act (Canada): open custody; secure custody; and temporary detention.

Under section 24(1) of the act, "open custody" means custody in a community residential centre, group home, child care institution, forest or wilderness camp or any other like place or facility designated as a place of open custody by the Minister of Justice.

"Secure custody" means custody in a place or facility designated by the Minister of Justice for the secure containment or restraint of young persons.

Under subsection 7(1) of the Young Offenders Act (Canada), a young person who is arrested and detained prior to making a disposition or detained pursuant to a warrant being issued under subsection 32(6), shall be detained in a place of "temporary detention" designated by the Minister of Justice. In the Northwest Territories, all secure custody facilities have been designated as "places of temporary detention."

The Manitoba court of appeal has ruled that a particular part of an institution or facility can be designated as "open custody," even if entering and leaving the facility itself is controlled by double locking doors, which are electronically controlled: Re F and The Queen et al. (1984), 16 C.C.C. (3D) 258, (1985) 2 W.W.R. 379 sub nom. C.F. v R. and Minister of Community Services and Corrections, A.-G.Man., Bock and Bakken (Man.C.A.).

The Nova Scotia court of appeal has ruled that what is necessary to properly designate an area as a place of open and secure custody is differentiation in programming, and facilities and programs for guidance and assistance of young offenders: Re D.B. and The Queen (1986), 27 C.C.C. (3d) 468 (N.S.C.A.).

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 633-12(3): Memorandum Of Understanding Re Coverage For Traditional Harvesters

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Safety and Public Services. The Minister knows the issue of hunters' and trappers' coverage has been raised a number of times in the past. I am sure he will remember stating on February 17, that the Department of Renewable Resources and the Workers' Compensation Board were negotiating a memorandum of understanding to deal with questions surrounding coverage of traditional harvesters. I am

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sure he knows his chief commissioner, who completed a review of the Workers' Compensation Board, provided a number of specific suggestions for resolving the problems. Can the Minister explain why this policy issue has not been resolved?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 633-12(3): Memorandum Of Understanding Re Coverage For Traditional Harvesters

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the honourable Member, with respect to this issue, it is an important issue. I know it is particularly important to the Member and it is equally important to everyone across the Northwest Territories. I have issued, in conjunction with Renewable Resources, specific instructions to prepare the MOU as quickly as possible. The Department of Justice has the responsibility to develop the legal language which is necessary. I will determine, later on today, why there is a delay. I am optimistic that we can move very quickly on this issue. I am confident that the MOU will meet the needs and requirements of the hunters and trappers as it relates to workers' compensation and the level of compensation will be in the range that was discussed with the honourable Member. However, perhaps I will be in a better position later today or tomorrow to inform him specifically when the MOU should be complete. There is no reason for any lengthy delay at this time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 634-12(3): Legislative Review Of Health Related Acts

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. Yesterday, while discussing the department's budget in committee of the whole, I asked the Minister about the process which is being used to conduct the legislative review of health related acts. The Minister referred the question to Dr. Kinloch, who stated, and I quote from unedited Hansard, "The contract has been let to assist in developing some of the issues which have to be dealt with in revamping a public health act which is seriously obsolete." What process was used in letting this contract?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 634-12(3): Legislative Review Of Health Related Acts

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to check to see what process was used, whether it was put out for tender or request for proposals. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 634-12(3): Legislative Review Of Health Related Acts

MR. KOE:

Can the Minister advise this House as to who was awarded the contract to do this work?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 634-12(3): Legislative Review Of Health Related Acts

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, the contract has not been awarded yet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 634-12(3): Legislative Review Of Health Related Acts

MR. KOE:

I have some problem with that response. Her senior official stated and I quote from unedited Hansard, "A contract has been let..." What is the official position? Has the contract been let or not?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 635-12(3): Status Of MOU Negotiation Between Health Boards And Department Of Health

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Yesterday, during committee of the whole, my colleague for Inuvik asked the question about the development of an MOU between the department and health and hospital boards. This is a very necessary agreement which clearly spells out the roles and responsibilities of the department and the boards. I was very concerned with the response which was provided by the deputy minister of Health. I will quote from the unedited Hansard of yesterday, Mr. Speaker, "We have today reviewed the ten proposals which were submitted in response to an RFP to begin that process, and we expect it to be complete by the end of September." Mr. Speaker, given the turmoil which presently exists between the boards and the department, I would have thought it was important to complete this initiative much sooner than that. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister clarify the current status of the initiative to negotiate an MOU between health boards and the Department of Health?

MR. SPEAKER:

Can I ask Members to try to keep their preamble very short and very concise? Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 635-12(3): Status Of MOU Negotiation Between Health Boards And Department Of Health

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I know, there is only one health board which is under an MOU and the rest are agreements signed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. That is why the deputy minister was telling you they just finished reviewing the MOU proposals yesterday afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

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Supplementary To Question 635-12(3): Status Of MOU Negotiation Between Health Boards And Department Of Health

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the Minister should know that this House has passed motions recommending that boards be allowed to exercise greater autonomy in operating, managing and controlling health facilities and programs. Will the Minister indicate whether any changes, in the current responsibilities for health boards, are now going to be put on hold until the end of September?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 635-12(3): Status Of MOU Negotiation Between Health Boards And Department Of Health

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should know many other things since I got on Cabinet in December as the Member for Lac La Martre is suggesting. Perhaps if I had a magic wand things would be all right. The functions of the health boards between now and September will not be affected. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Can I ask Ministers if they would please just respond to the question? Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 635-12(3): Status Of MOU Negotiation Between Health Boards And Department Of Health

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, on one hand the department is saying they are going to wait until September, and on the other hand the Minister is indicating things are not going to change. I am totally confused. Nevertheless, I will ask a supplementary to that particular question, Mr. Speaker. The Minister should know this House has also passed motions indicating the Minister and her department place a high priority on completing the MOU initiative. She should also know that when he addressed the Health Care Association on September 21, 1992, her predecessor indicated that the MOU would be completed before the end of the current fiscal year. Why has the completion of this important agreement been delayed at least another six months?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 635-12(3): Status Of MOU Negotiation Between Health Boards And Department Of Health

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is likely due to the change of the Minister. From the time he made the commitment to the time I received the portfolio, things were slowed down a little bit. To answer the Member's question, when I said the boards' functions will not be affected, I did not say things will not change. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 635-12(3): Status Of MOU Negotiation Between Health Boards And Department Of Health

MR. ZOE:

My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions clearly indicates it will be the responsibility of the Minister to make sure the MOU is completed. Can the Minister confirm her deputy minister's projected completion date and assure the House that the MOU will definitely be in place by the end of September, 1993?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 635-12(3): Status Of MOU Negotiation Between Health Boards And Department Of Health

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that is what my deputy minister said and I will make sure MOUs will be in place by the end of September. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 636-12(3): Powers To Be Devolved To Health Boards

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health, further to the question asked by the honourable colleague for North Slave. The health boards do not seem to have too much autonomy and it seems the staff and administration in the Department of Health have more jurisdictional powers. It seems the health boards have very limited powers in their regions, even though they seem to have been given a certain role designated to them as the bodies of power concerning health issues. Mr. Speaker, concerning this report upon completion, will the territorial health boards be given more powers and will their powers be more clearly defined, because in the present system all these powers seem to be held by the Department of Health. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Mike.

Return To Question 636-12(3): Powers To Be Devolved To Health Boards

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the Member for Baffin South, the health boards have certain powers but they still have to work within the Health Act. Since I became Minister, I have encouraged them to function within those powers. I try not to interfere with their roles. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 637-12(3): Water Reservoir Pipes Freezing In Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works and Highways. In Resolute Bay there is water provided from the lake through the pipe systems. There has been ongoing concern regarding freezing of the pipes. Presently, today in

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fact, there is some freeze up happening around the piping areas. I wonder if the Minister is aware of the problem which causes the freezing repeatedly in that area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 637-12(3): Water Reservoir Pipes Freezing In Resolute Bay

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the upgrading, we purchased and installed two new pumps which have increased the water supply. That improves the safety margin and the water supply. That was completed in December, 1992. Upon completion of installation of these new pumps, that main line was scoured, there was a great deal of high pressure water pushed through it. Shortly after completion of that process -- they do that to wash out any ice build up in the line -- Public Works located a small pin hole leak about 750 feet from the Char Lake pumphouse. It is believed that was caused by scouring that line. It is a pin hole leak that is causing this ice boil. It is ten feet high by ten feet wide. The pin hole is a flow metre on each side of the line, so the line going through and coming out is kept track of and the loss of water is at such a minimum, it does not register on the flow metre. So, it is not considered to be a high priority to fix it right away, but it will be fixed in the summer. There is not much loss of water, it just looks like lots with the big hill. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 637-12(3): Water Reservoir Pipes Freezing In Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to my question. Communities pay for their use of water. It is hoped that people will not have to pay unnecessarily because of the leaking water. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 637-12(3): Water Reservoir Pipes Freezing In Resolute Bay

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The water from Char Lake to the reservoir is untreated water, so no one has to pay for it. It does not register on the metres at all, so you cannot even estimate how many gallons it is, it is so minimum. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 638-12(3): Rural And Remote Programs

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I have a concern from one of my constituents with respect to the rural and remote program. Can the Minister of Housing indicate whether there have been any rural and remote programs in the NWT which have been considered written off, or transferred to other programs within the Housing Corporation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to look into that. I will take that as notice and get back to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 639-12(3): Compensation For Trappers For Lost Revenues

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. At the annual general meeting of the Gwich'in renewable resources councils, a motion was passed requesting trappers be considered for some kind of compensation for lost revenues. Many times this session, various Members of this Assembly have raised the issue of the poor trapping season. In my area, in particular, they did not have enough traps to hand out to all the trappers, even though it was a policy of this government. Will the Minister review this issue and consider developing

a program for compensating trappers for lost revenues?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 639-12(3): Compensation For Trappers For Lost Revenues

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department is working on options for this particular problem in the western Arctic. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 639-12(3): Compensation For Trappers For Lost Revenues

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister and his department try to have something in place for this year, as many trappers have lost the entire winter's trapping and potential revenues? In particular, in Arctic Red River, Fort McPherson and Inuvik trappers did not even go out in some cases, so they did not earn anything from trapping. Will the Minister seriously consider look at compensating trappers this year?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 639-12(3): Compensation For Trappers For Lost Revenues

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be dealing with the trappers who have suffered hardship because of the poor trapping season and also because of the warm weather this winter. We will be dealing with trappers case by case. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 639-12(3): Compensation For Trappers For Lost Revenues

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In the motion I referred to earlier, I quote "Whereas the trappers of Fort McPherson and Arctic Red River who harvested in the Yukon were not properly

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made aware that leg hold traps are still used in the Yukon; and where these trappers have lost one season of trapping in the Yukon." Will the Minister please check into this situation and advise those trappers in Arctic Red River and Fort McPherson as to why they were not properly informed of these regulations?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 639-12(3): Compensation For Trappers For Lost Revenues

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 640-12(3): Status Of Family Law Review Working Group

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. In 1988, workers began the review of family law. Major aboriginal organizations, members of the legal profession, the advisory council on the Status of Women and the Departments of Social Services and Justice had people who worked on this working committee. According to the annual report of the Government of the Northwest Territories, this review was completed in 1991. Since, according to the annual report, it was completed in 1991, did the working committee disband or has it continued to work since then?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 640-12(3): Status Of Family Law Review Working Group

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the working group's responsibility originally was intended simply to oversee the work of a contractor who was signed on to do the actual research compilation and writing of the report. The contractor quit and left the project, which left the working group to take over the work of the contractor. This is in large part what took the report so long to be finalized. The working group itself has been disbanded. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 640-12(3): Status Of Family Law Review Working Group

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Family Law Review report was tabled in the House by the Minister as Tabled Document 122-12(2), on October 2. Since that became a public document on that day, has there been any public reaction or written submissions received by the government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 640-12(3): Status Of Family Law Review Working Group

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, there has been some response to the report, I think the Status of Women may have been one group which responded and were generally in support of the recommendations. As I indicated to the House in a Minister's statement earlier, the report contains 256 recommendations but very little substantiation for the recommendations themselves in large part because I think the contractor originally started to put together the research and materials necessary to help the working group make some recommendations based on specific research. What has happened is there are general recommendations made in this report but the research itself is a huge appendix on which the recommendations are based but is not anywhere near finished. The Department of Social Services and the Department of Justice have, over the last few months, tried to substantiate the basis for the recommendations which were made in the report. That is one of the reasons there is no

definitive response to the extensive recommendations at this time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 640-12(3): Status Of Family Law Review Working Group

MR. LEWIS:

Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Judging from what the Minister has said, what we have is a review which has 256 recommendations based on background material which is supposed to be the appendix but in many cases is not there, and that the department now has to try to figure out how these recommendations were made. It seems as if this group was never able to come to grips with the material and really never was able to agree amongst themselves as to what should be in the report. My question to the Minister is, what is the process now that this has been tabled a second time. It is an inadequate review full of holes, inconsistencies and recommendations which are not based on any obvious research material. What is the intention of the Minister in putting together another document? What will that document tell us that was not available in the original review?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 640-12(3): Status Of Family Law Review Working Group

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to try to honour the recommendations, which were made in good faith, as they have some merit. It is up to us to shift through the research and appendix material to organize it in a way that, when we release our consultation paper, the public and groups which will be reviewing this will have some organized material which will substantiate and give backup to the recommendations which are contained in the report. It is an awkward piece of work and not one we have had time to do justice to, but it is our intention in any case to see what we can do with the recommendations. On the surface they seem like good recommendations, we just need to be able to give some background material and rationale for them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 640-12(3): Status Of Family Law Review Working Group

MR. LEWIS:

This process was begun in 1988, Mr. Speaker, so I would like to ask the Minister, what can the Assembly expect to be completed by the end of the 1993-94 fiscal year, assuming the consultation report is finished within that time frame and that the legislation people are able to do the work they have to do? What can we expect to see by the end of 1993-94?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 640-12(3): Status Of Family Law Review Working Group

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I would hope within a month or two to be able to give the Members and the public some idea of a definitive schedule when a consultation paper based on this report could be made available to the public, when, for instance, certain questions and recommendations contained in the report which require legal or constitutional clarity can be provided. At this time we have no way to respond in a substantial form about how soon we can give, to the public, a document which would have in law some basis through attached research and rationale. The basis for the recommendations and whether some of the recommendations are constitutional, what the constitutional basis for them would be, what type of legislation required to be repealed, what time frame we are looking at and length of work would be required to undertake to draft some of the pieces of legislation which are contemplated in this report. It would be a few months, I would say. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to recognize in the gallery, Rose Okpik, the chair of the Inuit artists' association from Pangnirtung.

---Applause

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 641-12(3): Proposed Child Day Care Policy

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. Mr. Speaker, on March 2 the Minister said he would put a high priority on development of a permanent child day care policy. However, we received no definite commitment to a timetable. Would the Minister agree to table a proposed new child day care policy during the November session?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 641-12(3): Proposed Child Day Care Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 641-12(3): Proposed Child Day Care Policy

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to hear that the Minister will agree to do that. Also, on March 2, the Minister said he needed an opportunity to review the interim child day care policy to identify problem areas before setting on a consultation process to come up with the new one. I was wondering if the Minister has now had a chance to review the interim policies and determine an appropriate consultation process.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 641-12(3): Proposed Child Day Care Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the matter of personally reviewing the policies, no I have not personally reviewed them. What I have done is asked the department to review the matters with regard to existing policies, firstly, to improve access. Secondly,

to ensure we accommodated parents who were involved in school programming whether it was upgrading, literacy programs or training programs. Thirdly, we wanted to review the matter of ensuring young parents who still had the opportunity to complete high school would have access to day care funding. As well, whether our capital dollars which were put in place under capital policies were being accessed by the communities. Also, whether the O and M funding which we had was enough to accommodate the requests which would eventually come from our communities. Those are the issues at this particular juncture which I have asked the department to review.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure the public gets involved in the process. I have already a written letter to the council for the Status of Women. I have indicated I would like to speak to them about the particular policy and I have requested we meet. I want other members, those who are involved in providing day care services, either privately or publicly, to participate in the review process. Once we have an analysis of all of the programs and services which this government offers I will submit for public review to the Members of this House and to those organizations and those individuals who provide day care so they can advise me on how I might better improve the policies on day care for the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, it would be only fair if I allowed the public to be involved in this particular process and the Members of this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 642-12(3): SCOF Recommendations On Key Result Indicators

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. The Minister is aware that when the Standing Committee on Finance completed its review of the 1992-93 budget, it indicated the Department of Health provide the following data when it brought forward its 1993-94 budget: mortality and sickness statistics and trends; public satisfaction of health programs and services; backlog statistics; local employment in health care; health costs containment; and,

health facility utilization. Can the Minister indicate how many of these statistics are available today? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 643-12(3): Evaluation Of NWT AIDS Project Review

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. It is about the project called AIDS prevention in the north, demonstration and evaluation of culturally adapted community oriented prevention. This was a project which was funded largely by the Department of National Health and Welfare to the tune of \$750,000, and the government also made a contribution. I realize the Minister was not the Minister during this period of time. Would the Minister give some indication whether the evaluation which took place of this project was completed? Was there an evaluation of the total project?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I get clarification with regard to what evaluation the Member is talking about, is it of the National Health and Welfare program? Which program is the Member talking about? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

It is the Member's prerogative, if the Member would like to clarify the question, it is up to the Member. Mr. Lewis

MR. LEWIS:

All right. The Government of the Northwest Territories and the Canadian Department of Health and Welfare began a three year project in 1988 and there was an expenditure of public funds. Was there an independent evaluation done of that project? That was one of the objectives, to examine it and to evaluate it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 643-12(3): Evaluation Of NWT AIDS Project Review

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the department did the review of those projects. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 643-12(3): Evaluation Of NWT AIDS Project Review

MR. LEWIS:

I will try again, Mr. Speaker. We were all given a copy of Tabled Document 91-12(3), Northwest Territories AIDS Project - Review. My question is, the consultant who did the review must have given you the information which eventually found its way into this document. Do you have the

review done by the independent consultant so we can have a look at it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 644-12(3): Environmental Impact Study Results

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the environment. Previously, I have asked the Minister environmental questions. Has the Minister looked into the environmental impact assessment review? The people of Sanikiluaq, who I represent, are eager to get the answers with regard to the impact on the sea mammals in that area. Does the Minister have the answers for the review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 644-12(3): Environmental Impact Study Results

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the dam of that river and the assessment, I will respond to the Member for South Baffin in writing. I will inform him of exactly who is reviewing the assessment, whether it will be the Quebec government, and the status of the review to date. I will respond in letter to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 644-12(3): Environmental Impact Study Results

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the Minister will be responding to my question in writing. I thank him for that. Further, would he be able to carbon copy the Keewatin Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 644-12(3): Environmental Impact Study Results

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I will carbon copy the Keewatin Members as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 645-12(3): Application Of Non-Smoking Policy In Ministers' Offices

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, other Members have seen over the last and past winters the numbers of civil servants who have to go outside of the buildings to smoke. Those who do smoke stand shivering in the cold, particularly in front of the

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Laing building. Many of those civil servants, Mr. Speaker, are my constituents. Does the non-smoking policy in the Laing building involve the Ministers on the sixth floor? Are Ministers allowed to smoke in their offices in the Laing building?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 645-12(3): Application Of Non-Smoking Policy In Ministers' Offices

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the policy of non-smoking in government buildings covers a Minister's office or any other floor, the sixth floor, fifth floor or third floor. Everyone is treated equally in terms of the policy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 645-12(3): Application Of Non-Smoking Policy In Ministers' Offices

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I did not phrase my question correctly. I asked if the smoking policy in the Laing building is equal to Ministers as it is to civil servants. In other words are Ministers allowed to smoke in their offices in the Laing building?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 645-12(3): Application Of Non-Smoking Policy In Ministers' Offices

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I said the policy applies to everyone in the Laing building, which also includes the Ministers.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 645-12(3): Application Of Non-Smoking Policy In Ministers' Offices

MR. WHITFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I will ask the question again. I realize the policy may on paper apply to everyone. I asked the question whether Ministers are allowed to smoke in their offices in the Laing building.

MR. SPEAKER:

This is the last time I will allow the same question. We will see if there is a different answer, if it is the same answer it will be the last time I will allow this question. Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 645-12(3): Application Of Non-Smoking Policy In Ministers' Offices

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, there is a policy of non-smoking in the Laing building. The Ministers are totally aware of that policy and there is no smoking allowed in the Laing building. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 646-12(3): Motion To Clarify Roles Of DM Of Finance And Comptroller General

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, on June 25, 1992, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled its committee report on the Auditor General's report on others matters for the 1990-91 fiscal year. One of the key recommendations in the committee report was that government should strengthen the roles and responsibilities of the deputy minister of Finance and the Comptroller General in that the role of the Comptroller General should be made more independent of Finance with accountability more clearly spelled out. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has

repeated the promise to have this accomplished by the end of the 1992-93 fiscal year. Will he now tell the House whether he has, in fact, implemented the standing committee's recommendation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier, are you going to take that question?

Return To Question 646-12(3): Motion To Clarify Roles Of DM Of Finance And Comptroller General

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the work has been done and we are proceeding to do that. We had hoped we could institute it on April 1, but at this time we may be a couple of weeks late. However, the work has been done and it is to carry out the process to do so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 647-12(3): Transfer Of CHR Program Funds And PYs To Band Councils

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, during the first week of February, the Deh Cho tribal council met. As a result of that meeting they passed a motion which was passed unanimously with regard to the PYs for community health representatives. I know the Minister has a long history of believing that aboriginal people in communities should be allowed to run themselves in a self-sufficient manner. I also know she has spoken about the respect this government must show to regional and tribal councils, such as the Baffin regional council or the Deh Cho regional council. I am concerned, however, that some of her officials in Yellowknife may have a different philosophy with a more centralized outlook. Recognizing that the Cabinet has a firm commitment to the principle of community transfers in its reshaping northern government initiatives, will the Minister agree to personally consider the transfer of CHR program funds and PYs to band councils?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 647-12(3): Transfer Of CHR Program Funds And PYs To Band Councils

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is quite correct. There was a motion passed at the tribal council meeting on September 11, 1992. However, in November, 1992, the executive director of the Mackenzie regional health services met with the chief and the band

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manager in Fort Providence to discuss this issue. In December, 1992, the Metis local wrote the Premier stating that it did not agree with community transfer initiatives. Since then, because there has not been any agreement between the band council and the Metis local, this somehow has come to a standstill. However, if the Member is asking for PYs being transferred, if they fall within our transfer policy of programs

within the government, I do not see why it should not be transferred. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 647-12(3): Transfer Of CHR Program Funds And PYs To Band Councils

MR. GARGAN:

Am I correct, Mr. Speaker, in that the Minister is suggesting she recognizes, under the current community transfer initiatives, she agrees with the policy and that band councils will be given the opportunity to take over CHR programs?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 647-12(3): Transfer Of CHR Program Funds And PYs To Band Councils

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, if the program falls under the transfer of policy then that is the criteria which the department would use. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 647-12(3): Transfer Of CHR Program Funds And PYs To Band Councils

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. I do not know what transfer policy she is referring to. Can I ask the Minister if I can get a copy of that transfer policy?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 647-12(3): Transfer Of CHR Program Funds And PYs To Band Councils

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could provide it after consulting with Mr. Kakfwi. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 648-12(3): Tabling Of Expo 1992 Internal Audit

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, in response to a question I asked Mr. Pollard, Question 368-12(3), internal audit of Expo 1992, Mr. Pollard indicated the internal audit would be made available to Members on March 17. What is holding up the production of that document?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 648-12(3): Tabling Of Expo 1992 Internal Audit

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, the documents which I said I would table are in for translation at the present time so I will be able to do that very quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 649-12(3): Eligibility Of NWT Residents For Alaskan Land Claims

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier of this government. When I was in Gjoa Haven in February, 1993, one elderly lady approached me and told me she was originally from Alaska. She thought she was entitled to receive land claim money from the Alaskan settlement. Would the Premier undertake to enquire if, in fact, there are individuals living in the Kitikmeot region who are eligible to receive money from Alaska but are not receiving money because they are not sure if they are entitled to receive this money, which according to my understanding rightly belongs to those people if they are from Alaska? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 649-12(3): Eligibility Of NWT Residents For Alaskan Land Claims

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I can further enquire, but to my knowledge there was a cutoff time to enrol and several people were left out because it was impossible to get the necessary documentation to provide their birth place. I know there was a cutoff date, but I will further enquire to see if there has been any advancement in trying to open up the clause. I know some years have gone by, but I will check into it further. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 650-12(3): MACA Inspection Report Of The Town Of Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, I received a request, I believe the Minister also received one or will soon receive one, from the Iqaluit chamber of commerce asking the Minister to release a recent Municipal and Community Affairs inspection report relating to an audit by MACA of the town of Iqaluit, or an inspection of the town of Iqaluit. Could that report be released to the Iqaluit chamber of commerce? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 650-12(3): MACA Inspection Report Of The Town Of Iqaluit

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have had discussions with the mayor and also members of the chamber of commerce from Iqaluit this Sunday. In my discussions with the mayor, I told him that I will not be in the position to release the report. It is up to the mayor to release the report. I have been told that the mayor intends to release

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the report to the council to discuss what is in the report. I have also been informed that the council, mayor and my officials will be meeting with rate payers on April 17 to discuss the report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 651-12(3): Status Of Tobacco Information Officer Position

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. She gave a Minister's statement this afternoon dealing with cancer month, which is April. The aim of cancer month is to reduce occurrences of cancer by encouraging people to change their life-styles. Mr. Speaker, some years ago, there used to be a person working for the Department of Health who dealt with tobacco. He was a person who went about talking to school children and the general public about the effects of cigarette smoke, the use of tobacco and its correlation to the disease of cancer. I see more and more young people smoking now than ever before. I wonder if the Department of Health still has a person designated to deal with the use of tobacco.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 652-12(3): Lead Department On Family Law Review Issue

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are further questions to those asked by Mr. Lewis of the Minister of Justice regarding the family law review. Mr. Speaker, there is apparently much more work planned in this very long-standing process. Is it clear which department is the lead in responding to this long-standing issue of the family law review? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 652-12(3): Lead Department On Family Law Review Issue

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I have taken the lead as Minister of Justice in dealing with the recommendations. Many of the recommendations deal with those areas that fall under the responsibilities of the Department of Justice, but we will be working jointly with the Department of Social Services. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 652-12(3): Lead Department On Family Law Review Issue

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This matter has dragged on for some years, as I am sure the Minister knows. Since his department is the lead, has the Minister assigned an official, preferably a senior official, to take responsibility for carrying on this work and concluding the next stages in a timely manner? Has there been a specific person assigned to get this thing moving? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 652-12(3): Lead Department On Family Law Review Issue

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister of Justice has some staff who are looking at different parts of the report and the recommendations. The recommendations are currently being reviewed by the department. Once this session is over, it is my view that the department will have more time to devote to issues like this in more depth. We have been caught up in the fall session, the winter session, this session and the budget cycle. We have not had the time we would like to devote to all the different areas of work that we need. Again, I want to tell you, at least, by fall, we will have a substantial document ready. By the end of this current fiscal year, we should have some draft legislation ready for consideration by Members of this House as is anticipated or recommended by the recommendations. There are suggestions that we look at drafting new pieces of legislation. We would have some sort of a plan ready to recommend to Members within the year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Time for oral questions has elapsed. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 125-12(3), a letter I received from Mr. Jack Walker, which I read into the record in Members' statements, regarding the CBC report this morning.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I would like to table, Tabled Document 126-12(3), a letter dated March 30, from Mr. Fernand Denault which outlines the opposition of the United Steel Workers of America to the proposed payroll tax of one per cent on the working people of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 127-12(3), a letter from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, written to individuals and business organizations in the Kitikmeot region. The letter is pertaining to a Kitikmeot Inuit Association study on the economic development program in the Kitikmeot region. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 128-12(3), a letter I received. It is probably one of many I will be receiving. It deals with the action to stop the payroll tax. It is from a constituent and it outlines this individual's particular concern.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 129-12(3), a proposal to privatize the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, March, 1993.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 29-12(3): Convening Of The Fourth Session Of The 12th Legislature

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 1, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, notwithstanding rule 3(1), that the Commissioner be requested to convene the Fourth Session of the 12th Legislative Assembly for Wednesday, November 17, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today, I will be seeking unanimous consent to proceed with my motion. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, notices of motion. Mr. Kakfwi.

Motion 30-12(3): To Refer Partnership Act To The Standing Committee on Legislation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, April 1, I shall move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nunakput, that Tabled Document 118-12(3), Proposed Bill, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act, be referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for review. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions.

MR. KOE:

Are we under motions, Mr. Speaker? I seek unanimous consent to proceed with my motion today.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion 29-12(3): Convening Of The Fourth Session Of The 12th Legislature

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, honourable colleagues.

WHEREAS the rules of the Legislative Assembly require that a session commence on the first Wednesday in October;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to commence the Fourth Session on a later date;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, notwithstanding rule 3(1), that the Commissioner be requested to

convene the Fourth Session of the 12th Legislative Assembly for Wednesday, November 17, 1993.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 2-12(3), The Justice House -Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality; Tabled Document 19-12(3), 1992 Master Plan for Corrections Service Division; Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94; Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Printing Act; Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act; Bill 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94; Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act; Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Mining Safety Act; Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1992-93; Bill 24, Write-off of Debts Act, 1993; 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; Committee Report 15-12(3), TD 33-12(2): Government Accountability: A Legislative Action Paper on Access to Government; Committee Report 17-12(3), Report on Television Guidelines, with Mr. Ningark in the chair. The committee will stay in session until they report themselves out.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

When we concluded yesterday, we were discussing the Department of Health's main estimates. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to conclude the Department of Health's estimates, once completed to be followed by Bill 17, Committee Report 11-12(3), Bills 23, 20 and 24.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree to deal with those items in that order?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We will take a 15 minute recess.

--SHORT RECESS

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

Department Of Health

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): The committee will now come to order. When we concluded yesterday, we were discussing the Department of Health's estimates. Would the honourable Minister like to bring in the witnesses?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Proceed, Madam Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses, please. For the record, please introduce your witnesses.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is David Kinloch, deputy minister of Health, and on my right is Elaine Berthelet, assistant deputy minister of Health. Thank you.

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Territorial hospital insurance services, page 12-12, operation and maintenance, total O and M, \$115.268 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, what page are we on?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We are on section 12, page 12 of the 1993-94 Main Estimates, activity summary, territorial hospital insurance services, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$115.268 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

During the recent review of activities which were carried out by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, several boards expressed concern about a practice which has been used to account for the fact that staff positions with health and hospital boards remain vacant. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts heard concerns about the same thing during its review of the Auditor General's report, especially from representatives of health boards in the Baffin and the Keewatin. Some of those vacancy rates account for approximately \$450 to \$200,000. Recognizing this is a serious concern for some of the health boards, can you tell me if the same practice will be used to apply the arbitrary four per cent vacancy against this budget for health or hospital boards?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let the deputy minister respond to that.

DR. KINLOCH:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In previous years, the department applied what is called a vacancy rate to

boards based on estimated experience of vacancies within the facilities, either four or two per cent, depending on the institution. However, in the most recent year the actual experience of the board is used as the basis for projecting the future year's budget. There is no arbitrary application of a vacancy factor. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Territorial hospital insurance services. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Those vacancy rates, the money which is theirs for the boards, what happens, does it actually go back to the department? What is it used for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Dr. Kinloch respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Dr. Kinloch.

DR. KINLOCH:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the beginning of each year the boards are provided with a target, a budget amount within which they are expected to operate the facility. Staffing and O and M within the facility are guided by the amount of the target. If that requires the holding of some positions vacant, then they are held vacant. There is no application of an arbitrary figure at the beginning of the year. We begin with the actual expenditures of the preceding year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Merci. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

All the boards have operating budgets. At the end of each year they do not get \$500,000 to operate. Basically what happens is the billings system is asked for services provided, and the money is put in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Dr. Kinloch.

DR. KINLOCH:

Mr. Chairman, if I understand Mr. Gargan's question correctly, the answer is no. The boards are provided with a budget, and they must manage and stay within that budget subject to the appropriation of any additional funds through a supplementary budget request. At the beginning of each year, boards are advised by the department on the basis of approvals of the Legislative Assembly the amounts of monies which will be available for the operation of each board. It is then up to each board to manage their budget within that set level.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

What is the political direction taken by your department? Under the Strength at Two Levels report and the community transfer initiatives, they are looking at devolution to the community or local level. Are you still operating on that basis as opposed to creating new health boards?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not creating new health boards. There are going to be some improvements made this year when the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act is revised and through MOUs, which Dr. Kinloch spoke about yesterday. Those are the areas which we are going to be working in, realigning the boards' functions and improving the relationship between the boards and the Department of Health. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

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MR. GARGAN:

Of course that would only happen if you decide to keep health services, correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under certain circumstances, the Member is correct. He is quite correct, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, last week I asked the Minister several questions with regard to cadmium in caribou. There does not seem to be very much concern about it. In the press, even Audrey McLaughlin, MP, was talking about the high level of cadmium in caribou, and that it does pose a danger if you eat enough of it. Have you received any scientific analysis with regard to the cadmium which is in caribou? How concerned should we be? I am sure the people in the communities are very concerned. If it does pose a health hazard, the public deserves to know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reports which have been made through the newspapers were somewhat inaccurate because they stated the cadmium was in the meat. However, the level of cadmium in the meat does not pose a danger to a person's health. The level of cadmium found in the liver and kidneys does exceed the safe level. The level which has been found in the meat is well below the danger level. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does this pose any kind of threat to other animals besides the caribou? I am wondering whether it is restricted to caribou because their diet consists of lichen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. How contagious is this to the other animals? Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did the Member for Deh Cho ask if it also is dangerous to the other animals that eat the caribou, or is he asking if it is found in other animals?

AN HON. MEMBER:

(microphone turned off)

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

All right. I will let Dr. Kinloch respond to that.

DR. KINLOCH:

Mr. Chairman, cadmium is found in other animals. I believe there are studies in Quebec indicating moose kidney has contamination levels of cadmium. Cadmium is also found in the organs of sea mammals. I should note that cadmium is also found in cigarette smoke.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Territorial hospital insurances services. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I have one final question, Mr. Chairman, with regard to a senior official from the Department of Health who is warning northerners of the danger of tropical winter vacations. I wonder whether Dr. Ian Gilchrist is saying that soaking under the sun could lead to skin cancer. I want to know from you what is happening in that area because we have many people from the north who take a few weeks vacation in the winter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have a question regarding UV rays. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let Dr. Kinloch respond to that.

DR. KINLOCH:

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Chairman, exposure to ultraviolet light is indeed a cause of skin cancer. There is a growing concern about this as a result of a thinning of the ozone layer which affects us as well as the southern polar areas so that exposure to the sun

here is as risky as exposure to the southern sun in many areas. The recommendations are that people should avoid exposing their skin to the sun during the period from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. In other words, at the maximum height of the sun they should use sun screens and wear hats and protection. There is a danger which is leading to an increase in some forms of skin cancer and is expected to cause even more in the future unless the thinning of the ozone layer is reversed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Territorial hospital insurance services. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I was not sure where to raise this issue. Over the past few days we have raised concerns about a number of gaps. The Auditor General's report, for example, identified failures with respect to the department's use of research information. I realize the department does not have a proper research lab as you would have in other jurisdictions to do the kind of sophisticated research work, but they do collect some very important information which I am sure other jurisdictions would find very useful. We had a great deal of discussion recently over E. coli, for example, and last week we also had the discussion on AIDS and HIV. What is difficult to understand is, why has the position of the territorial epidemiologist not been filled? It is a position, I believe, which deals with the entire business of transmittable diseases, and this position has not been filled for quite a long time. Could we have some explanation as to why that position has not been filled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That position has been filled since last fall. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you kindly. Territorial hospital insurance services. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

With regard to home visits by physicians and nurses, do you have any kind of policy or guidelines with regard to that? I have been experiencing quite a bit of difficulty in that area and many residents in Fort Providence are experiencing that difficulty. The difficulty is that there are situations in which a person cannot get up or for some reason cannot make it to the nursing station, but are still required to go there regardless of their condition. Time and time again I

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have run into that type of situation and I do not seem to be making any headway. That is only one problem.

The other problem is that most nursing stations have vehicles. Even for patients going out of the community, the nurses do not make any effort to take patients to the airport. People have to find their own ride whether it is for them going out or coming back in, they are left at the airport and that is it. What are the rules? I want to be clear that when the nurses are doing those kinds of things, I have a way of dealing with it. I do not want to be told that it is our policy when, perhaps, it is not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are home visits in the communities where there are home care programs. Concerning the patients receiving a ride to the airport, I know if there is no other transportation arrangement made, sometimes it is arranged through the hamlet council with their vehicle. So, there are some efforts made within the community for transportation within the local government. That is usually the practise in the east in the communities which I know. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I just told you what the practice was in the west.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have the department look into that and get back to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Territorial hospital insurance services. Operations and Maintenance, \$115.268 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

Medical Care Plan

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Medical care plan. Operations and maintenance, \$17.917 million. Agreed? Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the services rendered in other countries, is there an amount which can be put forward as to how much this costs the territorial government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let Dr. Kinloch respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Dr. Kinloch.

DR. KINLOCH:

Mr. Chairman, there is a small amount of money which has been paid out for care out of the country in the past. However, restrictions have been placed on coverage out of the country. Individuals travelling outside of Canada are

strongly urged to seek supplementary private insurance coverage in order to not possibly facing high medical bills.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In dealing with out of country, does that include the United States? Yes, thank you. Are there situations where we have patients who are sent out of the country intentionally for medical treatment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do you mean specialized care? Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do, with prior approval.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Medical care plan, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$17 million. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to continue with this line of questioning. Quite a few people travel abroad and outside of Canada. I am not sure if they understand whether they are covered or not. I recognize the fact that people must be cognizant of their own welfare, especially those travelling for recreational purposes. Somehow or another there is the odd one which will fall through the hoops, and we could have a situation on our hands as we did a few years ago, where a person was in Africa and came down with an illness and it costs this government quite a bit of money to see that person safely home. To avoid anything like this, it is difficult to tell a person who is laid up somewhere that they are on their own. Is there a way which we can advise the public, through a letter or notice? Under the THIS we have to renew our green cards annually. Is there a notice which could be placed in there stating this is only valid, in red letters, so the message gets home to the individual rather than having a situation on our hands somewhere down the line? Is there a way that we can, or are we doing that already?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The travel agents are asked to advise their clients about buying out of country insurance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Medical care plan. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

I am not sure what the travel agents do. In the Department of Health, under whom people naturally assume they are being cared for, because in the territories it is a little different than in the provinces, everyone receives a health care card and when you go to the hospital you show the card and that is it. Travel agents are in the business to make money and one may assume they are just trying to sell you extra insurance as they do for automobiles. I am wondering if the department, as a precaution, indicates in the medical literature, which goes out with the little card, that this is only valid within Canada, and that there is no agreement abroad, in order to protect the department. Does the department do anything?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Madam Minister or Dr. Kinloch.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am being advised that we inform the health card holders now, but we could do a better job on that one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Medical care plan, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$17.917 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Medical Travel

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Medical travel, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$21.748 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any clear role which the CHR plays? I would like to find out from the Minister exactly what their responsibilities are with regard to their duties in the nursing stations? With regard to medical travel, what are the policies for people who have to drive out of town for specialized care? I would also like to know what your policy is with regard to vehicles at nursing stations, are those also used for the purpose of transporting patients to and from airports?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Dr. Kinloch to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Dr. Kinloch.

DR. KINLOCH:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will attempt to deal with the three or four questions asked by Mr. Gargan. The first of them, as I understand it, seeks clarification of the travel policy to obtain services which are not insured services, such as chiropractic. Our travel policy is that we pay for travel only to receive insured services at the nearest centre where that service could be provided. There would be no medical travel paid for seeking a non-insured service.

In terms of the travel support provided by health centres to patients, it has long been a policy, dating back to medical services branch, that the staff of health centres should not be taxi drivers. There are other individuals in the community who can take on that role and, indeed, in many communities there are arrangements which cover transportation of patients, in others there are private businesses that provide that service. It is not a reasonable use of nursing time to be conveying people back and forth to airports, except when there is a requirement for nursing care on route, in which case it is covered.

The role of community health representatives is primarily directed to health promotion and disease prevention activities with a heavy influence on health education, rather than the provision of patient care, making arrangements for non-insured services and

providing any clinical services. This is different in the Northwest Territories than in other parts of Canada where CHRs have a somewhat broader role in the clinical area. We are convinced that the primary requirement in the communities is for health education, health promotion activities and taking advantage of the major skills which CHRs have in bridging the language and cultural gaps which may exist between nurses and physicians and the people they are trying to help.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Medical travel, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$21.748 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, every day I am in Fort Providence I see the medical vehicle cruising around town, to the store and post office. I do not know if they are taxi drivers or not but they are doing those things. The point which I was trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is that in the event of an emergency we do not have an ambulance as such. You have to rely on the medical expert in that area to hopefully address the situation at hand. We do not have that at the moment. That is one of my concerns. If someone drops on the street and you do not really know what caused them to drop you would rather go to the nursing station and have someone look at the person. In many circumstances the nurses still say you are to bring the patient in. You end up in a situation in which you really do not have the expertise the nurses do. My concern is in that area.

You also have a situation with regard to compassionate travel. I am also wondering about that. Those are areas of concern, Mr. Chairman. Every year people come to me, even though it might have happened a year ago, a month ago, or it might have just happened, about these types of situations. I end up not being able to address it, because by the time you are able to address it a whole new problem arises.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe that was just a comment. Mr. Gargan, was there a question? Would the honourable Minister like to respond to that?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member for Deh Cho has a good idea. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Medical travel, total O and M, \$21.748 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Details of grants and contributions. Contributions, \$88.197 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Grants and contributions, \$88.197 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I have a letter. I just wanted to ask the Minister a question. A request was sent to the department regarding taking over duties of CHRs. The Minister responded, "Since health education is an integral part of public health programs, and community health representatives work with and sometimes under the direction of other members of the public health team, examples are nurses and regional environmental health officers, regional nutritionists and regional health promotion officers, clerk interpreters, as well as community groups, to transfer only selected functions of the community health representative to the band council would fragment a comprehensive approach to public health services and may increase the cost of services. Therefore, the department is not in a position to support your resolution at this time."

My problem is, what is the difference whether you function out of a band office or out of a nursing station to deliver those programs? I do not see anything here that suggests it will fragment if you transfer it over to the band councils. I just do not see how it could

happen. Even when Morris A kid was the regional director and before that there was another gentleman who we used to work with. When the transfer of the CHR program started going to the communities the suggestion was that it go to the community, not to the nursing stations. When the program was first delivered under Monique Begin, the whole purpose was for the community to start controlling their own health. I am not seeing that happen.

Your letter suggests that not in a million years are you going to see something like this go to a community board. Rather, your suggestion is, at this time, you are not supporting the regional councils with regard to their resolution to take over that responsibility. Exactly what is your department doing in that direction of community self-government, community self-sufficiency and community transfer initiatives? We are getting mixed messages here. Why would you be saying something like this and still suggest that you support the transfers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do support community transfers, but in this case, as I said, local Metis associations were not in favour of having CHRs transferred to the band council. When there is opposition coming from the community, I am hesitant to transfer the position until things are worked out. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

All right. Can I try again? Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I have not seen any kind of correspondence with regard to your department and the Metis Association suggesting there were some disagreements on that initiative. If there are disagreements, I am not aware of them. Do you have a copy of that letter right now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could provide the correspondence sent to the department, to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the transfer initiatives, in order for anything to be supported, I would think we would be looking at many people being consulted as to whether they support that initiative. What are we looking at with regard to this department's transfer initiative? Who are you looking at as the political body representing the community? If you are looking at the Metis Association, I would appreciate you saying that. If it is the band or the hamlet, I would appreciate you saying that. If it is the health board, I would appreciate something like that. However, I do not appreciate the fact that you are suggesting unless there is 100 per cent support nothing is happening. I do not appreciate your department using one political body against the other, of course that is a good way of stalling things forever if that is your direction or your intent. Can you tell me if your department is going to be supporting community transfer initiatives?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The honourable Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the communities make requests for community transfer, whether it may be a hamlet, band council or Metis Association, all of those bodies or organizations represent a portion of the community. So, it is important if there is going to be community transfers that the group majority of the community supports the idea of transfer of the program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. In fact, regardless of whether the Metis Association represents ten per cent of the population, 20 or 25 percent for that matter, their decision is fairly well determined regardless of whether the band council represents 75 per cent of the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it does not. The thing is, because they are the community members as well, it is important if there are two organizations, as one is for and one is against. I think something should be worked out. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN:

If you agree with that then what are you doing to work it out?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think it is the department's responsibility to push these two organizations, which are representatives of the community, to work together. The initiative has to come from the community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, during the first week of February there was a motion passed by the regional council with regard to supporting the transfer of responsibility of community health representatives to the band council. There was no opposition to that and letters were sent to everyone including myself as well as the regional direction, the CHRs, Tom Mackenzie, and also to the Metis Association and the regional directors. The Minister indicated she received a letter from the Metis Association, and it did not support the initiative. Can I ask the Minister the reasons why they were not in support of it? Obviously, you do have the letters or you would not have mentioned them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you kindly. Dr. Kinloch. The honourable Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the letter but I am not going to try and say what the letter said word for word because I do not want to misquote the Metis Association. I have the correspondence at my desk, Mr. Chairman. If you would allow me to get it I could provide it to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Perhaps you could send someone. We will move on. Details of grants and contributions. Contributions, \$88.197 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Grants and contributions, \$88.197 million. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had raised my hand when you were calling this out, but I wanted to find out from either the Minister or the deputy minister how much was saved by not appointing members to the boards from the communities. When we were saying there was a restraint the government took the position that members would not be appointed to boards if they were vacant. I wanted to find out if they know how much was saved by not appointing members to the boards.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the exact figures, but it would be around \$50,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know Mrs. Marie-Jewell spoke on this a little bit yesterday, but I want to raise this again with the Minister just to indicate that I support the changing of legislation to make board members elected by the communities. I indicated in an earlier statement that the community of Arviat had not been represented on the regional health board for approximately one year and a half. From December, 1991, to March, 1992, there was a restraint program, so the Minister was not able to appoint a member from the community of Arviat. From April to the fall of 1992, we had a shuffle of the Cabinet, and had a number of different Ministers of Health in that period of time. Again, the community of Arviat got caught in the middle of that due to the shuffle which the Cabinet was going through and has resulted in a member from Arviat not being represented on the Keewatin regional health board. I would like, for the record, to say that I would support any move that Cabinet makes toward having the regional health boards elected by the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The vacancies are now being processed for that community. There is one for Coral Harbour, Arviat and Rankin Inlet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Page 12-15, details of grants and contributions, total grants and contributions, \$18.197 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. The next page is an information item. Are there any comments? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Page 12-23, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, total department, \$836,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Page 12-09, Health, program summary, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$182.229 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we conclude this department, the Special Committee on Health and Social Services had a public meeting in Fort Providence during the last week of February. At that time, this whole issue of the community health representatives came up, the CHR programs. At the public meeting, there was no opposition to what the communities wanted to do in that direction. For the record, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know whether or not I am serving any purpose by sitting here trying to represent this community, as this department is suggesting that perhaps they should rely on other people in the communities to give us that

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direction. I still represent about 75 per cent of the status people in Fort Providence and about 20 per cent of the Metis people in Fort Providence. I do not think it is right that this department, every time an initiative is going to take place, should consult everyone in order to stall things. Quite frankly, I am disappointed that I am sitting here wasting words, and I do not know whether or not being elected and representing my constituency serves any purpose, if what I am doing is chewing the fat. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Program summary, total O and M, \$182.229 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I have one final question I would like to ask the Minister. With regard to the tabled document on the AIDS program...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Gargan, we, as an Assembly, have concluded this department. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to pose one question to the Minister before she leaves.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Please proceed, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I would like one clarification with regard to the tabled document which was given on AIDS. I would like to ask the Minister if a study was done with regard to AIDS, an independent study, and the results of that study? Did we have an actual independent study done besides this document?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have the deputy minister respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Dr. Kinloch.

DR. KINLOCH:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consultants study is incorporated in the document which was tabled in the House. It is part of the yellow document that Mr. Gargan was showing the Members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Then, you would not mind providing us with a copy of the consultant's report?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister has indicated that it is included in the tabled document.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, in order for it to be included in this document there must be a separate document. I would like to get a copy of the document which was incorporated into this one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can provide the document to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that this department is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and her officials. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you do not mind, I would like to make some closing remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

This is not normal practice. That concludes the details on this budget. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

It is the committee's wish that we complete Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94, clause by clause.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94. Clause 1, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Clause 2, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Clause 3, agreed? Mr. Pollard.

Committee Motion 152-12(3): To Adopt Clause 3 Of Bill 17, As Amended

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to clause 3, I would move that clause 3(2) of Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94 be amended by striking out, \$981.038 million, and by substituting \$982.315 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

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Clause 3, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Schedule. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would move that the schedule to Bill 17 be struck out and the schedule set out in the schedule to this motion be substituted. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will read the schedule into the record.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Proceed. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I am just waiting to get a copy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

Committee Motion 153-12(3): Be Adopted By Substituting Amended Schedule

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, for the record, schedule, amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1994, Vote 1, operations and maintenance, item 1, Legislative Assembly, \$10.699 million. Item 2, Executive, \$17.775 million. Item 3, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, \$52.439 million. Item 4, Finance, \$21.233 million. Item 5, Personnel, \$26.314 million. Item 6, Justice, \$63.736 million. Item 7, Safety and Public Services, \$6.410 million. Item 8, Government Services and Public Works, \$129.951 million. Item 9, Transportation, \$45.735 million. Item 10, Renewable Resources, \$42.274 million. Item 11, Municipal and Community Affairs, \$62.519 million. Item 12, Health, \$182.237 million. Item 13, Social Services, \$77.453 million. Item 14, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, \$4.771 million. Item 15, Economic Development and Tourism, \$33.662 million. Item 16, Education, Culture and Employment Programs, \$205.107 million. Total appropriation, \$982.315 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Schedule, Vote 1, operations and maintenance, total appropriation \$982.315 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

As amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Is Bill 17 now ready for third reading, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Does this committee agree that Committee Report 11-12(3), Standing Committee on Finance Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Main Estimates, is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that we do Bill 23.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does the committee agree to deal with Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1992-93?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you like to introduce the bill?

Bill 23: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1992-93

Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, requests authority for additional appropriations of \$8.875 million. This supplementary appropriation consists of additional appropriations in the amount of \$8.642 in O and M, and \$233,000 in capital.

In operations and maintenance, the most significant amounts are for social assistance, \$3.536 million; the residual balance

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of Expo 1992, \$2.4 million, and, employee benefits, \$1.148 million.

The largest part of the capital supplementary requirement is the amount of \$216,000, which is necessary because of the loss by fire of the Nanook School in Apex in December, 1992.

These supplementary appropriations are within the estimates supplementary requirements for the year as shown in the summary of projected revenues and expenditures. Mr. Chairman, that ends my opening statement. I would like to request that when we get into detail, I bring in witnesses. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Would the Standing Committee on Finance like to make opening remarks? Mr. Antoine.

Comments By Standing Committee On Finance

MR. ANTOINE:

On Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, these are the comments by the Standing Committee on Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Finance reviewed Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, at its meetings in Yellowknife on March 11 and 13. The Standing Committee was pleased that the Minister of Finance and his staff were available to answer questions at that time.

Mr. Chairman, in total the bill represents a further appropriation of \$8.875 million for the current fiscal

year. If this bill is passed, the total supplementary appropriation for the fiscal year of 1992-93 will be approximately \$31 million.

During our meeting on March 13, the committee agreed to recommend this bill to the House for consideration. The standing committee would like to commend the government for its attempts to restrict the number of items and the total amount of supplementary appropriations for 1992-93. However, the committee did have several concerns with this bill and I will speak to the major issues. Members of the committee may have comments on the details of this bill while we go through it in committee of the whole.

The committee is concerned about the whole operational budgeting process. We questioned the number of requests for funding that were unanticipated. The committee also questioned why the government does not have more accurate means of forecasting the total amount of anticipated expenditures. In some cases, the standing committee is concerned about the amount of funds required for specific budget items. The committee noted two areas where it felt the requirement for funds should have been anticipated. The first is the recreation salary subsidy program, additional funds are required to subsidize the salaries of recreation leaders who graduate from recreation leader programs in the spring of 1992. The committee feels that funding for the subsidy program should have been included in the main estimates.

The second area is the local management agreements with communities to conduct polar bear studies and to live up to the obligations of the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna, CITES, I guess. The committee believes the requirement for these funds should have been anticipated.

The Standing Committee on Finance is concerned about the total cost of the forest fire management review in the Department of Renewable Resources. While the purpose of the review is not questioned, the committee feels the cost for the review of this one division is high.

The standing committee noted that the cost to the Government of the Northwest Territories for participation in Expo does not represent good value for money invested. The committee hopes that, at the very least, valuable lessons were learned as a result of this experience.

The Standing Committee on Finance recognizes the difficulties facing the government in terms of its attempts to balance the budget. The committee would like to give its full support to the government in these efforts. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Does this committee agree that the Minister bring in his officials at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, bring the witnesses in. Mr. Minister, for the record, will you introduce your witnesses?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The gentleman I have with me is Mr. Lew Voytilla, who is the secretary to the financial management board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any general comments? Would this committee like to go to details now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Legislative Assembly

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

On page six, Legislative Assembly, operations and maintenance, not previously authorized, \$128,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total department, \$128,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Finance

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Finance, operations and maintenance, government accounting, not previously authorized, \$500,000. Mr. Koe.

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MR. KOE:

Is this \$500,000 to fund cost increases, domestic and commercial subsidies, pursuant to the power subsidy program? Of this \$9.445 million, how much of that is related to the power subsidy program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I do not have the exact dollar figure, but it is about \$3.5 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

The \$500,000 that is being requested is an increase over and above the \$3.5 million, so it is going to go to \$4 million, is that roughly correct, a 15 or 16 per cent increase?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Koe has the better of me. I do not know if it is three going to three and a half or three and a half going to four, but I will get that number for you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Government accounting, not previously authorized, \$500,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I could see the increase happening because of higher consumption, but do we also get power rate increases?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

There was a six per cent increase in power rates, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Government accounting, not previously authorized, \$500,000. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I have expressed this concern in the committee level, but I did want to state it for the record. This amount is for a power subsidy program to equate or to subsidize power in the communities to somewhat similar of the Yellowknife power rates. There are communities that have lower power rates and are not given any consideration with regard to any type of subsidy for the lower power rate that they pay. Actually, you are taking \$4 million out of the budget to subsidize commercial and domestic power subsidies through the subsidy program and you give no break to the communities that have lower power rates and have a surplus of power. What are they doing to somehow address the inequity? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the subsidy amount that is paid out each year is demanded back from the Power Corporation by way of dividend. They usually pay up on the first day of April in the fiscal year, Mr. Chairman. I am aware of the situation in Fort Smith. It has lower power rates than Yellowknife. The Member is correct that, on the first 700 kilowatts of domestic power, those people outside of Yellowknife are subsidized to the Yellowknife rate. I have passed on her concern about the fact that Fort Smith has lower power rates than Yellowknife. I have passed it on to the public utilities board and also to Madam Premier. I am assured by the chairman of the public

utilities board, Mr. Hill, that issue will be dealt with this summer as the public utilities board deals with the rate structure review and the request for a six per cent increase from the Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Finance, government accounting, not previously authorized, \$500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total department, \$500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Culture And Communications

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Culture and Communications, operations and maintenance, language bureau, not previously authorized, \$233,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total department, \$233,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Personnel

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Personnel, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, (\$57,000). Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Staffing, not previously authorized, (\$46,000). Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Labour relations, not previously authorized, \$50,000. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Have we hired someone to do these negotiations that may cost us about \$1 million? Is that what this is? Is someone actually working in this position?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the government has retained the services of a lawyer, Mr. Russell

Juriansz, to assist with its position with regard to pay equity negotiations with the Union of Northern Workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

What is the status of those negotiations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, negotiations have broken off and it would appear that this issue will, in fact, go before the human rights commission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Is the lawyer still on staff?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Juriansz is still assisting us with regard to the process and also our position before the human rights commission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Labour relations, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Employee benefits, not previously authorized, \$1.148 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Personnel, operations and maintenance, total department, \$1.095 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Renewable Resources

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Renewable Resources, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, \$240,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Wildlife management, not previously authorized, \$205,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Forest fire management, not previously authorized, \$190,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back to forest fire management. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, when was the last review with the Department of Renewable Resources with respect to a departmental review?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that was in 1987. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Forest fire management, not previously authorized, \$190,000. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I am still trying to figure out why the department is doing this forest fire management review. I know that some of the intention is to provide greater economic benefits to the territories as opposed to all of these benefits being leaked to the south. Was this forest fire management review also part of a departmental review which was done in 1987, and if it was, why was this particular review not done then with regard to looking at the same type of concerns which are being expressed now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, this review came about as a directive from the Financial Management Board to Renewable Resources. It was triggered by the fact that we were going to put a base in Fort Smith, a hangar, and the question was asked, what size, what shape, and what exactly are we going to do with that hangar, which led to how we are going to fight fire in the Northwest Territories, and how can we get more of the \$10 million or in excess of \$10 million which we spend in the Northwest Territories on fire suppression. The department was directed to go and hire outside expertise and report back to the Financial Management Board.

With regard to whether this is a duplication of work possibly performed in the department in previous years, I will defer to the Minister responsible, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Alloo.oo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When our government first took over the responsibility of forest fire management back in 1988, the federal government put in conditions when turning the responsibility of forest fire management to our government, their policies would apply, their fire management zones, and their fire fighting attack areas would apply even after the transfer for some period of time. When we completed their requirement to apply their policies and apply their way of fighting, our government started to

develop forest fire management that would suit the Northwest Territories' requirement to fight fires. After the policy was developed, Mr. Chairman, it was thought that we could improve on the policy to further utilize more northern businesses and the work force in this particular area. As the Minister of Finance has stated, the Financial Management Board directed my department to further review our forest fire management program to determine whether more could be done to promote local employment and business opportunities, as well as to determine the most cost-effective means to achieve forest fire suppression. This is what this is. To further look into the program to see if we can improve it to better suit northern requirements. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, the concern which I have is that there was a departmental review back in 1987 which probably cost about \$300,000. Now, we are looking at another \$200,000 to look at the forest fire management review in addition to whatever additional costs you will be looking at. Since you have taken over the forest management, since the devolvement of the responsibility from the feds, you have spent about \$600,000 reviewing your department. I am not aware if there has even been a policy developed with regard to forest fire management. In fact, I think they are still waiting for the policy with respect to forest suppression. I know that has been requested by the native bands who have been addressing fire suppression. They have been without a policy. My concern is, we spend over half a million dollars and very little policy development is being done to address some of the critical issues of forest management. I wanted to make this concern known. I certainly hope that, through the Minister of Finance, he would request the Minister ensure that these policy developments are completed to address the critical issues such as forest fire management in the territories, particularly after spending that amount of money. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are concerned about the amount of money we spend and how much stays in the Northwest Territories. That is why FMB is directing this study take place. I think the Minister of Renewable Resources realizes the importance of coming back with a speedy response and allowing us to address this issue. From there, I would imagine that policies will be looked at, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

The other closing remark which I wanted to make, Mr. Chairman, is with regard to the total review. Many concerns have been expressed from my community over the fact that the review appeared to be somewhat of a barrier to trying to encourage the government to continue with their initiative on building the hangar to look after the water bombers or trying to keep them in the north as opposed to flying south. I certainly have indicated to the community that I do not believe it is the case, we are trying to find a way to make more use of our dollars in the north and I support the concept of it. However, I certainly hope in the future when the government is going to look at doing something, they do not start looking at a review after they make a decision to do something. A review should be done first and then a plan should be developed. This is certainly not what has happened. My constituents have been very concerned. As a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance under the chairmanship of Mr. Todd, I gave up in the capital budget to delay one of the critical infrastructures in our community of the college building because I knew this hangar was going to be built. What I am faced with now in my constituency is having no projects whatsoever this year and next year having two major projects where we would not even have enough people in the community to keep working, we will probably have to import people to work and this year all my constituents will be unemployed. The planning does not only reflect on the ability of government to plan accordingly but it reflects on the MLAs ability to ensure that planning is properly done in the process. I have been concerned about it, and I did indicate that I was going to express this concern in the House. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Forest fire management, not previously authorized, \$190,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$635,000. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I have a question on the directorate. Can the Minister advise me as to the money spent on the constitutional commission? You are asking for an additional \$240,000. What was this for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were some clean ups on the constitutional commission. The Department of Renewable Resources had continued to fund the deputy minister and the executive secretary of the constitutional commission, and there were some clean ups in that regard. Also, there were retirement and severance benefits for the deputy minister and executive secretary from the Department of Renewable Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

What are residual expenses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the deputy minister of the Department of Renewable Resources was chairman of the constitutional commission from August, 1991, to approximately May, 1992. The salary of the chairman as well as an executive secretary and a policy specialist continued to be paid by Renewable

Resources. The salary costs amounted to \$46,484. Those are unpaid at the present time, that was the residual, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$635,000.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and maintenance, sport and recreation, not previously authorized, \$90,000. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Can I ask the Minister, how many requests, other than the three we are approving, were received from communities? How many requests were received for additional funding for recreational salary subsidy program other than the three which are being approved here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Alloo. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I do not think it was based so much on application as to the trainees who were coming through the recreation leaders' program. It was based on the number of people who came through the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

It does not make sense. There are 12 or 15 people in the program, so every time someone graduates do you mean we are going to come for a supp? There must be some ongoing money. I am aware of one other community which has requested a small amount

of money and I am not sure where that request is. It is Arctic Red River, they wanted a small amount of money to employ their recreation person who is in the program during the summer months. I wonder if funding is available for them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, as the people become available from the program they are dealt with by supp unless we can get it into the main budget process. Then, the supplementary funding is rolled over into the base of the department. You will see, very shortly, as we go into supp one of next fiscal year there are a number of other communities that are taking part in this program and it will be done in the same way.

With regard to the specifics on Arctic Red River, Mr. Chairman, I would have to defer to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I am not familiar with that community's request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I am looking at supp one, 1993-94, and you are saying the same thing, to provide additional funding to communities of Paulatuk, Resolute Bay and Sachs Harbour. How many supps are required to get this money in the base funding?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, this was approved on January 11, 1993, that was for the 1992-93 fiscal year. The budget cutoff was around November 1 for 1993-94, so the reason you are seeing it in two supps is that it came in late in this particular fiscal year and it did not get in in time to meet the cutoff for the O and M budget which was, as I said, put together in November of last year to take effect April 1 of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Sport and recreation, not previously authorized, \$90,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total department, \$90,000. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

What is the criteria to receive funding for recreational programs? Do you need a graduate from the program, or do you need someone employed as a recreational employee? I need to know so I can pass this information on.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the community that is requesting assistance from the department would not have recreational leaders in their communities. Secondly, they have to have a facility in their community to be eligible. The community receiving a recreational officer or recreational leader needs trained leaders to go into that program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$90,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Social Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Social Services, operations and maintenance, community and family support services, special warrant, \$786,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$2.750 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total department, special warrant, \$786,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$2.750 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Economic Development and Tourism, operations and maintenance, business development, not previously authorized, \$2.4 million. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Bearing in mind the words of the Minister that once money goes into a supp, it then becomes part of the base. Does that mean then that this will remain in the base for this department, even though it was for a temporary requirement to go to Seville.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, if I mislead the committee by saying that all supplementary appropriations automatically roll into the department's base, then I was incorrect. Most of the time that is what happens, but there are occasions when they are only one time funding requirements, Mr. Chairman. This is one of those one time funding requirements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had an agreement with the Minister that if he tabled something in this House that I would not pursue this item too vigorously, and he did table the item, but there are some gentle questions I still feel I must ask about this. I know we were told earlier today that the internal audit should be submitted to the House some time this week, but I was wondering if we could get a ball park figure from the Minister as to what the total expenditures will be for Expo with this \$2.4 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Minister of Finance.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the previous expenditure was \$1.8 million, this is \$2.4 million and the total amount is \$4.2 million, at the present time, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Economic Development and Tourism, operations and maintenance, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Quite awhile ago, in response to a question from the Member of Inuvik, the Minister told the House there would be probably more than 50 people hired from the Northwest Territories. I was wondering if he could indicate to us approximately how many people from the NWT received jobs at Expo.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

There were 48, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we find out if the Minister's department has carried out any formal follow-up or assessment of what these young employees may have gained from their work experience in Seville.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we have not followed up with those employees yet, but it is our intention to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we could find out from the Minister if that follow up will also include whether or not these people have since found full time employment, either inside or outside of the territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, yes, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the course of asking a number of questions to the Minister about this, I was always looking for rhymes to make sure we would not forget about Seville. I always wanted to make sure we learned something from what I foresaw as a tremendous loss. Along the way I have been thinking about other world fairs or expositions and want to know for sure we are not going to lose the rest in Budapest, when Hungary hosts Expo in '98, or that we are not going to have to go back in the hole in

Seoul, when Korea hosts another world fair. Just to be sure, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if we have any current plans for future NWT participation in upcoming world fairs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think it is common knowledge that we were invited to go to the exposition in north Korea and we respectfully declined. We have no plans at the present time to participate in any other world fairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

As I understand it, the money that was appropriated for the participation of our government in Seville was established through a revolving fund and there was an amount of approximately \$4.5 million. That is the amount as I remember it. The authority for that was a piece of legislation. Is that still the authority for spending money on that project?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

MR. LEWIS:

...in conflict with another piece of legislation which we passed a few years ago.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Quannamiik. Mr. Minister.

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HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the first piece of legislation authorized the fund, this piece of legislation, this particular section, recognizes the loss in the fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Quannamiik. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

So what is the status of the first piece of legislation that authorized setting up the fund?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, that piece of legislation expires at midnight tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Economic Development and Tourism, operations and maintenance, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I like the use of words in these budget books. It has come up twice, "a residual balance." In looking in honourable Webster's, "residual" says, "The difference between results obtained by observation and by computation from a formula or between the mean of several observations and any one of them." How do you determine the \$2.4 million was a residual balance when, at one stage, you had estimated a \$2 million loss and then, all of a sudden, it is an additional \$2.4 million. I assume that means there is a total loss of about \$4.4 million on this exercise in Seville. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Minister of Finance.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps a better word would have been another R word, the remaining balance of the loss. I will take that into consideration for future supplementary appropriations that come before the House, Mr. Chairman, particularly in the areas of loss. As I said before, there was \$1.8 million written off last year and this is \$2.4 million. The total amount is \$4.2 million, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Economic Development and Tourism, operations and maintenance, business development, not previously authorized, \$2.4 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Education

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Education, operations and maintenance, schools, not previously authorized, \$25,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, \$25,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Personnel

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Personnel, capital, labour relations, not previously authorized, \$17,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Personnel, total department, \$17,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Education

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Education, capital, schools, special warrants, \$216,000. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, this was supposed to be partially offset by insurance proceeds. How much insurance money did we receive on this unit? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the preliminary insurance appraisals estimate an insurance recovery of approximately \$1.7 million for replacement of the school. We have not yet received that money, though, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Since the Minister indicated they did not seek that amount as of yet, what do they anticipate, or do they feel they will get reimbursed in regard to the insurance proceeds? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we are anticipating receiving the \$1.7 million. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Education, capital, schools, special warrants, \$216,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That concludes the details. Are we ready to go to the bill, clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Pollard.

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HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, earlier under the Department of Finance, I had indicated to Mr. Koe that I did not know if it was \$3 to \$3.5 million or \$3.5 to \$4 million. The actual amount is \$3.5 million with the \$500,000 supplementary appropriation. It will be going to \$4 million, which we will redeem from the Power Corporation next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That is recorded. Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1992-93.

Clause By Clause

Clause 1, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 2, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 3, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 4, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 5, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 6, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 7, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 8, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Schedule, part 1, we will go to capital. Total capital, \$233,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Part two, vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$8.642 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, \$8.642 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total supplementary appropriation in parts 1 and 2, \$8.875 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Now, the bill as a whole. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

We are now finished the 1992-93 main estimates. We have now completed four supplementary appropriations. I have a question for the Minister of Finance. When we approve budgets, each department has, in their budget, definitive objectives. With all this money that has been spent and will be within a day or so, how many of these definitive objectives, which the departments have put in to get their budgets, have been met?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I am advised this is a different question. We have to do Bill 23 first. Do we agree that Bill 23 is concluded, Mr. Koe? It is ready for third reading. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Can I ask questions on Bill 23?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I am being advised that we have gone through clause by clause and we are not able to go back, unless you can ask permission to go back.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, I seek unanimous consent to go back to general comments on Bill 23.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do we have the concurrence of the committee that the honourable Member go back to general comments? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

All right. Once we pass Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1992-93, this means we passed supplementary acts one, two and three, plus the main

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estimates for 1992-93. Within the budget documents for 1992-93, each department had a list of definitive objectives, which I assume were there to justify their budgets. My question would be, can the Minister of Finance advise, or will he find out how many of these definitive objectives were met while the departments were spending their money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I guess that goes beyond the scope of Bill 23, but I will allow the question if the Minister wants to respond.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think as Members know, there is a quarterly variance report which is sent in by departments. Those variance reports are tabled with the Finance Management Board and reviewed, and are commented on by the Department of Finance

Financial Management Board. With the fourth quarter variance report, we will anticipate a report from each of the departments outlining how far they have got with their definitive objectives. From that, FMB will be able to determine how successful or how unsuccessful a department was in reaching those definitive objectives. I do not want you to think it is only done on a yearly basis. The analyst who works with the departments, the analyst within the Department of Finance is constantly monitoring how the departments are spending their money. When they want to go ahead with supplementary appropriations, those things have to be analyzed. So, there is some vigilance exercised on departments, but the truth of the matter comes out probably in May or June when the response is given to us on how and what they did with their money. Of course, it will also have to do with how much money they lapsed as well. As I say, that report will be back to us by June. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 23 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you very much. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend we move to Bill 24 for consideration now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree we move on to Bill 24, Write-off of Debts Act, 1993? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 24, Write-off of Debts Act, 1993

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard, we are on Bill 24, Write-off of Debts Act, 1993. Are you ready for the opening remarks?

Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the Write-off of Debts Act, 1993, is to authorize the write-off of certain debts listed in the schedule to the act. Pursuant to the Financial Administration Act, the write-off of government debts exceeding \$20,000 must receive Legislative Assembly approval. The write-offs will be charged against allowances for bad debts which were established by departments in previous budgets at the time it was determined that collection of the debts would be unlikely. Therefore, the write-offs being proposed in this act will not require a new appropriation. Details of the individual debts being proposed for write-off have been provided to the Standing Committee on Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Comments By Standing Committee On Finance

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some comments from the Standing Committee on Finance. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Finance reviewed the Write-off of Debts Act at its meetings in Yellowknife on March 22 and March 23. The Minister of Finance and his staff were available to answer questions at that time.

The standing committee recognizes that the purpose of the Write-off of Debts Act is to authorize the write-off of certain government debts exceeding \$20,000. The committee realizes that the write-offs being proposed in this act will not require a new appropriation. Allowances for bad debts were established by departments when it was determined that the collection of the debts would be unlikely. As well, the committee understands that even though these debts are being written off the government will continue to pursue them to the statute of limitations.

However, the standing committee did have some concerns about the government's business practices in relation to the write-off of debts. In some situations,

even though a company had more than one loan the government is proposing that only one be written off at this time. The committee suggested that the government consider consolidating all loans for a particular company when it becomes evident that the payment of debts is unlikely.

The committee expressed concern about the criteria used to qualify for government loans. The government assured the committee that the criteria for loan qualifications have been tightened since the time that these loans now proposed for write-off had been granted. The committee questioned particular situations where the government loaned money to companies which were known to be suffering financial difficulty. The government indicated to the standing committee that when they offer assistance to ailing companies in this day and age, they make sure that a good business plan is in place and that the company has sound business policies and practices.

In one situation where the write-off of debt is proposed there was no back up information in the government files. The government assured the standing committee that, at the present time, no loan is granted without all the required paper work being in place. Having satisfied itself that steps have been taken by the government to minimize the number of bad debts, the standing committee recommends this bill to the House for consideration. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. General comments on the bill. Agreed? Write-off of Debts Act, 1993, do we agree to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 1. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Are we going through detail first, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

There are no details in Bill 24. Wait until we come to schedule. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Schedule. Total debts written-off, \$580,553.96. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. I will get used to your system yet. Can I get some detail on Hanavik Arts Ltd.? Why are we writing off \$200,000 plus?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, on the Hanavik Arts Ltd.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the company is no longer in operation and the principle guarantor, Nicholas Lebessis filed an assignment in bankruptcy in November of 1991. At the present time, there are no financial resources available and no recoveries are anticipated. Therefore, we are recommending write-off. I would inform the House, however, that we will continue to pursue this debt. I think the statute of limitations is seven years in this regard, Mr. Chairman. Although we are writing it off we will still continue, if there is any chance of getting the money back, we will do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

For the record, can I ask the Minister, when a debt is written off the individual or company still has an obligation to pay. Is that correct? The government can still collect on this amount.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. It is written off, but not forgiven. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

That is correct, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Schedule, total debts written off, \$580,553.96. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Is the Minister saying this company is non-existent and the prime owner is gone?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the company is no longer in operation. We have recently learned that Mr. Lebessis is believed to be in B.C. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

The second amount, \$70,000, Sigyamiut, is this company also non-existent?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, in August, 1990, the Government of the Northwest Territories placed this company into receivership for default on the repayment of small business loans. All the assets have been disposed of and there are no remaining funds available, therefore, we are recommending write-off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Schedule, total debts written off. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I understand that the company had a fairly large loan. Has the loan been paid off, or are you only writing off a portion of it? The loan was almost \$400,000 plus.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it is \$70,000 which is being requested to be written off, the amount outstanding is for contributions issued to the company and for which no accounting was received. That is the reason for the write-off and this is only for contributions. The other amount which Mr. Koe was referring to still rests with the government in the Business Credit Corporation, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Quite possibly the loan is in jeopardy, if we are writing off the contribution, the \$400,000 loan is in jeopardy if the company has no assets. What is the department doing in terms of looking after the loan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, that will ultimately come to the House to be written off as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Schedule, total debts written off, \$580,553.96. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Item three, Voyagers Goligers Quebec, again a contribution was given for \$25,000. Why was a contribution given when the company was in serious difficulty, it was my understanding that the

contribution was made after the company had closed down. Is this fact or not?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the amount outstanding represents an accountable advance. It was provided in July, 1990 and again there was no accounting provided. The contribution was made to reduce the company's line of credit at its bank and to provide it with working capital. The company is bankrupt and a proof of claim was filed on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories with the trustees on February 12, 1992. It was in September 28, 1990 that the principals of the company informed the Iqaluit office of Economic Development and Tourism that they were going to close their doors at 6:00 pm that day. The accountable advance was made in July, 1990, and the company closed down on September 28, 1990. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I would like to move on to number five, the operating agreement debt of Transport Canada. Can the Minister elaborate on this \$217,647?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, prior to the transfer of the responsibilities for Arctic B and C airports to the GNWT expenditures were incurred by the government on behalf of Transport Canada. Mr. Chairman, when I say government I mean our government. Of these expenditures \$435,294.27 was in dispute by Transport Canada. In a nutshell, Mr. Chairman, they said their lawyers felt that they did not owe, our lawyers told our Department of Transportation that they did owe. Eventually an agreement was reached with Transport Canada to settle for 50 per cent of the total claim. We received 50 per cent in the amount of \$217,647.13 from Transport Canada in December,

1992. We are asking to write-off the remaining \$217,647.14. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Is this something similar to the Health billings dispute where the agreements that were made in transfer of responsibilities were not clearly identified so that one party did not understand the other or did not know the proper rules of billing, what was eligible to be recovered or not eligible to be recovered. Is this a similar case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the amounts represent expenditures which exceed the 1989-90 subsidy levels of the operation of the Arctic B and C airports. The subsidy, of course, came from the federal government. Transport Canada thought we should have asked them in advance, in writing, for expenditures in excess of the approved subsidy level. The department, of course, had extraordinary maintenance costs, when you are dealing with runways and so on and so forth you cannot very well request approval to remove snow. In effect, Mr. Chairman, it is not similar to the Health billings dispute. What came to the end of an agreement which had been in place for a considerable amount of time where these kinds of things have probably gone on and where the agreement was going to be carried over to the next year. This was coming to the end of those agreements because the responsibility was going to be transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories. I think that is why it ended up as an outstanding balance. As I say, it was sawed off at 50 per cent and that is why we are requesting the write-off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I am a little concerned. Someone must have known that they had to get written approval to spend money. We are talking \$435,000 here. I just wonder why this

was not done. Why were the feds or someone not notified according to the agreement? Was someone subsequently reprimanded or disciplined for this mistake?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, one of the examples that I could perhaps give you is that extraordinary maintenance costs involving the Rankin Inlet runway were undertaken because people from the Boeing aircraft company had advised us that they would remove all product liability for the two jet carriers going into Rankin Inlet if the improvements were not made to the runway. Because there is virtually daily service into Rankin Inlet, I am assuming they went ahead and made the improvements and then got into a dispute with the federal government about it after. Whether or not anyone's head rolled in 1990 because they had gone out and done this work without prior authorization, I am not aware, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Schedule. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Just following up on item 5 in the schedule. Who conducted the negotiations on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories in this deal with the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I believe it was the deputy minister of the Department of Transportation, GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Could we find out who authorized the deputy minister to enter into those negotiations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, on that one I would have to defer to the Minister of Transportation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Minister Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I had a difficult time understanding Mr. Dent's question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent, would you repeat the question please, for the Minister?

MR. DENT:

Certainly, Mr. Chairman. The question is, who authorized the Minister of Transportation to enter into negotiations with the federal government, which resulted in the agreement to write-off 50 per cent of this debt?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Minister for Transportation.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, as the Minister of Finance has stated, the deputy minister of Transportation along with the deputy minister of Transport Canada came to agreement to split the dispute 50/50. I would have to assume, if I may do that because I know there is a danger in using that word, that it had ministerial approval at the GNWT level. If I may, it seemed like an appropriate trade off at the time. The overexpenditures, as the Minister of Finance has said, were ones which were in most cases of an emergency nature, were not predicted under the original agreement and agreement was reached to avoid any unnecessary lengthy legal fees to split the difference by 50 per cent. It was the department's position that neither the memorandum of understanding or the program managers were at fault, in fact the overruns were related to emergency aspects of our responsibilities at that time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Dent, schedule.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems from the answers we have received from the Minister of Finance that this was something that was done entirely by the Department of Transportation. So, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, is it standard operating procedure for a department to negotiate a settlement of this kind where in excess of \$200,000 is proposed to be written-off? Or, is this normally done through the Department of Finance, and perhaps even getting as high as FMB level before the deal is made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it is not normal for a department to deal with another department of the federal government in making arrangements of this nature. Thank you.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. Schedule. Mr. Whitford, you had your hand up earlier?

MR. WHITFORD:

No, I did not, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

All right. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that our lawyer or whoever was negotiating on our behalf, I assume it was a lawyer, said we did not have to pay. We expended the money in good faith based on emergency, we cleared the snow, yet someone took it upon themselves to negotiate a saw off. I wonder what happened here and why we are in this debt write-off situation when our lawyers recommended we do not owe anything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department had one legal opinion, and obviously the other side had another legal opinion. The Department of Justice supported our department's position, and Transport Canada received a legal opinion supporting their position. It seemed to me like a logical trade-off that someone had to make a deal because it would end up into a long, lengthy litigation that would have probably cost us more money. So, there was an agreement reached to split the dispute, as the Minister of Finance has said, by 50 per cent. I want to emphasize again, if I may, that most of the overexpenditures were of an emergency nature and were not predicted in the planning process. Clearly there was a need for some resolve to be found to avoid any, what I would assume, lengthy legal costs. Two deputies met and agreed to it. I do not know whether it went to Cabinet, but I would assume it did. I think under the circumstances a reasonable satisfactory arrangement was made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

There must be something wrong with the agreement. I am wondering if the same agreement is still in place. We know it snows, we know it blows in Arviat and Chesterfield Inlet, so someone must have been aware and someone must have known that we have to be -- I know you do not predict storms but you know they come -- ready for these types of emergencies. Again, I would like to reiterate what Mr. Dent said, I hope this is not a way we are going to negotiate future settlements with the federal government or other people. We made a mistake and we will saw off 50/50, that is a pretty poor way to do business.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It is the opinion of myself, based on reading the document and knowing this issue, the department did not make a mistake. I have told the honourable Member, these were extraordinary emergency costs on ten Arctic airports that were not predicted. That is not an unusual situation given the current conditions which we operate under. An arrangement was reached, which is perhaps unique in this particular

case, which I think was in the best interests of the GNWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance said this is not the normal practice, what concerns Members is the fact that, where does this stop when government officials decide they are going to write-off debts which we have to concur with and bring to this House for approval, if that is not the normal practice. That should be done by the Department of Finance and not officials in the transportation division. The other concern is the fact that if this has been an unusual circumstance, and there is no doubt that provisions could be made for that, then why was consideration not made to take this funding from within, as opposed to coming to the House and asking us to write it off. With regard to the \$250,000 write-off, is that the process used to request this write-off was not proper. I believe this is what Members are concerned about. Does this mean that every official in every department can start negotiating on our behalf to say, "That is no problem. We will write it off if you absorb 50 per cent." If we are here to rubber stamp things such as this then I would suggest that you take your department budget work with it, and do not even bring it to us for concurrence. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

This was a unique situation, in my opinion. It was the final negotiations with respect to the

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transfer of responsibilities for Arctic B and C airports. I cannot speak for the government but I do not believe it was government policy. It was done in a manner which I think was fair and was not meant to circumvent anyone or any process. It certainly is not a process that we would encourage as part of government policy. It was a unique situation, the transfer of the Arctic B and C airports, there were overexpenditures for things such as Fort McPherson emergency snow blower repairs, Fort Good Hope, Pangnirtung, Repulse Bay, Lake Harbour, et cetera. It was an honest attempt to reach an appropriate

compromise in a situation that gave us two legal opinions which were going nowhere. Again, I cannot speak for the government, but it certainly is not part of government policy. I suspect this was a unique situation due to the negotiations which were under way between the GNWT and Transport Canada, with regard to taking over the responsibility for B and C airports.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make it clear to the Minister that it is not the situation and it is not the amounts which were incurred that are of concern to the committee or Members on this side of the House. The concern which we have is the process used that was concurred with half of this debt requesting to be written off. The process which was used is not a proper process. It is not the proper practice of the government to use this process. This is the concern we have. I want to ask the Minister of Finance to make sure that government officials are not going out and making deals for write-offs that they would like us to rubber stamp. I resent having to feel I have to rubber stamp something which is a fait accompli. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think all departments are aware of the proper procedures to handle disputes that they have with either governments or other people who owe them money. I will commit to sending a reminder letter around to Ministers for their departments to make sure the point gets home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

This is not about a big item, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the issue of student loans, is it still the process that when you have taken a student loan you still pay interest on it, I think it is one point above the prime rate, and you are still allowed a certain amount

of time to pay it off. Is that still the policy of the government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I will defer that question to the Minister of Education, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that is still correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

It looks as if one student who is listed on this schedule owes for four years of student loans. How long must it lapse before the government determines that this debt should be written off?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, in our estimation this loan is still alive. We have received a \$100 per month for the last three months, and that was collected by our collection agency. There is still some hope of getting some of this money back. As far as how much time must lapse, I think it depends on the circumstances which we find ourselves in. It depends on the recommendation that comes from the Department of Finance after talking with the Department of Education. I cannot really say a time. I think it depends on each person's situation, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Chairman, in this particular case money is being collected, on what basis does the department determine that a debt should be written off.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the account was assigned to the financial collection agencies in February, 1991. The debtor does not have the financial capacity to repay this debt and is only employed on a part-time basis. The debtor's credit history is very poor, and for those reasons, under accounting practices, this is considered a poor risk at the present time. It may not be with regard to the policy of how much time has gone by since the last payment, et cetera. I think it is an accounting issue of what the risk is. In this particular case, the people in the accounting departments are saying that this is a poor risk and write-off is recommended. It is a judgement call, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I find it incredible that the government would use the words poor risk because when a person is deemed to qualify for a loan there is no risk element involved. Once the person has met the criteria and qualifies for that loan, they are given it without any consideration of whether or not they are ever going to be able to pay it back. I find that this issue will probably come back to haunt us quite regularly over the next few years because young people are not able to get work. In those cases where decisions are made to loan people money, is risk a factor? Is this something which is part of the equation? Before you give a student money do you assess whether they are going into the right field or not, and whether they are likely to be able to get work or not, or is the old criteria used where risk has nothing to do with it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I probably used the wrong words there in saying poor risk. What I meant was that there was

little chance of us redeeming that money. In other words, there was a poor chance of getting that money back. I did not mean to say that it was a poor risk to loan the money but there is little chance of getting it back. It is probably my

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incorrect use of the English language for which I stand corrected, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I believe Mr. Nerysoo wanted to speak to the question.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two aspects, as my honourable colleague knows, one the matter of forgivable loans which is not a matter that is repayable, if the individual works and lives, and returns to the Northwest Territories. I believe the loan which is outstanding initially started as that but the person did not return to the Northwest Territories. There is also another program which we provide as a needs assessed loan, which is repayable no matter what situation you are in. The problem we have had in this particular situation, and I must say it is not necessarily the case in most other loans, is that we have tried to get the money back from this individual for the last several years. She has not been able to repay us with the exception of the last few months where we have been able to access \$300. From a practical perspective, we did not think we should carry this on the books that this loan was outstanding. That is the issue. It is still a loan that if the individual at some time is capable of repaying or, in fact, returns to the north, and we understand the individual has the capacity to repay, then obviously we will seek repayment from that individual.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Schedule, total debts written off, \$580,553.96. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that Bill 24, Write-off of Debts Act, 1993, is ready for third reading. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that we consider Bill 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that we deal with Bill 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard, do you have opening remarks?

Bill 20: Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, are we talking about the Loan Authorization Act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, we are dealing with Bill 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94. Mr. Pollard.

Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the Loan Authorization Act is to authorize the government to make loans to municipalities. It is a requirement of the Northwest Territories Act that the lending of government funds be authorized by this Legislative Assembly. This act is an annual act which, for the 1993-94 fiscal year, will provide the authority to lend up to a maximum of \$8 million. This represents a \$1 million decrease from the \$9 million authorized for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

The municipalities that have identified a requirement for loans include Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Iqaluit and Yellowknife. The municipal purposes for which these loans will be used include the repair of existing municipal property such as road, water and sewer upgrading, and the development of new municipal infrastructure such as a fire hall expansion and arterial road construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have opening remarks from the Standing Committee on Finance? Mr. Antoine.

Comments By Standing Committee On Finance

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Finance reviewed Bill 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94 at its meeting in Yellowknife on March 23. The standing committee was pleased that the Minister of Finance and his staff were available to answer questions at that time. The standing committee is in agreement with the intent of this bill to authorize loans to municipalities. However, the committee was concerned about the possibility of municipalities receiving loans without having the ability to repay them. The government assured the committee that the communities must receive rate payer approval to borrow money. Once rate payer approval is granted, the municipalities must qualify against the criteria established by the Government of the Northwest Territories. These criteria are established to ensure that the municipalities have the ability to carry the debt load and repay the loan. Therefore, the committee agreed to recommend this bill to the House for consideration. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Are there any general comments? It is agreed we go clause by clause. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 1, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 2, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 3, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 4, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 5. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Is the \$8 million enough to cover all of the loans which are being requested? Do we have an estimate of how many loans there are? How many loans are going to be required for 1993-94, on top of what is already owing by municipalities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, Fort Simpson is indicating that they will require \$325,000 for road/street upgrading, Yellowknife is indicating that they will require \$5.586 million for arterial on School Draw, Fort Smith is indicating that \$320,000 for fire hall upgrade and expansion, and Iqaluit is asking for \$1.1 million for road improvements and dump development. The total is \$7.331 million, and we have rounded it to \$8 million, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 5, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 6, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 7, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 8, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 9. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

If there is additional requirements from municipalities, what happens then? Do we approve a supplementary amendment to this bill? I wonder, for example, if \$8 million is in that, you have \$7.3 million worth of requests, you have a slush of about \$700,000. I am just thinking out loud if someone needs an additional \$1 million, then does the Minister come back with an amendment to this bill? How does the process work?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the funds being asked for, \$8 million under this Loan Authorization Act, can only be used for that. There is no slush fund because if they are not used then there is no money that lapses, it is just the authority which lapses, Mr. Chairman. Last year, we had asked for authority for \$9 million and I believe there was only an uptake of some \$4.495 million from communities. So, we might have some leeway there if there are other requests which come forward. Certainly, if there were requests greater than \$8 million, then the bill would have to come back to the House and be amended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 11. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that Bill 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94, is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree this bill is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

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---Carried

Thank you. I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 19, report of committee of the whole, Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 17, Committee Report 11-12(3), Bill 23, Bill 24 and Bill 20, and would like to report progress with two motions being adopted; that Committee Report 11-12(3) is

concluded; that Bill 23, Bill 24 and Bill 20 are ready for third reading; that Bill 17 is ready for third reading as amended; and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 20, third reading of bills. Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the reshaping northern working group immediately after adjournment. There will be a meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 am of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 31, 1993.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

15. Motions
 - Motion 28-12(3), Development of an Ongoing Program for AIDS Prevention
16. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94
 - Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2
 - Bill 27, Payroll Tax Act, 1993
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 2-12(3), The Justice House - Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality
 - Tabled Document 19-12(3), 1992 Master Plan for Corrections Service Division
 - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act
 - Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Printing Act
 - Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act
 - Bill 21, an Act to Amend the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act
 - Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Mining Safety Act
 - Committee Report 10-12(3), Report on Tabled Document 21-12(3): Payroll Tax Act
 - Committee Report 15-12(3), TD 33-12(2): Government Accountability: A Legislative Action Paper on Access to Government
 - Committee Report 17-12(3), Report on Television Guidelines
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94

- Bill 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94

- Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act,
No. 4, 1992-93

- Bill 24, Write-off of Debts Act, 1993

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned
until 1:30 pm, Wednesday, March 31, 1993.

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---ADJOURNMENT