



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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Day 15

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THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1995

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Speaker: The Hon. Samuel Gargon

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Hon. Silas Arngna'naaq, Mr. Ballantyne, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Hon. Samuel Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Ms. Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Hon. Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. John Todd, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Merci, Mr. Lewis. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 27-12(7): Arctic Winter Games

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Members know, my predecessor committed to pursue, on behalf of Members, several matters regarding the Arctic Winter Games and I wish to advise the Assembly of our actions on these matters.

Perhaps most significantly, arrangements are being made for a late summer or early fall meeting of elected officials from each jurisdiction participating in the Arctic Winter Games. The Honourable Richard Nerysoo, who represented the government at the Canada Winter Games in Grande Prairie, had an opportunity to discuss the need and importance of such a meeting with the Ministers responsible from Yukon and Alberta. They have agreed such a meeting is appropriate, therefore, I will be writing each jurisdiction with suggested dates and locations for the meeting.

As several Members noted during the last sitting of this Assembly, this meeting is critically important to decide the future of the Arctic Winter Games and to ensure its purpose and objectives remain consistent with broad participation and the development of sports in the north. Our concerns with the future hosting of the games will be brought forward at this meeting.

As I confirmed in response to the Member for Inuvik, Mr. Speaker, all Members have been invited to provide me with suggestions for our NWT representatives on the Arctic Winter Games International Committee. I look forward to these suggestions and will carefully review this important decision to ensure the best representation possible.

Mr. Speaker, my predecessor did request, on behalf of the Member for Inuvik, a copy of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee's evaluation of the host bids for the 1998 Arctic Winter Games. This information was received and passed on to both the Member and the town of Inuvik. The deputy minister met with officials of the town in early February and confirmed that, in the department's opinion, the town of Inuvik had submitted a competitive bid and could not be faulted for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Winter Games is the single largest sporting event in the north. Over 2,500 NWT athletes participate in competitions leading to selection of our NWT team. The future direction of the games has a major bearing on sports in the Northwest Territories and I will continue to pursue this matter with the priority it deserves and look forward to reporting further to Members on our progress. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Kidney Foundation Fund-Raising Campaign

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remind Members that the month of March is when the Kidney Foundation launches its month-long fund-raising campaign. This campaign is a vital service that the Kidney Foundation performs on behalf of all Canadians and, in particular, northern Canadians. It is especially important here in the north because we have too many residents who suffer from kidney problems of one form or another.

The Kidney Foundation is a national volunteer organization that relies only on the funds it is able to

raise through donations. In fact, 50 per cent of the money that is donated goes into research, 25 per cent goes towards patient services and the final 25 per cent pays for public education and administration costs.

Mr. Speaker, here are some sobering statistics published by the Kidney Foundation of Canada. Every day, an average of seven or more Canadians learn that their kidneys are failing and that their survival will depend on either dialysis or a kidney transplant in the end. If a person needs a transplant, he or she will have to join a waiting list of some 1,900 other Canadians who are in need of healthy new organs. Last year, the Kidney Foundation was able to raise \$121,000, and this year's goal for northern Canada is to raise \$137,000.

I have a special interest in the Kidney Foundation because I know many northern people who have related illnesses. I also have constituents who suffer from a variety of kidney complaints. If it weren't for the Kidney Foundation, I'm not sure where those people would get the level of help that the foundation now offers them here. Unless or until our northern hospitals are equipped to handle kidney dialysis treatment, residents of the NWT will continue to

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rely on the Kidney Foundation's broad range of services.

These services provide information and referrals, financial assistance programs and a medically-supervised summer camp for youngsters, travel loans and special social events. In short, and to conclude, the Kidney Foundation tries to make life as easy and as normal as possible for patients suffering from kidney problems.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage everyone to make a real effort to support the Kidney Foundation. Canvassers will be going door to door during the month of March, especially March 1st to March 15th.

Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I thought I could conclude, but I wasn't able to. I seek unanimous consent to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, colleagues, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage everyone to make a real effort to support the Kidney Foundation. Canvassers will be going door to door during the month of March, especially from March 1st to March 15th. I know northerners will be as generous as they usually are. Let us help support those who need our help to help others. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Ms. Mike.
Member's Statement On Parks Canada Cutbacks

MS. MIKE:

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. We are all hearing about centralization as a result of the federal budget and the cost-saving measures being instituted across the country. Programs are being moved from regional centres to Ottawa and community programs are being moved to regional centres. I have also heard that Parks Canada will be pulling staff and resources out of its Nunavut district office in Iqaluit and moving them to Yellowknife. If this happens, the result will be substantial; a potential loss to Nunavut of employment, benefits, housing dollars and, most importantly, control and influence in the decisions that directly affects parks management in Nunavut.

My concern in the wake of the frenzied slashing of the budget, the Liberal government may have lost sight of their promise to consider first, the impact on people and related social costs of cutbacks and job losses.

Due to limited employment opportunities here in the north, it is even more important that federal government actions be consistent with their intentions to reduce the deficit in a manner that is compatible with putting Canadians back to work.

I would like to strongly encourage the Premier and the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism to continue in their efforts to obtain the relevant details and rationale for this move from the federal government. The people of Nunavut must be assured that every option was considered and that the residents who are directly affected by this reorganization are treated fairly.

I sincerely hope the federal government has fully considered the impact this move will have on the people of the Baffin region where a large part of the local economies are supported by visitors to our national parks and tourism. Qujannamiik.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Training For Northerners

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) I rise today to speak about employment. As we are all aware, we are having more and more difficulty receiving more money from Ottawa for various programs and government operations.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that there have been a lot of comments made here during this session at the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I will use myself as an example; even though I don't speak English at all, I have been able to operate heavy equipment for many years. Mr. Speaker, right now, there are so many more requirements that have been placed upon people, in terms of education, certification, et cetera. Even though many of us have never received any formal education or training programs, we were able to operate various mechanical equipment.

Mr. Speaker, we are becoming very concerned as there are more government cutbacks. There are people who are already residents in the NWT; I think that if we are going to increase employment for these people, they have to receive training. Then there will be more local people taking on jobs that open up in the communities. I think that we should be pursuing this with more vigour in the future, so that our young people and our local residents are receiving the training and are being given the first priority to be hired when jobs open up in their communities and in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Assistance For Kidney Patients

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not Friday, but my colleague from Yellowknife South has reminded us all that the Kidney Foundation begins its drive today. I would like to recall for Members that probably the most famous person in the Northwest Territories with kidney problems was a man called Albert Johnson, who led the RCMP on a merry chase in the 1930s. In the fall of 1931, Mr. Speaker, he went into the store in Fort McPherson and purchased himself a whole case of Dodd's kidney pills; a total of 550 kidney pills. I have often thought, when I read about this man, that although you had kidney problems, with the right kind of help you can do superhuman things. In fact, he proved himself to be a person who had tremendous physical resilience despite the fact that he had this impairment, this difficulty. I often thought that if he had not had that problem, they would probably still be looking for him because it did slow him down a

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little bit. I just added this little bit of northern trivia, Mr. Speaker, to just remind us that there is a fund that is established to help people with kidney problems and it is possible to lead a good life with assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear,

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Mark-up Of Gasoline Price In Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I rose to complain of the excessive price increase in gasoline at the sole retail outlet in Iqaluit. The president of the company of Byers Gaz Bar, Mr. Charles Asselin, called me this morning from Montreal to inform me that the price change to 77 cents a litre was the result of a miscalculation and was done without the president's knowledge and that, accordingly, the price would be reduced to 76.1 cents per litre effective this morning.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, this issue has caused great concern to many of my constituents, especially hunters and people who live on the land. Although I am pleased with today's small rollback in prices, I wish to inform this House that this incident has now caused me to focus on and pursue two other issues which have emerged: firstly, whether the mark-up on gasoline prices by this sole vendor in Iqaluit is excessive; and, whether there are any limits which can be imposed on a monopoly in a isolated Arctic community.

I have learned that gasoline is purchased by the local gas station in Iqaluit for 49.76 cents per litre. The present mark-up charged on gasoline in Iqaluit, even with today's lowered prices, is over 26 cents per litre. When the gas bar last changed hands in May 1992, the mark-up was then only 13 cents a litre and gas has not increased significantly in cost since then.

I will still be asking the Minister of Safety and Public Services to pursue what avenues are available to review the fairness of these mark-ups.

Mr. Speaker, I have one more point I would like to make, but I will need to request unanimous consent to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Iqaluit is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Continue, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Secondly, I have received alarming complaints from constituents that in the last week certain customers have noticed that they have been charged three to five cents more at the cash register than the price shown on the pumps. This is another matter I will ask our Minister of Safety and Public Services to look into. Mr. Speaker, the cost of gasoline in Iqaluit affects all segments of our local economy, from the cost of taxis, to the cost of five gallons of gas for a hunter, to government services.

As a result of the miscalculated price increase earlier this week, as a result of discrepancies between what is charged at the pumps to certain customers and what is charged at the cash register, and as a result of questions being asked about excessive mark-ups, many of my constituents are not convinced they are being treated fairly. With help from our government, through their good offices and the federal

government, I will be pursuing these questions with vigour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Gasoline Increase Causing Hardship For Hunters/Trappers

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to say a few things about the price of gas and other fuels. I would like to thank my friend, the Member for Iqaluit, who is concerned about this very important item. In my constituency many Inuit live by hunting and trapping alone because of the lack of employment. They have to use a lot of gas, and they have to work very hard to obtain enough gas so they can go hunting to pursue their lifestyle and to gather food. They need gas to obtain food for their families. The price of gas is going to increase the hardships placed on hunters who pursue a traditional lifestyle.

The people who live by farming in the south receive subsidies from the federal government. By receiving subsidies for fuel, they are able to make a better living. This has never been done in the north, even though we have people who live by hunting alone. They have never received any such subsidy. This has to change and, because the price of gas is increasing very rapidly, we have to pursue this change with the federal government.

Those people who have to support families and who are unemployed are going to face increased hardship. I want this government to look at these people and what kinds of improvements and solutions can help them, so this way of living can be better in the future for our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Member's Statement On Lack Of Business Programs In Level I Communities

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address the issue of business programs from ED&T and the fact that some are not available in level I communities. Mr. Speaker, programs such as the business development fund and the small business grant program are not available to communities defined by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism as being level I; those being, I understand, Hay River, Inuvik, Fort Smith and Yellowknife.

According to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, the main task of the business development fund contribution program and the small business grant program is to help meet the needs of individual entrepreneurs and small businesses for funding. They do this by providing grants and contributions. These contributions, which do not have to be repaid, are aimed at encouraging the growth of business and the building of a stronger economy in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, in my view, the current policy ignores one of the main factors which contribute to the success of a new business; that being, the availability of a larger market. In other words, there are a lot of consumers in level I communities. In fact, Mr. Speaker, every one of the level I communities has a population of more than 2,000, yet these population figures aren't given any consideration for their significance as an important requirement for a successful business.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the current policy ignores the ramifications that a successful business would have in a level I community. Not only would it employ people, the business would pay taxes and its employees would pay taxes which would mean this government, in turn, would have more money to spend on programs. Also, there would be more opportunity to recover loans if the business succeeds. Perhaps these programs should be restructured so grants are turned into loans if, say after three years, a company is successful. This would allow the original money to be recycled and used elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, the current policy not only ignores aboriginal people in level I communities, it discriminates against them. There are currently over 3,300 aboriginal people in the labour force of the four level I communities, practically one-third of the total aboriginal labour force of the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, a very large proportion of the aboriginal people in level I communities are unemployed. In fact, over one-quarter are unemployed. That this policy discriminates against all level I communities is supported by an organizational and functional review which the department undertook in September 1993. The review was critical of elements of the business programs, specifically the business development fund categorization of communities into levels I, II and III.

It was felt in the review that these categories worked against not only Yellowknife, but all regional centres where there were more opportunities for development and where there are a high number of unemployed aboriginal people who would benefit from increased support. The review pointed out that there were often excellent projects in level I or II communities that could create more employment at less cost than projects in level III communities, however, adequate funding was not available because of the business development fund categories.

Mr. Speaker, the review was critical to the shotgun approach to setting up a lot of programs and watching to see which ones would work. The department was described as spending money and undertaking projects that no one in the business community would ever really consider doing. Obviously, the current strategy was driven by the principle of equity rather than opportunity, in that the government investments were spread throughout the NWT and, in particular, the smaller communities, rather than concentrated in the areas of greatest opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, in these times of fiscal restraint and financial cutbacks, perhaps we have to take a look at our approaches to business programs. Perhaps we have to consider making programs available to businesses in those communities where they would be most likely to succeed, while changing the structure to require repayment after a period of time when a commercial venture is successful and then channelling those funds into the other areas.

Mr. Speaker, I say, why not put some money into those communities where there is a greater likelihood of success, thereby ensuring that some of that money can be returned for future programming. In that way, Mr. Speaker, we might ultimately have successful businesses in the level I and II communities providing funding for future new businesses in the smaller communities. Mr. Speaker, I suggest this would be a better way to meet the goals of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, to encourage the growth of businesses and the building of a stronger economy in the whole of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Time Frame For Closure Of Winter Roads

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to talk about the significance of winter roads and how it impacts the residents in my constituency. Yesterday, the Minister of Transportation stated that all winter roads will be officially closing on March 15th. I believe this is a result of the current financial restraints all governments are experiencing. However, Mr. Speaker, one very important factor has been overlooked in the decision to close winter roads early: the people who will be directly affected by this decision.

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In my constituency, there are three communities that depend on these winter roads: Nahanni Butte, Jean Marie River and Trout Lake. There are other communities in the Northwest Territories that have winter roads as well. As a result, the residents of these communities have incorporated winter roads into their lifestyle as a normal way of life in small communities. With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, arrangements are made in the communities around the opening and closing of these winter roads. Arrangements such as making one last trip to shop for supplies for the homes, camps and hunting; and, on the community level, the restocking of stores; the resupply of fuel for the schools and government buildings; the transfer in and out of community

building materials; heavy equipment for projects; and so forth. So, you see, Mr. Speaker, winter roads are much more than the highway maintenance contracts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that these communities are victims of circumstance. For example, Jean Marie River; from 1988 to 1994, the closure of these roads were April 5th, April 7th, April 4th, April 1st and April 3rd, respectively. So you see the move to close the roads earlier is going to have a significant impact on these communities.

In Trout Lake, respectively from 1988 to 1994, you have April 5th closure, April 7th, March 30th, April 4th, March 24th, March 24th and March 31st. So you have significant impact on that area.

Mr. Speaker, I am out of time. I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Nahendeh is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

The last community I represent, Nahanni Butte, the closure dates from 1988 to 1994 respectively are March 31st, April 7th, March 30th, April 4th, March 22nd, March 27th and March 28th. As you can see here, as well in this community, the closure on March 15th will have a big effect.

On the radio report this morning, Mr. Speaker, the chief from Jean Marie River indicated that once the road closes, as they have no stores, they have to charter to Fort Simpson to buy supplies. A one-way charter is \$220, so if you're going to go shopping for your family you're looking at a total of \$440 round trip just to go shopping. You have 80 to 90 people in that community so you're looking at a significant impact on their budget in that community. With Trout Lake being further away, you're looking at a substantially higher plane fare. Nahanni Butte also has this problem.

Mr. Speaker, the winter road is a vital link for the residents. In particular, the month of March is the most important month for winter roads in communities because it is this month that residents make their trips to Fort Simpson and Hay River to shop one last time and save as much money as possible. If these closures go ahead on March 15th, then many residents will suffer due to the fact that they cannot

afford to charter planes to shop for supplies and food.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Pauktuutit AGM

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform this House that the Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association will be holding their annual general meeting in Inuvik next week from March 6th to March 10th. The theme of their annual general meeting will be community development.

The 58 to 60 delegates will be doing their regular business and also participating in a series of workshops. One of the key focuses of their workshops is the opportunities in the fashion and clothing industry.

Pauktuutit has been very vocal and very active in women's issues, and very proactive in the area of family violence and child care. Today I want to wish all the delegates a safe journey to Inuvik. I hope that they enjoy Inuvik's hospitality and have very fruitful discussions. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Child Sexual Abuse

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every day when I pick up a paper, I'm reading more terrible stories about child sexual abuse. Today in the Globe and Mail, there is a whole article about the Kingsclear report in New Brunswick where dozens of kids over a long period of time were sexually abused at a training school where homeless kids and emotionally disturbed kids were sent. The authorities, for 30 years, didn't listen to their pleas.

Here in the Northwest Territories, as we all know, child sexual abuse is a very serious problem. It has only been in the last few years that it has been getting the recognition it deserves. I'm not sure if what we're seeing reported now is the tip of the iceberg, or if the full magnitude of the problem is becoming obvious to us.

But the reality is, it is happening here in the territories at a very alarming rate. I guess one of the saddest aspects of child sexual abuse is kids who are abused tend to become abusers and the cycle continues generation after generation after generation. No healthy society in the history of the world has ever condoned child sexual abuse. Unfortunately, in the majority of cases, it is men who perpetrate these offences. To me, a man who abuses a child is not a man; he's a moral coward. No crime is more unnatural or despicable than preying on innocent, trusting children.

I think all of us have a responsibility to stand up and be counted and, as leaders, to state in no uncertain terms that we will not stand for or condone child sexual abuse in our society. There is one organization, I think, that is doing a very useful job in this area and those are the people who have put together the Kids' Help Phone line.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. There will be a bowl-a-thon this Saturday night supporting the Kids' Help Phone line. The number is 1-800-668-6868. Mr. Morin, Mr. Dent, Mr. Whitford and myself have been collecting pledges, and I just wanted to thank the Members in the House for their generosity. I think just about every Member in the House has supported the MLAs' team at the bowl-a-thon. I would like you all to think just for a moment about what this help line means.

If these kids in New Brunswick had had a number they could have phoned, perhaps they wouldn't have lived in terror for years and years. Perhaps somebody would have reached out to help them. In

Canada, we now have a phone line where kids who feel alone, feel terrified, who are abused in the dark and in secret, now have a lifeline to get out of the horrific situations they find themselves in. I think everybody in this House fully supports the objectives of the Kids' Help Phone line, and I'm sure everybody here hopes that the bowl-a-thon is a big success to raise money for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Member's Statement On Smoke-Free Bingos

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to commend many of the non-profit organizations in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that there are 24 organizations in my constituency that often request permission to hold bingos and request permission for approval of bingo licences. We all know that many of these bingos are held for good reasons and to help many different objectives that different organizations are attempting to achieve.

In my community, there are many organizations that hold TV bingos. However, there are two nights a week where bingos are held in a hall. As we all know, when bingos are held in a bingo hall many people smoke in the hall. Mr. Speaker, I know that because I occasionally go to bingos...

MR. BALLANTYNE:

...and occasionally smoke.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I don't occasionally smoke, though. I don't enjoy inhaling second-hand smoke. However, I want the public to know that many of the organizations in Fort Smith are now holding smoke-free bingos.

---Applause

I commend them for that. In closing, I would like to not only commend them, but encourage other communities to take on the challenge of holding

smoke-free bingos; just for the health of it. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a former Yellowknife city councillor, Ben MacDonald, now working for the Union of Northern Workers.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps Mr. MacDonald will sit on the other side next time, then Mr. Patterson won't see him.

---Laughter

I would also like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to introduce Ms. Mildred Wilke. I introduced her the other day while she was here to bring some material to me on the Kidney Foundation. Ms. Wilke is the coordinator for the March fund-raising drive for the Kidney Foundation of Canada. She has been a tireless worker for volunteer organizations in this city. Ms. Wilke.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 211-12(7): Schedule For Ministers' Travel

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the course of their duties, Ministers travel to different parts of the NWT. This gives the rest of the local MLAs a chance to raise local concerns and issues. Can the Premier advise this House of what travel has been planned for Ministers over the next month? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 211-12(7): Schedule For Ministers' Travel

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I know there are some activities the Ministers will be travelling to. I don't have the list here. During the two-week break I plan to be travelling up the Mackenzie Valley with the Power Corporation. I also intend to take part in addressing Pauktuutit. I also have to make a trip over to the Keewatin to attend a health board meeting. There are a number of other Ministers who will be travelling for different meetings. I will be able to provide that, I just don't have it in front of me at the moment.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 212-12(7): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

MR. BALLANTYNE:

I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Speaker, my question is regarding the recent federal budget. My understanding is the EDA program will be curtailed this year, with a very good possibility that it will be ended in another year. What is the status of the economic development agreement with the federal government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 212-12(7): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have taken a close look at the Budget Address that was given the other day. It appears that on April 1st, the EDA will be cut to the tune of \$2.8 million. It will be sunsetted April 1, 1996. That is correct.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 212-12(7): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. Perhaps the Minister could explain to this House what steps he is going to take to deal with the fact that there will be \$2.8 million less in the next fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 212-12(7): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate because EDA dollars are 30-cent dollars to this government and 70-cent dollars to the feds. We are currently reviewing the dollars we have left over and trying to analyze how we are going to manage without this \$3 million. I am not in a position at this time to be able to give a definitive response to the Member as to what the overall impact is going to be. I could say I think it is going to be significant. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 212-12(7): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with a \$2.8 million reduction and the program ending the year after, we have a big hole in our economic development approaches here in the Northwest Territories. We have a number of economic development programs and the federal government has a number of economic development programs,

outside of the EDA. Has the Minister gotten into any discussions as to how we can possibly make what remaining programs are left more efficient and perhaps be able to deliver a lot of the programs that we will lose through the cessation of the EDA?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 212-12(7): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

I have been in discussions for some months now with Mr. Axworthy and Mr. Irwin with respect to programs like community futures, the old CAEDs program and some of the duplication that has been going on across the Northwest Territories. I have been trying to work with them to see if there is a possibility that we could access programs under the Department of Economic Development. We have gone as far as to say if they gave us community futures, we believe we could run it without any additional administrative costs. So there are intense discussions under way with respect to that.

It is my understanding from Mr. Irwin's office that they are looking at a whole new aboriginal/non-aboriginal program that would try to amalgamate some of the existing programs. We are trying to influence how that document finally comes out. We are optimistic that there is going to be some provision within the new program that comes out of Mr. Irwin's office for the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 212-12(7): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important that these programs are amalgamated and that the territorial government, in partnership with aboriginal organizations, start running them all. Is the Minister prepared to, in cooperation with his Cabinet colleagues, put together an approach to the federal government that any economic development program, in any department, is repatriated to the north and have our government, in partnership with aboriginal

organizations, run them in the most beneficial way for northerners?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 212-12(7): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are attempting to do, not only myself, but my honourable colleague, Mr. Nerysoo, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. We are taking the coordinated approach. We are suggesting, in our discussions with the federal government, that we try to amalgamate some of these programs so there is no duplication, particularly in administration. We are out there with \$5,000 grants and we are administering that. Community futures is out there. We are suggesting that this government is prepared to be the distribution arm to these programs. We haven't reached an arrangement right now, we are working very hard at it and hopefully we will be able to conclude some arrangement in the coming months. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 213-12(7): Training For Aboriginal People

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Members' statements, I made a brief statement this afternoon. The question I have is to the Government Leader. I am not in conflict with the people from the south who are employed in the Northwest Territories at the present time, but there have been a lot of contractors who have come to the communities in the north to work. I know that the aboriginal people have the first priority for employment in their communities. Has there been any training given to the aboriginal people to have more jobs in their own communities and in the north? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 213-12(7): Training For
Aboriginal People

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, yes, there are a number of training programs that are available to aboriginal residents of the Northwest Territories. I believe the problem the honourable Member is referring to is that, from time to time, the major contractor is a southern operator or an operator outside of the community, and perhaps the local people don't have the opportunity to get the jobs that they really should be getting; the opportunity to make a few dollars, which is limited in many communities.

The area in construction that I think the Minister of Education would be best able to elaborate on is the building and learning strategy which is coupled with construction jobs and construction contracts that are given out, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat, supplementary.

Question 214-12(7): Training For Aboriginal People

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) This is a question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. We know that the Government Leader said that employment and training is being planned at the present time. I would like to know how long it is going to take to get the program to train the people for employment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pudlat, this is a new question and I am going to allow other Members to ask questions, but I will let you ask this one to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 214-12(7): Training For
Aboriginal People

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to our colleague. We have been working on a building and learning strategy since 1992. The whole intention is that through Cabinet approval, we intended to maximize training opportunities for local

residents. I have been working in conjunction with the Minister of the Housing Corporation and the Minister of Public Works and Services.

The strategy has included providing training opportunities at all levels of building occupations, such as trades helpers, trades workers, supervisors, project managers and contractors. We have over 100 local residents who are receiving construction training in Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Pangnirtung, Igloodik, Snare Lake, Wha Ti, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Gjoa Haven and Coppermine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 215-12(7): Time Frame For Winter Road
Closure

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation. It is with regard to the winter road closing; the decision that this department has made to close the winter roads in my area and other areas by March 15th. Prior to this session, Mr. Speaker, I toured my constituency by vehicle. I visited Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake and Jean Marie River by road, and the road is in very good shape. It is a good investment and the people are enjoying a good return on their dollar by using this road at the present time. The road is going to be closing in about two weeks; 24 days at the most. If you take the average, it will be closing about two weeks sooner than it normally does.

The argument that I have heard from the Minister was...Yesterday, he mentioned Fisheries and Oceans about five times. So my office called Hay River and they said they had nothing to do with that decision. The only reference I could see is that in 1991, the department faced charges for two creeks that were not dug out before that by Fisheries. So the argument for that I could see, but the decision is for the whole winter road system. There are different areas and different regions that have different climates. I would like to ask the Minister if he could reconsider that in light of the fact that there are different regions, that some regions needed additional money in the past and if his department looked at these factors when they made this decision to do a universal closure all at the same time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 215-12(7): Time Frame For Winter Road Closure

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I did say yesterday that while we did have some problems with Fisheries and Oceans, the primary reason for the closure was because of OPPLAN cuts. However, I do recognize the importance of this issue and I did meet with the deputy minister earlier today. I don't have any more money; it is just that simple at this stage of the game. However, I am prepared to try to work with the communities and perhaps the communities could assist us. They do have some infrastructure money that has been given to them from other departments. If they could perhaps work with us we might be able to do something. But at the present time, it would be wrong of me to say to the Member that I could extend these openings, unless I had new fiscal resources.

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It does give me an opportunity to say one thing in slight defence of what we're doing. I did also ask the department what the average opening date was, over the last five years, for these roads. The average opening for Nahanni Butte was December 25th; we opened Nahanni Butte on December 1st. That is 24 days earlier. The average opening in Trout Lake was December 29th; this year, we opened it on December 22nd, seven days earlier. In Fort Wrigley, we opened it one day earlier than what we have done on average. We are attempting to do the best we can with the resources we have.

We understand that these roads are not just highways, they are a way of life, they are a way getting building materials in, cost-effective food in. Jean Marie River is an example where we know they need some help. I want to assure the honourable Member we will do what we can. I am trying quickly to see if there is some way we can look at this, but right now I don't have the fiscal resources available. Maybe through some joint cooperation with the communities we can see if there's any way, if at all possible, to extend the closing of the ice roads.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 215-12(7): Time Frame For Winter Road Closure

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The winter roads have closed in the past at different times. The whole road doesn't deteriorate at the same rate. There are northern and southern areas with different climatic regions. Some of the roads in the system go through major lakes and rivers that overflow north of Wrigley quite often and there are major problems in that area. In some areas, like Nahanni Butte and Jean Marie, there are no major rivers to cross and there are no problems with overflow. It doesn't take much work to keep those roads open.

What I'm asking the Minister is if his department has looked at each highway system specifically to determine, historically, how much additional work has gone into each section. I think the decision was made by the department to try to save money, but I would like his department to consider looking at the roads separately to see how much money was spent in each area in the past. I think some of these road systems didn't require much additional money to keep open until they start to thaw.

People in the communities know that once the roads start to thaw, not to use them anymore. But shutting down a perfectly good road on March 15th, which you can use for another two weeks, is not reasonable at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 215-12(7): Time Frame For Winter Road Closure

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I've asked the department this morning was what our liability would be if we leave the roads open without additional maintenance costs. In other words, if they would be still accessible and there are no storms, et cetera. I haven't got an answer yet but when I do, I assure the honourable Member -- because I know this is an important issue to his constituency -- that he will be the first person I speak with. We are looking at what our liability would be if we left the roads open, if weather conditions are such that it would be okay to do that. We are looking at that, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 215-12(7): Time Frame For Winter Road Closure

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Minister of Transportation. This morning on a CBC radio program, one of Mr. Todd's employees, Mr. Bernie Cassidy, director of highway operations in Hay River, said by shutting down the entire system it would save approximately \$240,000. This is for the whole system. The other thing he said was the way they would probably close the roads would be by placing snow fills across the access points to the roads or putting up barricades. Is this the intention of the department? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 215-12(7): Time Frame For Winter Road Closure

HON. JOHN TODD:

I suspect that my discussion with the deputy minister was after Mr. Cassidy's comments in the news. The position of the department right now is to close the roads on March 15th. If that's how we technically close them, I suppose that's correct. However, again, I want to say to the honourable Member that I've asked the department if we can leave the roads open, what our liabilities will be. Do you know what I mean? That's what I'm asking for right now. There's no additional money to maintain them, but I am checking to see if we can leave them open and if, at that time of year, they would still be sufficiently solid so people can still use them. I haven't received an answer yet to that. Hopefully, by later on today or tomorrow I should.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 215-12(7): Time Frame For Winter Road Closure

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just one more supplementary because it is an important issue to me. I wanted to say that I have a public announcement by the Department of Transportation from the Deh Cho Drum of February 28th. I notice these ads were in all

the newspapers throughout the north, probably at substantial cost. I notice that signs were put up at these highways too, at substantial cost. These costs could have been diverted to keeping the highways open for maybe another week or so.

I just wanted to say that the weather at this time of the year, in my constituency anyway, is cool in the evening, without very much snow and with ice. So, the roads are still usable for quite some time, with very minimal maintenance. I wanted to ask the Minister if his department is going to be looking at that as well and, if they're putting up barricades, if these barricades could be movable so if the road is still passable people could use these roads at their own risk.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

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Further Return To Question 215-12(7): Time Frame For Winter Road Closure

HON. JOHN TODD:

I asked the deputy minister this morning in discussions with him to take a look at this to determine what our liabilities would be. When we come to a satisfactory decision, then we will determine whether there will be portable or permanent barricades, or whatever. There may, in fact, be no barricades if we can do what is being suggested. I'm hopeful that we can have some resolution to the issue by tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 216-12(7): Successful Bidder On Tourism Industry Review Proposal

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. During the review of the main estimates the Minister indicated that there is going to be a review of the tourism industry organizations. I understand that a call for proposals for a comprehensive review of the tourism industry organizations was advertised in the papers and the closing date was January 4, 1995.

Can the Minister advise us as to who was the successful bidder on this call for proposals?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 216-12(7): Successful Bidder On Tourism Industry Review Proposal

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't remember the name of the company, but I know the proprietor is a gentleman called Mike Freeland, I believe. I think it's Qaivvik Ltd., but I'm not sure. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 216-12(7): Successful Bidder On Tourism Industry Review Proposal

MR. KOE:

Does the Minister know who is working with Mike Freeland in doing this contract? Does he have partners or associates working with him on this contract?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 216-12(7): Successful Bidder On Tourism Industry Review Proposal

HON. JOHN TODD:

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the corporate structure of Mr. Freeland's company. I do know that it is a northern company and that he will have extensive consultations with the players in the industry, from Inuvik to Iqaluit, and he will bring forward a report which will hopefully reflect the changes that industry and this ministry want very quickly -- because we want to do this reasonably quickly -- I believe by the end of March. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 216-12(7): Successful Bidder On Tourism Industry Review Proposal

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I understand that a couple of his associates in this contract are from outside the Northwest Territories. I understand one is a company called Exceleration Corp. from Calgary and another associate is from Copenhagen, Denmark.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Shame.

MR. KOE:

A company called Hoff and Overgaard. I'm very curious, with what the Minister told us -- that this is a purely northern company and doing a review of our northern tourism industry -- whether or not the rumour I heard is correct.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I can't speculate on rumours. I can only tell you that perhaps it would be better for me to take the question as notice and report back to the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. With regard to the Minister's response, I would like to tell the Members that Minister's can't confirm a rumour. Ministers can only respond to facts. Final supplementary...I'm sorry, Mr. Koe, I believe the Minister took your question as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 217-12(7): Confirmation Of Aircraft Requirement In Contract

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I would like to ask the Minister if he can confirm, on the recent contract awarded to Buffalo Airways for addressing fire suppression this year in the Northwest Territories, whether the contract requirement called for the usage of DC-4s or DC-6s. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Return To Question 217-12(7): Confirmation Of Aircraft Requirement In Contract

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the question would be better answered by the Department of Public Works and Services.

With regard to Renewable Resources, we have indicated to the department which is the appropriate department to hand out the contract, that our requirements for firefighting should be able to meet the needs of the fire situations that we have in the Northwest Territories. To my understanding, we have not given a clear indication as to what type of aircraft will be required in terms of firefighting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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Supplementary To Question 217-12(7): Confirmation Of Aircraft Requirement In Contract

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister this: is it the responsibility of the department that addresses fire suppression to determine what type of aircraft they require to address fire suppression? Is it not his department's mandate? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 217-12(7): Confirmation Of Aircraft Requirement In Contract

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is the responsibility of the Department of Renewable Resources. However, we gave a minimum standard that is required for firefighting in the Northwest Territories that we would be willing to accept. This was relayed to the Department of Public Works. We showed that DC-4s, which are at the present time being proposed to be used for the summer, will be sufficient and will be able to carry out the firefighting in the Northwest

Territories this coming summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 217-12(7): Confirmation Of Aircraft Requirement In Contract

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the Minister has now answered the first question I had posed to him.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday I tabled a document in this House; an evaluation of the appropriateness of the current fire suppression methodology, study 8. The department has expended an excessive amount of money to get this study, I think to the tune of just about \$225,000. In this study, section 8 is on DC-4s versus DC-8s. There is a list of disadvantages of using DC-4s over DC-6s. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask why the Minister has allowed his department not to adhere to the study recommendations that his department commissioned last year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 217-12(7): Confirmation Of Aircraft Requirement In Contract

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The study that was conducted by a firm which was contracted to consult with various contractors in the Northwest Territories as well as the people in the Northwest Territories was exactly that, a consultant who would make recommendations to the government, of which the government has the option to take, to use as they so please. This is the way that I, as the Minister of Renewable Resources, took the recommendations. I took them as recommendations, have taken a look at the requirements of firefighting management in Fort Smith. I was advised that it would be acceptable to use DC-4s. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 217-12(7): Confirmation Of Aircraft Requirement In Contract

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the Minister is basically indicating that the recommendations from this consulting firm may be used whenever he determines they should be used, as he has indicated, as the Minister. I would like to ask, after spending just about \$225,000 commissioning this report -- and this report basically indicates that the extra cost for using DC-4s would be \$500,000 more -- why is he expending public funds on a report which recommended against using DC-4s? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 217-12(7): Confirmation Of Aircraft Requirement In Contract

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The acceptance of the contracts that were let recently was not necessarily my decision, it was a decision made by Cabinet. So I'm not able to say how that was let. However, I am willing to say that it was advised by the Department of Renewable Resources that a minimum requirement to carry out this contract was to be able to use DC-4s. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 218-12(7): Implementation Of New Rent Scale

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Yesterday I asked the Minister about how new leases will be developed and how rent will be collected under the new social housing rent scale. The Minister answered that the Housing Corporation "will be working with local housing authorities to enable them to develop plans on how to collect the rents and to develop leases." Mr. Speaker, this implies that the work has yet to be done. My question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister is with the new rent scale coming into effect April 1st -- less than one month away -- how can the new rents be implemented if the work has yet to be done to develop leases and determine how to collect rents from the whole household? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 218-12(7): Implementation Of New Rent Scale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of the work has been done already. I've noticed, and other Members have noticed, that there have been TV ads and ads in the newspaper. All clients who are affected should have already received the documentation advising them of the new rent scale. There have been workshops held with the districts as well as with the local housing authorities on the new rent scales. So, the work is in process. What I hear is it is going along quite well and it should be brought in on time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

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Supplementary To Question 218-12(7): Implementation Of New Rent Scale

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that the Housing Corporation is working hard on implementing this new regime, but my understanding is that workshops for district staff, not to mention local housing authority staff, were only held in the Baffin within the last two weeks and that there's a whole plethora of new and complicated forms which are involved. My question to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, is how much notice will be given to the tenants of the new forms, procedures and tenant agreements that are going to be in place April 1st? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 218-12(7): Implementation Of New Rent Scale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe 30 days notice has to be given to tenants whenever you change the rent and that will be done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 218-12(7):
Implementation Of New Rent Scale

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister says that 30 days notice will be given. Mr. Speaker, there isn't time to give 30 days notice for rent increases effective April 1st. Is the Minister saying that the rent increases will have to take effect after April 1st, in order to give the tenants the 30 days notice required under our law? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 218-12(7):
Implementation Of New Rent Scale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It should be done, it better be done, and I will check into it to make sure it is done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 218-12(7):
Implementation Of New Rent Scale

MR. PATTERSON:

Will the Minister report back to this House as to whether 30 days notice has been given to tenants in my constituency for rent increases that are due to take effect April 1, 1995? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 218-12(7):
Implementation Of New Rent Scale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not only will I check into your constituency, I will check into all the others as well and report back on Monday, because I won't be

here tomorrow. But, I will report back on Monday. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 219-12(7): Tobacco Tax

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, somewhere around a year ago, there was a big hoopla about the tobacco tax. The federal government had dropped its taxes, the provinces dropped their taxes and the territories kept its taxes on cigarettes high. There were all kinds of questions that came out of that about whether that was going to continue for very long. Over the past few months, I've heard bits and pieces about what is happening. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance dealing with the tobacco tax. The first question I want to ask is if this tobacco tax applies to all tobacco products: cigars, pipe tobacco, loose tobacco, snuff, the works.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 219-12(7): Tobacco Tax

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Yes, it does, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 219-12(7): Tobacco Tax

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because of the discrepancies in the prices -- out east they are a little cheaper than in the west and they are more expensive here in the north -- there was speculation that smuggling would increase. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not this has resulted. Has there been an increase in the amount of tobacco smuggled into the territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 219-12(7): Tobacco Tax

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I can comment on two things. We have knowledge of four cases of illegal tobacco being in the possession of people in the Northwest Territories and those are being investigated by the RCMP or are before the courts. So, there is some smuggling going on. But, I think the majority of the people in the Northwest Territories are honest, Mr. Speaker, because from May to November 1993 -- and this is just for cigarettes -- 72,449,270 individual cigarettes were sold in the Northwest Territories. From May to November in 1994 -- and I'm giving you volumes because there was a tax increase and dollars would not mean much -- there were 72,444,624 cigarettes sold in the Northwest Territories.

So, we are not seeing that much of a decline in cigarette consumption in the Northwest Territories. I believe there is a small amount of smuggling going on, but in the main, people are being honest and purchasing their tobacco legally, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

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Supplementary To Question 219-12(7): Tobacco Tax

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was surprised to hear that there has only been a small amount of seizures or crimes detected. I was going to ask if there have been any prosecutions as a result of these apprehensions.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 219-12(7): Tobacco Tax

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I anticipate all of the four cases will be prosecuted, are being prosecuted or have been prosecuted. Certainly, our position is that we encourage the RCMP to carry these cases to court. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 219-12(7): Tobacco Tax

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard somewhere along the way that a fairly large seizure had taken place. I would like to ask the Minister, what would happen to the product if it were seized and charges were laid? What would happen to all of these cigarettes?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 219-12(7): Tobacco Tax

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I don't really know what happens with the tobacco that is seized. I believe the court has some input on that. It depends who is laying the charges and whether they are laid under a territorial act or federal provision. I will get that information and pass it on to the Member about what happens to the seizures in the different scenarios, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 220-12(7): Incentives To Attract New Businesses To The NWT

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Speaker, in the last little while there has been a lot of talk in the press about incentives that provincial governments have provided to get new businesses. We have heard a lot about New Brunswick, for instance, and Newfoundland has recently announced a new tax incentive plan to entice new businesses to set up shop there, which includes, among other provisions: a 10-year tax holiday with provisions perhaps going up as long as 15 years; exemption from provincial corporate taxes; exemptions for health taxes; and, exemptions from provincial retail sales taxes.

My question is, has the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism looked at this sort of incentive program for new businesses and perhaps discussed with the Minister of Finance whether or not it would be possible?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 220-12(7): Incentives To Attract New Businesses To The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we haven't at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 220-12(7): Incentives To Attract New Businesses To The NWT

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Since it seems a number of jurisdictions across Canada are making moves in this area, does the Minister see this as a worthwhile thing to follow up on? Will he take a look at tax incentive proposals?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 220-12(7): Incentives To Attract New Businesses To The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my memory serves me correctly, when I was on the other side, as chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, my honourable colleague and I looked at the potential of RRSPs in terms of economic development, et cetera. We looked at the possibility of offshore investments to the immigrant investment program. To be frank, nothing has been done to date but I think the advice that he has given me is valid, and I will commit to re-examining some of these options that we had talked about two years ago. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 221-12(7): Phase-in Plan For Rent Increases

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the rent increases on the social housing rent scale are to be phased in over four years. Could the Minister explain how these rent increases are going to be phased in over the coming four years? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 221-12(7): Phase-in Plan For Rent Increases

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The rent will increase by 30 per cent on April 1st. I believe 40 per cent of the clients in social housing right now, their rent will decrease April 1st. There are 20 per cent that will stay same. The 40 per cent that increase, they will increase April 1st by 30 per cent; the following year, by 30 per cent; the year following that, by 30 per cent; and, the last year by 10 per cent. That is what was agreed on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

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Supplementary To Question 221-12(7): Phase-in Plan For Rent Increases

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my constituents whose rents are increasing -- and I acknowledge some of their rents are not increasing -- have heard of this 30 per cent figure and they are somewhat confused. I would like to ask the Minister when he says the rents will increase by 30 per cent on April 1st, does that mean that a tenant whose rent will increase will see 30 per cent more rent paid by that tenant, compared to what they are paying now? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 221-12(7): Phase-in Plan For Rent Increases

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will just use for an example: if a person is paying \$1 for rent right now, and they are going to get an increase of \$1,000, as of April 1st it would increase by \$300. So instead of them paying the \$1, they would pay \$301. That is my understanding of how it should work. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 221-12(7): Phase-in Plan For Rent Increases

MR. PATTERSON:

So, Mr. Speaker, using the Minister's own example, it is incorrect to suggest to public housing tenants whose rent is going to increase that it will only increase 30 per cent. Using the Minister's example, rents could increase up to 300 per cent under this so-called 30 per cent rule. Is that not true, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 221-12(7): Phase-in Plan For Rent Increases

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What everybody agreed to is that the rents would be phased in. We are not going to increase rents a 100 per cent overnight, we will phase in rent in 30 per cent portions of that 100 per cent rent. That is what we are going to do April 1st, which everybody agreed to. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Patterson, final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 221-12(7): Phase-in Plan For Rent Increases

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My point of concern is about the manner in which these rent increases are being described by the Housing Corporation to tenants and by the Minister in this House. Wouldn't it be more appropriate, Mr. Speaker, rather than to say the rent will increase by 30 per cent, to describe it differently and to say that the rent will increase by \$1,000 and the first year the tenant will pay 30 per cent of that \$1,000 increase. Isn't that the more accurate way to describe it, rather than describing it as a 30 per cent increase? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 221-12(7): Phase-in Plan For Rent Increases

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Housing Corporation has undertaken to do this new rent scale, they have made commitments, as I have made commitments to Members of this House, to do individual counselling with every client who is affected by the rent scale. So the Housing Corporation staff along with, for example, local people in Iqaluit, will meet with clients and explain it to them. I agree with the Member -- your rent is going up by \$1,000 over the next four years and this year you will pay \$300 rent -- so that is how it should be explained to the client. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

Question 222-12(7): Delay Of Rent Scale Implementation

MR. ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard answers from the Minister of the Housing Corporation, I also have some concerns coming from my constituents. People in my constituency are being evicted from their houses in 40-below temperatures; I have a grave concern about this. Some people cannot afford the increase that is being proposed by April 1st. I would like to ask the Minister of the Housing Corporation what he is going to do with clients who have not been informed about their coming increases. What is he going to do with the clients who have not received any information as to what kind of increases will be imposed? Can the Minister delay the increases before those people are

given information about the increases? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 222-12(7): Delay Of Rent Scale Implementation

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the information that I have on hand, and all that I have heard coming out of all the communities in our ridings, is that the implementation of the new rent scale is going very well; people are informed. It has been on TVNC and it has been in all the major newspapers. The local housing authorities are informed. There is some individual client counselling that still has to be done. People are well-informed of the rent scale.

No, we will not look at changing the implementation date. We have gone through a process for almost three years doing this scale and April 1st is the date -- that has been put off many times -- it is something that you have agreed to already. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Alloo.oo.

Supplementary To Question 222-12(7): Delay Of Rent Scale Implementation

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Minister for this initiative. There has been a lot of work done in terms of trying to keep the resources coming in from the federal government to our government for the housing projects.

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Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not answer my question. Will those people who are in public housing right now, who didn't have a chance to get counselling -- which the Minister supports -- who did not privately or collectively meet with the Housing Corporation administrators, be given that opportunity to do so? Can we delay this for those tenants who didn't receive counselling? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 222-12(7): Delay Of Rent Scale Implementation

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that all clients will be counselled. It's my understanding that the information is flowing out there in the communities about the new rent scale. It's my understanding, through the Housing Corporation, that everything is on schedule and going ahead according to plan. No one from my department has told me yet that there is a lack of communication out there. I will look into the issue, but at this time I'm not prepared to extend the date of the implementation of the new rent scale. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Alloo.oo.

Supplementary To Question 222-12(7): Delay Of Rent Scale Implementation

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it my understanding then that those tenants who didn't receive counselling, their rents will still change effective April 1st? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 222-12(7): Delay Of Rent Scale Implementation

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Taloyoak this fall, the rent scale was finally passed through the Special Committee on Social Housing. After that it came to this House and we dealt with it in committee of the whole. Prior to that, well over a year ago, the whole process was kicked off with community consultation. That was the Housing Corporation along with the local housing authorities having meetings in every community. After that, we had major meetings in every region where leaders were involved. That was the consultation process. The recommendations from that process were given to the Special Committee on Social Housing through the regional meetings. Then we had our meeting in Taloyoak to go over the recommendations, and we made many changes to

the scale so it would accommodate people and reflect what people's needs were.

One portion of the new rent scale is going to go up, but there will be a portion of it where rents go down. We have a cost-of-living portion in there. It will allow people to travel between communities to work. It will allow people to go to school and get their units back and not lose them in their community. So there are many good things about this rent scale, as well.

We've had the workshops with the local housing authorities. The majority of the client counselling is done. So it's something that has been in the public and in the community for at least a year, so people should know about it. The new rent scale -- as everybody agreed to, as this House agreed to, Cabinet agreed to -- will be implemented on April 1, 1995. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period has lapsed. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 12-12(7): Ministerial Travel

MR. PUDLUK:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier.

Could the Premier provide the following information regarding the travel of Ministers:

- 1) A complete list of all ministerial travel, giving the Minister, travel location, purpose and dates of travel from December 1, 1993 to the present.
- 2) The projected travel plans of all Ministers, including which Minister, the travel location, purpose and dates of travel from today to August 31, 1995.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 40-12(7), Fort Smith aircraft maintenance facility history of the Government of the Northwest Territories decisions and communications with Fort Smith.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 41-12(7), report on the Thebacha Campus applied arts and library building project in Fort Smith.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Motion 14-12(7): Extended Adjournment

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 6th I shall move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, notwithstanding rule 3(1)(a) that when this House adjourns on Friday, March 10, 1995, it shall be adjourned until Monday, March 27, 1995;

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And further, that any time prior to March 27, 1995, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 14, notices of motion. We'll take a 10-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 16, motions. Motion 11-12(7), Mr. Koe.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 11-12(7): Dissolution Of The 12th Legislative Assembly, Carried

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the term of the 12th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is due to expire on November 14, 1995;

AND WHEREAS it would be desirable to hold the general election earlier than November 1, 1995;

AND WHEREAS section 9(3) of the Northwest Territories Act, the Governor in Council, after consultation, may dissolve the Legislative Assembly thus causing a new Legislature to be elected;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Governor in Council to dissolve the 12th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories by August 31, 1995 to permit a general election to be held on October 16, 1995.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm introducing this motion as chairman of Caucus. I would like to speak briefly to the motion which I feel is fairly self-explanatory. The term of the 12th Assembly is not due to expire until November 14th of this year. That would mean that the general election across the territories to elect the 13th Assembly would be in January 1996. As Members are aware, Mr. Speaker, January in any part of the territories is not a good time for a general election.

Mr. Speaker, as the 11th Assembly did in 1991, a similar motion was introduced so that all residents of the territories were aware, early, when the general election would be held. As you aware, there is a

weakness in our system, as we still don't have the power to dissolve ourselves and go to the people. This authority, under the Northwest Territories Act, still lies with the federal government. Therefore, we are required to advise the federal government of the majority will of this

Assembly concerning dissolution and a time for the next election.

Mr. Speaker, the date for the general election proposed in the motion of October 16th would permit this government and the Assembly to endeavour to complete important initiatives that have been ongoing for a number of years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That concludes my comments on the motion.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The seconder of the motion is Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the motion on the floor calls for dissolution of the 12th Assembly by August 31, 1995 in order to permit a general election to be held on October 16, 1995. Mr. Speaker, unless this motion is amended, I want to let the public know that I will be voting against it. I'm opposed to this motion as it is presently worded, Mr. Speaker, because I think it proposes an election timetable that is very wrong; an election timetable that will damage the ability of this House to respond to some of the most critical fiscal and leadership challenges that we have ever confronted in the Northwest Territories.

There are many reasons for arriving at this conclusion, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to take a few minutes to outline why I'm so opposed to the notion of delaying the territorial election until the fall, when it will be too late for real change and real leadership. But, first, I want to be very clear that I've come to my conclusions on this matter after a lot of careful consideration, research and discussions with many people, particularly my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my honourable colleague from Yellowknife Centre made a Member's statement on February 20th, during which he argued that: "Any move to have a spring election very soon would be seen as opportunism and an attempt by MLAs to catch the opposition with their pants down." Those are the words he used. He even said that the people of Yellowknife feel that Members who support the idea of a spring election are guilty of sleazy tactics.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Ohh.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I did not appreciate those comments then and I still don't appreciate them. In fact, those comments are unparliamentary.

MR. LEWIS:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Point of order, Mr. Lewis.

Point Of Order

MR. LEWIS:

I'm very familiar with the use of the word "sleazy," Mr. Speaker. I know the English language very well and the word "sleazy," is only unparliamentary if a Member uses it in the context of calling another Member sleazy or, in fact, dishonouring Members

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of this House by accusing them of that kind of behaviour. I have too much respect for the people in this Assembly to ever call a Member sleazy.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. LEWIS:

And, therefore, I would like you to consider my point of order, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The Member for Thebacha has indicated that the word "sleazy" is unparliamentary but I think it is only unparliamentary if it's said to another Member. Mr. Lewis is correct. I cannot make a ruling on the point of order until I see the Hansard when Mr. Lewis made his Member's statement, then I can determine the point of order. So, I will take the point of order under advisement. Continue, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are some honourable Members interested in seeing this motion to hold a fall election defeated; in fact, I believe many of them, because they believe there are valid and pressing reasons to seek an earlier mandate from the people of their constituencies. But, how many have the resolve to stand up and risk being labelled as having questionable motives or risk having Yellowknife-based media interpret their stands as "running scared during an election"?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Ohh.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I just can't believe that. However, even in the face of these risks, Mr. Speaker, I'll be encouraging all Members of this House to have the courage to face the facts and to recognize that if this motion passes the new Assembly will be locked into an election timetable that just isn't in the best interests of the people of the Northwest Territories.

The facts are that more than at any time in our past, this House is facing a serious fiscal crisis that must be addressed. We need an election timetable that will not prevent us from making the decisions that have to be made. Mr. Speaker, we all know about the financial situation we're in. Since 1993-94, we have moved from an accumulated surplus of \$56 million to a projected accumulated deficit of \$38 million. With the release of Mr. Martin's federal budget last Monday, we know that the situation is only going to become more difficult. There will likely be cuts in our federal financing in the neighbourhood of \$8 million this year, and next year there will be a reduction of over \$50 million.

On top of that, the Standing Committee on Finance is suggesting the need for a balanced budget; legislation to come into effect in 1998. This means that in less

than three years we need to find ways to trim \$88 million from our current spending values.

Mr. Speaker, it's my belief that the Government of the Northwest Territories has never faced a challenge like this before. In my view, next year's budget process will be the most critical one that we have ever undertaken in the history of the government. Yet, if this motion passes without an amendment, we will be locked into a fall election and a new government will not take place until some time in November at the earliest. So that means that the new Cabinet will only have two months to finalize the most critical budget in northern history, a budget where they'll need to contend with a \$58 million cut in federal funding.

Not only does it sound pretty dangerous, I don't think it's in the best interest of sound fiscal leadership. Mr. Speaker, what bothers me is that not only will it be my children and your children, but it will be the children of all honourable Members in this House who have to live with the consequences if we do not leave ourselves enough time to complete the thoughtful planning that now has to take place. The alternative, of course, is to hold the election in the spring. This timetable will put a new government in place. In a month and a half, the OPPLAN process will begin and will provide our new Cabinet the months of July, August, September, October, November, December and January to finalize next year's budget; the most important budget that has ever had to be developed in the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased yesterday when the Minister of Finance indicated that he would be consulting with community leaders and with the public at large to collect their ideas on spending and other fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. I applaud my honourable colleague for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine, for encouraging the Minister to do this -- even though CBC neglected to mention that the consultation process was his idea in the first place.

But I must wonder how on earth the Ministers plan to carry out these consultations in the midst of an election campaign.

Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, we have to face the facts. If the Minister undertakes these consultations immediately prior to the fall election, the process will be seen as a purely political exercise and I don't know if we'll be able to divide the attention of consulting on one hand and campaigning on the other. These consultations will be extremely important. In order for them to be credible, we must ensure that there is

adequate time and that there will be consistency on how the process is followed through.

Mr. Speaker, a fall election as established in Motion 11-12(7) simply would not allow sufficient time for this process to be carried out properly. Mr. Speaker, honourable Members know that in this House we have other significant government initiatives on our plate as well. They know that supporters of this motion have suggested that a fall election is necessary because important work like negotiations of the northern accord negotiations of the federal/territorial discussion on formula financing could not be finished by the spring.

While I think, as I said before, facing the facts -- and the fact is that this is highly unlikely, probably even impossible, that the northern accord and a new federal funding formula will be concluded by the fall of 1995. Indeed, we have to ask ourselves whether it's better to have these key arrangements finalized by a government that has almost exhausted its mandate and will be unable to be held accountable after agreements are finalized.

Mr. Speaker, we shouldn't forget about the transfer of the responsibility of Arctic A airports, scheduled now to proceed in July. And we should remember that to

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give northerners more control over key transportation services, it will represent about a 30 per cent increase in the budget required by Transportation.

So we have to ask ourselves whether it is wise to initiate the implementation phase of this transfer under the Minister of Transportation, only for it to be interrupted three months later when a new Cabinet is selected by the 13th Assembly.

That is why this is exactly the situation that will be created if this motion passes and the election is delayed until the fall. This is more or less what happened in the health transfer, and we've been facing the consequences ever since. Did we learn nothing from the problems that we've experienced with health planning?

Mr. Speaker, there are many other reasons why a fall election is not in the best interest of the Northwest Territories. As I said in my Member's statement, we know there is presently a vacant seat in this House occasioned by the resignation of our former colleague, Mr. Arvaluk. We also know the Legislative

Assembly and Executive Council Act requires the Commissioner to issue a writ for a by-election. The Commissioner has no discretion, it appears, in this matter. Section 9(1) states that she shall issue the writ unless it is provided in section 9(2) the Assembly is scheduled to expire within six months. This motion doesn't allow us to expire in six months.

Mr. Speaker, to hold a by-election in order to fill this vacancy would be expensive and I don't believe in the interests of the people of Aivilik or of the Northwest Territories. Yet, unless the Commissioner acts, the matter could be challenged and we could be forced to proceed with a by-election.

However, my constituents have told me that they're aware of these issues and they know the pros and cons of a fall election and of the springtime alternative. And they're telling me that when all is said and done, they feel that now is the time for the 12th Assembly to seriously consider a spring election. Some are telling me that there will be resistance because Cabinet Members may wish to fulfil their term. I know honourable Members who have already declared that they don't want to stand for re-election, and they may be concerned that they want to finish their term. However, I don't think those are reasons to base our election timetable on.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize again and again, that honourable Members of this House are here to do their best for the people of the Northwest Territories, not what's best for ourselves.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

---Applause

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Not to look at fulfilling the term with regard to payment and a nice summer break, as Members have said; a summer where we don't have to worry about...

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame, shame, shame.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

...where we can get a paycheque. Those are the types of comments I've been hearing from Members...

AN HON. MEMBER:

Shame.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

...and I think that's shameful. You're right.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Terrible, terrible. Shameful.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

However, Mr. Speaker, I believe that in the interests of sound leadership -- and we all call ourselves leaders -- we must ensure that there's sufficient time for the important fiscal course that will need to be set during our next budget cycle.

I'm not willing to delay a much-needed election until the fall, that's why I'm voting against the motion.

Point Of Privilege

I have a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I hear cackling across the room and Members have suggested that I resign. I've been elected as a Member to represent my constituents and I will fulfil that until the day of the next election. So I ask the Member for an apology. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The chair didn't hear the comment nor am I aware if it's recorded as a comment, so the Member doesn't have a point of privilege. Continue, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard the comment and I find that shameful of the Minister to be speaking in that format. However, Mr. Speaker, I want to close my remarks by indicating that, as I had said, fiscally we're in an era where we have to go and ask people where they want cuts. Not a next election, but of what they want to see happen. With that, I would like to take the time to propose an amendment to this particular motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, you can proceed with your amendment.

Motion To Amend Motion 11-12(7), Defeated

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that the motion be amended by deleting August 31, 1995 and substituting April 27, 1995;

And further, by deleting October 16, 1995 and substituting June 12, 1995. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, your motion to amend Motion 11-12(7) is in order. To the amendment, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this amendment to the motion would result in a territorial election being held in the middle of June rather than late in October as proposed in the main motion. As I said, I want to advise the House that proposing this amendment is done for a number of reasons and

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I'll just repeat some of my reasons that I had initially indicated in the motion.

First, it would provide the new government with sufficient time to complete the necessary fiscal planning that will be necessary to bring forward a budget that adequately contends with the federal cuts and other financial challenges that must be addressed in the upcoming year.

Second, it provides the people of the Northwest Territories to provide this House with a renewed mandate; one that will be necessary to legitimately proceed with finalization and implementation of key government initiatives like the northern accord, the airport transfers and the negotiations of a new funding formula arrangement with the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I want to state up front that I'm fully aware that this amendment may cause some concerns for my honourable colleagues, particularly my honourable colleagues from the eastern Arctic, because I know that spring months are important for harvesting families, family and cultural renewal. Some Members who follow this debate might suggest that it would be unfair to community residents if the election date occurs when many families are on the land for spring hunting. Yet, if Motion 12-12(7) passes without an amendment, the fact is that much of the election campaign will still be occurring during this important season for the Members from the west.

However, whether they're planning to stand for re-election or not, honourable Members of this House will know that in many communities electioneering will take place both throughout the spring and the summer. No matter when the actual voting date is scheduled this year, the absence of some sectors of the community is a factor in this election. I think it will be less disruptive for the communities. It will ensure that each candidate's message is delivered more clearly to voters. And if the campaign is confined to the period from the end of April to mid-June, the process will not be dragged out and delayed until October.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, for years in the Dene communities they have found that fall elections are just as intrusive, I guess, as some of the people who say spring elections are for the eastern Arctic Members. The fall election for many of the Dene and the Metis are important time frames when many of the Members go out hunting moose and harvesting berries, I know it's my time to hunt chickens, and it does take away our time from campaigning. However, Mr. Speaker, I guess the main benefit to amending this motion is to allow for a spring election that would provide more time for the new government to craft a budget that takes into account the fiscal realities of our situation. We have to ensure that there's adequate time for planning, for consulting and for preparing. We simply cannot cheat the budgetary process by cramming it into the short time frame that a fall election would create. At the same time, I think we have to recognize that in order to face the challenges that confront us now we must have the full confidence of the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I believe that I look at honourable Members and ask them to really face the facts, look at our fiscal restraints, look at our fiscal picture and seriously consider the best and the betterment of the people of the Northwest Territories that we should look at seriously considering supporting an earlier election rather than later. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The seconder, Ms. Mike. I would like to remind the Members to speak to the motion itself, not to make comparisons with the fall election when we have an amendment with regard to a spring election. Stick to the dates that the amendment is targeted to. Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm seconding this motion because it makes sense to call an early election. From what I heard from the federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable Paul Martin's budget speech a few days ago, our government will be getting very large funding cuts from Ottawa in the 1996-97 fiscal year. It will take time for our government to prepare for those cuts. Should we have a spring election, this will allow the new government enough time to properly plan and prepare for these funding cuts. Our government will not be able to make these kinds of cuts in a hurry. If we are to be fair and reasonable and, above all, be a responsible government, then we should allow the new government as much time as possible to decide how to handle the cuts so the impact can be minimal. I see no other way to do this but to have an election sooner rather than later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the amendment. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether I have the same interest in this matter as other Members since it's no secret that I'm not going to be running again for re-election, but I would like to reassure Mrs. Marie-Jewell that I'm looking forward to a life after politics and I'm not particularly stuck on serving out my term to the last hour.

I think I'm neutral on this issue. What I would like to remind Members is that we debated and discussed this matter at length at our Caucus workshop in Fort Smith last year. And, while I know it wasn't formally announced, Members did agree at that time that we considered the issue of a spring election and decided against it. I think many of us, as I have, have told our constituents -- who have been asking, and that's a lot of questions directed to sitting MLAs now when the election will be -- that it will be in the fall. I think we have to consider that there are other people out there who are considering running in the election this fall, perhaps running against some of us in this room. They are planning their lives and their personal commitments around this fall. I think this amendment, if it passes, will take them by surprise and it will be seen as an advantage to incumbents. That is going to be the reaction from some people. That's the reality.

The other point I'd like to make, Mr. Speaker, is we're not like jurisdictions where there are political parties

and the government of the day can call an election as it deems appropriate. For better or for worse -- as Mrs. Marie-Jewell pointed out, I believe, in her remarks -- we have a four-year term set out in our constitution, which is the Northwest Territories Act. That is the law and it can only be abridged in extraordinary circumstances. In fact, as I understand the procedure -- since we have considered holding early elections over the years -- in this Assembly, we would only be able to hold an early election, as proposed in this amendment, if we got approval from the Governor-in-Council, the federal Cabinet. So, even if we were to approve this amendment -- which I will not be supporting for reasons I'll outline -- we

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would still have to persuade the federal government that there were extraordinary circumstances or reasons to call a spring election.

Now, as I understand from Mrs. Marie-Jewell, what she is suggesting is we have a fiscal crisis and that is one of the main reasons we should hold an early election. Can you imagine after Paul Martin's budget and after the reaction to it -- and it has been seen as changing irrevocably the nature of the federal government, and is going to result in the lay-offs of tens and thousands of public servants -- the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories persuading the Government of Canada that there's a fiscal crisis that should provoke an election? If we're having a fiscal crisis that should provoke an election, then there should also be an election called in Canada because of the fiscal crises facing the Government of Canada.

---Applause

I don't know if that argument will go over big in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, if we were to make it.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there is a justification on the basis of fiscal crisis. I think we need to pay attention to our fiscal situation, as we've done over the last three years. I, frankly, have every confidence that Mr. Pollard will continue to deal with the financial issues responsibly as he's done up to now. I think we have some work to complete in order to lay the ground so the new Assembly can deal responsibly with those fiscal issues. One of the things that we would have to deal with, I think, is balanced budget legislation. Another thing I would like to see us deal with is a thoughtful transition plan. And I would respectfully suggest to Mrs. Marie-Jewell that we are

going to need a little more time than her amendment would allow if we are to do that work.

I have listened carefully to her arguments. I think part of her arguments are premised on the fact that new blood will better be able to tackle the current situation. I'm not sure that's true, Mr. Speaker. I believe that every legislature deals with pressing fiscal and other issues, and I would like to suggest that we have been given a mandate to represent our constituents and deal with the current issues of the day. We are not lame; we are alive and well. In fact, I would say we are in full flight. At the moment, we are tackling issues that are on the point of resolution.

Mrs. Marie-Jewell suggests that we need a new Finance Minister to finish the formula financing, that we need a new Energy, Mines...

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, your point of order.

Point Of Order

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that the Member is imputing motives which I did not suggest in my remarks. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

(Microphone turned off)

MR. SPEAKER:

Can I have order, please. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw the comments that were offensive, on the condition that Mrs. Marie-Jewell stops heckling me while I'm trying to speak.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to also remind the Members to speak to the amendment. Mr. Patterson, you are making a lot of statements with regard to the main motion. Can you try to speak to the amendment itself, because you will have the opportunity at some point to speak to the main motion. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I infer from the arguments for an early election is that new players are required to deal with the current issues of the day: the formula financing negotiations, the mineral accord and other fiscal issues. I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if we don't have an early election, as suggested by the amendment, and we continue on, we will be relying on John Pollard who knows Paul Martin, on John Todd who knows Ron Irwin, and on Nellie Cournoyea who knows Jean Chretien, rather than on new players we don't know who will take some time to get up to speed.

Mr. Speaker, I think there's a downside to calling an early election this spring and the downside is we will have new players to deal with the formula financing negotiations, new players to deal with the northern mineral accord, and a new government to respond to the Nunavut Implementation Commission report in March. I feel much more comfortable that we will have a chance of resolving these critical issues based on the tremendous work that has been placed on dealing with them over the past three years. So, I think I agree that we should look at the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories. I don't know if the best interests of the people of the Northwest Territories are served by a sudden and surprising change of players. I agree we're dealing with critical issues. I don't know if it's time to change the coach, the quarterback and your key linebackers when you're coming up to the Grey Cup, Mr. Speaker.

One final comment. The Member for Thebacha referred to the by-election in Aivilik as being an expense that will be incurred if we don't have an early election. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the mayors of the three communities have advised the Premier that they will await the next election, that they're content to be represented through the good offices of the neighbouring MLA, the Honourable John Todd. So I'm not sure that this is a problem affecting that riding.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the Member referred to the law respecting elections, requiring the Commissioner to issue a writ. I believe the Commissioner is required to issue a writ when a seat is declared vacant, but the law is not clear as to when that writ shall spell out an election. The writ could spell out a general election for the fall or a general election earlier.

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So I don't think we need to get the issue of the seat in Aivilik mixed up in dealing with this amendment.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I think this would be a sudden surprising unexpected development that would impede the resolution of some very critical issues, rather than enhance the resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion to amend. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in opposition to this amendment as well. Mr. Speaker, I would like to list some of the reasons why I oppose the amendment.

As has been pointed out, this issue has been discussed at strategic planning sessions -- not just once, but twice -- and always a majority of Members supported a fall election. If we had decided a year ago and made public the fact that the traditional time was going to be changed, then I could have supported the amendment. But since we didn't, I have to say that I am opposed to it.

Because of those decisions in Caucus, since that time anyone who has asked me has been told that the election would take place in mid-October. So for me to change my mind now and support this amendment would mean that I had been misleading people and I'm not prepared to do that. I firmly believe that an early election benefits incumbents. I want to make sure that everybody has a chance to run.

It hasn't been that long, Mr. Speaker, since I ran for this position and I remember how long it took me to get ready to run. I want to make sure that people out there have the time to discuss with their supporters the campaign and time to raise the funds necessary to campaign. I think that is another reason that we should oppose this amendment which would see the

election happening too soon for many people to get properly organized to run for a seat in this Legislature.

I also believe that whether we support this motion or not, the new Legislative Assembly would not meet until the fall so the time frame doesn't change. But I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, with an early election if this amendment were supported, a new government has no mandate from the people. In our system, each Member is elected as an individual. We all run on our own platforms. There is no party system up here. And without a party system, the government can't have a mandate from the people. So an early election, as this amendment would achieve, wouldn't give the government a mandate to try and accomplish something. The mandate that the government has in this Legislative Assembly comes from the Members of the Legislative Assembly when it is sitting. Because the Assembly wouldn't sit until the fall, the government wouldn't have a mandate until the fall anyway.

I would also like to point out that I can't support this amendment because we have been told that aboriginal groups have said that they may be able to come to an agreement by the end of May or mid-June on an approach for this government to go to Ottawa and negotiate a northern accord. On the strength of that possibility, since I think a northern accord is something that is extremely important to this government, I think we have to give the current government time to try and conclude those arrangements, and that's impossible if we support this amendment.

It has been suggested that it's unlikely that a northern accord will be achieved whether the election is early, as would happen with this amendment, or late, as would happen with the main motion. My contention, Mr. Speaker, is that it is even less likely if we have a new government chosen before the accord is achieved. What happens if we have to start all over again? It could be that none of the Members of the current government are sitting in their Cabinet chairs after the next election.

AN HON. MEMBER:

No.

MR. DENT:

It's entirely possible that we could have an entire new Cabinet which would have to start all over again.

Mr. Speaker, I think the northern accord is much too important to let that happen. I think we have to take our best shot, and try to conclude the accord as soon as possible. So for that reason I can't support the amendment to hold an early election.

Mr. Speaker, I think that many of the same arguments would stand for formula financing. I think it's important that this government get to work as soon as possible at concluding the new formula financing agreement. We need some certainty leading up to division, we need some certainty going up to 1999 to know just what the fiscal resources will be for our government. My contention is that if we support this amendment, we would be ensuring a serious delay in the negotiations for formula financing. I think that would put our next government in an untenable situation. I think it's imperative that that formula financing agreement be finalized by this July or August at the latest, and I am hoping that the current government can do that. If we have an election early, as would happen with this amendment, I believe that that would be impossible. New people could not possibly get up to speed fast enough to conclude the negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other arguments that I could use, but I think that pretty well lays it out. I would just like to urge Members of this House to defeat this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

To the amendment, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I think it's healthy that we're having this debate here in the House and not in Caucus. Everybody gets to state their points. I think so far everybody for and against has had valid points. I've given this quite a bit of thought, not just this term but the last couple of terms that I've been part of this Assembly because we've had this debate in one form or another as long as I've been here. Normally, a year before, people agree that they'll have a fall election; then, as they get closer, some people don't want to; and then, we ultimately go back to a fall election.

There are a number of reasons for that. One is with all the pros and cons, the fall seems to be the most convenient time

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for the greater group of people to have an election. We've had this debate hundreds of times, but it normally comes back to the fall. That's the first point I want to make.

The second point I want to make is we have always gone, as long as I can remember, in four-year cycles. At least when I become an MLA and I vote for the Premier and vote for the Minister of Finance, I expect them to have that traditional four-year mandate to complete their tasks. I think that if we prematurely end that mandate, we're doing an unfair service to the government's opportunity to complete their task. I think you should really judge the government at the conclusion of their four years because, as we all know in politics, especially nowadays, some things take a long time, a lot of work, you have to get to know a lot of people. So a lot of things can happen in the last six months of a government's mandate.

I think arguments can be made on both sides about whether it's an advantage or a disadvantage for incumbents to have an early election or a late election. I think that many of my constituents would find an early election as a surprise and unfair. I'm sure there are a number of others who would say fine, go ahead with it. But I think the majority of my constituents are expecting a fall election because that's what we've had, and any opponents to any of the Yellowknife MLAs are gearing up with a fall election in mind.

Another point that I brought up in this House a number of times is the next government and Legislative Assembly are going to be operating under different parameters. I think the division agenda will drive the next Assembly. I think it's imperative that this government and this Legislative Assembly, for the remainder of their term, finalize as many of these agreements as they possibly can. I think it's going to be more difficult for the next government, with the division agenda driving the Assembly.

I won't go through all the different items on the government's agenda but my colleagues have talked about a northern accord and I think a northern accord is key. I think there is absolutely no chance of getting a northern accord before this summer. Even though the chances after the summer are problematic, at least we have a chance, if we have a fall election, to have a northern accord. There's no doubt in my mind that our Finance Minister will be able to get a formula financing agreement by the summer and I think it

would be very unfortunate if the next government came in -- if we had an early election -- without a formula financing agreement in place.

As Mr. Patterson has said, nowadays, without a party system our government really depends on personal contacts with the power brokers in Ottawa. Mr. Pollard has a personal relationship now with Mr. Martin, the Premier has the same with the Prime Minister and it would take months, if not a year or more, for the next Government Leader and Finance Minister to establish the same sort of contacts.

Mr. Speaker, this is just a list of issues that the Financial Management Board Secretariat are trying to do by the summer. They want to: finalize the development and implementation of a GNWT human resource planning strategy in the summer of 1995; implement a pilot employee assistance program in the summer of 1995; complete the consultation process and review of the affirmative action policy in the summer of 1995; review the sexual harassment policy by the fall of 1995; complete a review of the management framework for grants and contributions by the fall of 1995; develop an GNWT informatics plan in accordance with the GNWT informatics strategy by the fall of 1995; develop program evaluation standards in the summer of 1995; and, develop and pilot a new results measurement and reporting approach in the fall of 1995.

I think it's really important that all of these initiatives, which have taken months and sometimes years to develop, get finalized. Because we all know what happens, a new government comes in, there are new priorities and all of this work could be lost. I think it's very, very important that this government is given the time to complete the tasks they have worked on for the last three and a half years. I, for one, think we should stick to our tradition of having an election in the fall, and I will not support this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the amendment. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a brief comment to the amendment. This amendment is one that I will not support either; my reasons being, having an early election by June 12th will cause people to rush around, both the people who will vote and the people who have to get ready to be elected. I know

we have been looking at a fall election and my people understand already that the intent is to hold an election in the fall of 1995. People have already accepted that.

If we try to make it different now and change it to June, it is obvious, at least in my constituency and in the surrounding communities, that half of the communities' population will not be in the settlements -- in October, people start returning to the communities -- and people who are out on the land for traditional activities won't be able to be contacted by telephone. So, they wouldn't even be able to vote by proxy. Although they could do it this way: you could use the XBX CBs. In the western Arctic, they're called bush radios. This would be the only way that it could be publicized and people would know who got elected. Even though when you vote, you do it by secret ballot.

Furthermore, the people who are out on the land for recreation or for vacation are taking their holidays and they will be included in the Baffin South MLA's constituency. You could also contact the people by helicopter and bring the ballot box around, but that would be very costly. Because of the difficulties that are occurring, this government is well into the work they have to do and they can continue to pave the way for the work they have to complete. The amendment is one that I will not support because of these reasons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the amendment. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I'm going to be talking in my native language. There is a proposal now to have an election this spring, on June 12th. That is okay, however, I don't agree with it. So for that reason I am not going to be voting in favour of this.

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When I visited the communities I told people that the election will be this fall. By that date it would be exactly four years we've been here, and I had already told them that and now they are saying something different. I wanted to raise this because I don't agree with it. The reason I am saying this is because when we are elected, we are elected for four years and we

sit here on behalf of all the people who voted for us. The Ministers and the MLAs are elected for four years.

We have heard the budget report from the federal government and our funding is cut dramatically, by at least \$58 million. They informed us that they are not giving us the usual amount. The message we received is very serious. A great deal of work has been done to prioritize the funding cuts and where and how this money will be spent. Our Finance Minister is familiar with people from Ottawa and has worked well with them. Our leader, Nellie, also works well with the Prime Minister, and some Ministers here know the Ministers from Ottawa. We have received a very important message about our budget and if we have to change things because of this, I think the Ministers here who are familiar with the federal Ministers should be the ones to work on our budget. If we have a spring election and we get new elected Members in here and new elected Ministers put in place, it will be like starting all over. They won't be familiar with the Ministers from Ottawa.

Now we are talking about working towards a new government, they call it the transition plan and they asked the government to develop legislation for us. They told us that they would do this for us, but are able to get on it only this summer. They are also working on a lot of other issues. Ottawa is working with all the different provinces. So for this reason if we hold an election before they work out a transition plan for a new government, and we get new elected Members working before this plan, I think things will get very difficult.

I really don't mind when the elections are held, however, I had already told my constituents that after four years an election will be held in the fall. For that reason, this motion before us saying to have an election this spring in June, I'm not going to be voting in favour of this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will not be supporting the motion. I've heard all the arguments expressed by my colleagues who are also not supporting the motion and I agree with most of their comments. I won't be supporting this motion for a very practical reason and that's because in the Beaufort/Delta communities in

the month of June, the majority of the people are out spring hunting or fishing; the muskrat season in the Delta closes on June 15th and a lot of the families will still be out at their camps or packing up to come back to town. There's also, in the spring, a danger of floods and other things that could happen. It's very difficult to campaign or have people even care about what's going on in an election campaign if they're out in the bush. People have a democratic right to vote and to be able to cast their ballot on election day, therefore I do not support a spring election.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Are there any more comments to the amendment? Mrs. Marie-Jewell, your comments will close the debate.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. Just a quick closing remark. Mr. Speaker, I know many of my colleagues have stated that we did plan for a fall election and I know that we made that agreement well over a year ago. However, I want Members to know that well over a year ago, we didn't know we were going to absorb a \$38 million deficit; we didn't know we were going to face that. We also didn't know that we were going to be looking at a \$58 million cut from the federal government. It's basically with that in mind, giving proper planning for the next government that I had placed forth these amendments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER:

Recorded vote has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Zoe, Ms. Mike.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those opposed to the amendment, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Dent, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Koe, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Ng, Mr. Pollard, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Lewis.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those abstaining from the motion, please stand. The result of the vote on the amendment: three for; 18 against; and, no abstentions. This amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

To the main motion again. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did vote in favour of the proposed amendment but since it has been defeated we're back to the question of having the election on October 16th. In my constituency, Mr. Speaker, holding an election in that particular month causes a lot of problems because in the west we do have a lot of bad weather; it's usually snowing, et cetera. Mr. Speaker, I would like to move an amendment to the motion.

Motion To Amend Motion 11-12(7), Defeated

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the motion be amended by deleting August 31, 1995 and substituting July 20, 1995.

And further, by deleting October 16, 1995 and substituting September 4, 1995. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion to amend Motion 11-12(7) is in order. To the amendment. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, I would have preferred a spring election but, unfortunately, that's not the wish of the House. However, Mr. Speaker,

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my amendment will still allow for a fall election but for a September 4th vote. This will still provide more time for the important work that needs to be completed on our budget, as indicated by Mrs. Marie-Jewell earlier. Again, Mr. Speaker, I believe that next year's budget

will be critical for the future progress and fiscal security of the Northwest Territories and I urge all Members to ensure that there is enough time for the new government to carry out the required level of planning and consultation.

I anticipate, Mr. Speaker, that some honourable Members may be concerned that the election would be held so close to Labour Day. I would suggest that this should not be an issue. The majority of Members, I believe, will be campaigning anyway. People across the Northwest Territories realize the importance of this election. They will be participating regardless of whether the voting day follows a holiday or not. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, holding an election at this time may actually maximize the sort of coverage that our election issues received in the national media; something that may be critical in persuading southern Canadians on our positions in matters such as the federal firearms legislation, the development of our mineral industry, and the finalization of our new fiscal relationship with the Government of Canada. We need to remember, Mr. Speaker, that there could be as many as four or five other provinces holding elections this coming fall.

Mr. Speaker, the main reason I would urge Members to support my amendment is because it represents a compromise. We have a tradition of being able, through consensus, to strive toward a position that respects and honours the different perspectives that Members bring from the far corners of our jurisdictions.

I have a strongly-held position on the scheduling of the territorial election; one that I believe reflects the feeling of many residents of North Slave and other constituencies. My honourable colleagues have made their own decisions to support a different point of view and I can respect that, Mr. Speaker. You can't win them all but, in turn, I would urge Members of this House to similarly respect the view of many northerners who don't want to see the election put off until October. I would urge Members to allow for adequate budgetary planning and for a new mandate from the people without any unnecessary delay. For the sake of consensus government and the spirit of compromise that is so important for our work in this place, I would urge all Members to vote in support of the amendment that I put forward. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Secunder of the motion, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the amendment, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I'll be very brief, Mr. Speaker. I certainly respect the Member, but this issue has been around a long time. When is the best time to do anything? We could go through the whole calendar, as we have done in the past, and end up coming up with the same result.

Mr. Speaker, the problem that I have with an election that would take place on September 4th is that, although I'm still fairly fast that I can get around very quickly, there are 17,000 people in this city and many of them take off for holidays during the time that school is out; that's in July and August. So what happens is that if I'm going to have to get to people and campaign between the 31st of August and the 4th of September, I'm going to have to be much faster than I have been in the past.

---Laughter

And I don't think it's a reasonable thing to ask somebody, as the oldest person in this House, to have to cram a campaign into the last three or four days of the 45 days that would be available. It's not fair to me, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been called. Mr. Zoe, your closing remarks will close the debate.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought that I could be the person who had a compromise for all Members, the ones who are in support of a spring versus a late fall election.

Mr. Speaker, although I respect the comments of my elderly colleague from Yellowknife...

---Laughter

...Centre, I have to indicate to him that the election period is 45 days, and the election period will start on July 20th until we have the election on September 4th. The majority of his constituents, I believe, usually take their holidays during the months of July, so I would suspect the majority of them who have school children will be back in the city for the vote on September 4th. Everybody would have the same opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to campaign because that campaign period is set through legislation. So I would ask the Members to support this particular amendment. I would call for a recorded vote.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is being called. All those in favour, please stand.

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Zoe, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Dent, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Koe, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Alloo, Mr. Ng, Mr. Pollard, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Lewis.

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MR. SPEAKER:

All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the recorded vote to the amendment are two yes; 17 no; and, one abstention. This amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Koe, do you wish to make any closing remarks?
Question is being called. All those in favour?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER:

A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Koe, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Ng, Mr. Pollard, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Dent, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining from the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Zoe, Ms. Mike.

MR. SPEAKER:

The results of the recorded vote for the main motion: 12 yes; no zero; three abstentions. This motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Just to clarify, there were 17 yes.

At this point, I would like to recognize, in the gallery, a former colleague of mine who used to work with the Dene Nation, Jack Hicks.

---Applause

We have Motion 12-12(7) with Mr. Antoine.

Motion 12-12(7): Allocation Of Funds From The 1995-96 Supplementary Funding Reserve To Address The Initiatives Contained In The Social Envelope Committee Document, Carried

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Finance and the Special Committee on Health and Social Services both recommend that there be a fair balance in government spending between infrastructure, economic development and social programs;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has recognized that it must move rapidly towards increased communication and cooperation amongst all the partners that provide services in the social programs;

AND WHEREAS the departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the NWT Housing Corporation have, through the formation of the Social Envelope Committee, developed initiatives that are outlined in the document Budget Supplement 1995-96 - Social Envelope Committee;

AND WHEREAS the Social Envelope Committee has identified that its objectives are to improve services by focusing resources around client needs, to remove the artificial barriers between departments and programs, to facilitate the transfer of resources, to remove duplication and foster coordination, and to achieve better value for money;

AND WHEREAS the departments in the Social Envelope Committee have been involved in consultations with communities to develop a "community wellness strategy;"

AND WHEREAS communities have expressed their desire to play the lead role in determining what initiatives will work best for them and to decide how to spend the money that is available within their community, which will require the departments in the social envelope to find ways of making funding mechanisms more flexible to allow this;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Health and Social Services has indicated that there is a need to try new approaches to deal with priorities in areas such as

family violence, early intervention and services to youth;

AND WHEREAS the social envelope Ministers are recommending a "community action fund" to help community groups test their ideas;

AND WHEREAS it is important that these initiatives be supported with sufficient funding to enable these initiatives to be tested and implemented;

AND WHEREAS there is a source of funding that would not necessitate tax increases or reallocations from program spending;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, that the Executive Council give earnest consideration to allocating \$3.2 million from the 1995-96 supplementary funding reserve so as to address and implement the initiatives contained in the document "Budget Supplement 1995-96 - Social Envelope Committee."

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

(Translation) I would like to speak to the motion. Cabinet has laid down plans for working on the Social Envelope Committee but there is no money set aside for it, so in 1995-96 we would like to get \$3.3 million for supplementary fund reserves. I would appreciate if they would think about this very seriously and also set out plans for how they would do this. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

---Applause

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Sorry, we were still on motions. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion dealing with extended adjournment today.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Motion 14-12(7): Extended Adjournment

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, colleagues.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that notwithstanding rule 3(1)(a) that when this House adjourns on Friday, March 10, 1995, it shall be adjourned until Monday, March 27, 1995;

AND FURTHER, that at any time prior to March 27, 1995, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KOE:

As chairman of Caucus, the Caucus has agreed...There was general agreement in Caucus that we shall...

---Laughter

...have a two-week break and the period of the break should be from March 10th to March 27th. It is based on that decision that this motion has been put forward.

MR. SPEAKER:

As seconder of the motion, Mr. Pollard, do you wish to speak to the motion?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Speaker. I can't support this motion to take a two-week break. As you are well aware, we just started with the business of the House and it's critical that we pass the budget in a timely manner. As the Minister of Finance knows, we have to have it concluded by March 31st, or we won't have any money to spend after April 1st.

I believe it was last year or the year before when we considered both the O and M and capital budgets together that we ran up to the last hour to get the budget through. At one point in time, Mr. Speaker, we even had to approve a supp so the government could spend money after March 31st, because our budget wasn't done.

Mr. Speaker, we have only concluded two departments out of all the departments we have in this government. And it's critical that we discuss all the legislation that is in front of us. I don't see how we can take this length of time off. I just counted the days, Mr. Speaker, and the proposed motion states March 10th to March 27th. That's 16 days and it leaves us only five days when we reconvene before March 31st comes around. For those reasons, I can't support this particular motion. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an amendment.

Motion To Amend Motion 14-12(7), Defeated

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that the motion be amended by deleting March 10, 1995 and substituting March 17, 1995.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Zoe, your amendment is in order. To the amendment. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, Members are anxious to vote on this particular motion...

---Laughter

...but I would just like to note, as the government indicated, we do have a lot of work. The budget is coming down and they are proposing to take a two-week break. I can't justify that to my people because this is the session when we're supposed to be working. I would encourage Members to support my amendment. I can't go for a two-week break, but maybe I can compromise and go for one week.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Ohh.

MR. SPEAKER:

The seconder, Ms. Mike, do you want to speak to the amendment? Mr. Patterson, to the amendment.

MR. PATTERSON:

Just very briefly, Mr. Speaker, thank you. I would like to draw to the attention of Members of the House that the Nunavut Implementation Commission has invited Members of the Nunavut Caucus to consult with them on their very important paper during the week of March 10th, due to be presented to the House of Commons and this Legislature by the end of March 1995. It would be unfortunate if Members of our Caucus were away on break during that week. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good amendment. It would allow us to be here for that important meeting and would still give us a week of a well-deserved break. Politics is the art of compromise. Let's support the amendment. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

To the amendment. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll support this amendment, mainly because of the fact that when we look at the orders of the day, at committee of the whole, we've been here two weeks and have only done two departments. We're supposed to be here to

do a budget; this is a budget session. I recognize that we've passed legislation but I recognize that we have more legislation. So, I think it's only proper that we address the current budget and give it our earnest consideration within the time frame that we can. I think if we take a one-week break, we'll still be able to address it without having to go to interim supply.

Mr. Speaker, I just want the public to know that, as a Member of the Assembly, I don't support us looking for interim supply. I would rather make the best use of our time, do our budget and then address our break time. We're going to have a break all summer now because we're going to have a fall election, so why worry about a break? Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the amendment, Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not support the amendment that Mr. Zoe has moved. Earlier this year, I believe it was last fall while we were still sitting here, we made an agreement in Caucus that we set the dates of this Assembly. We set them very clearly. Members made a conscious decision that we would sit in this House and that the House would adjourn on such a date and it would reconvene on the 27th of March. I made commitments in my riding. Some Members may perceive this as having a break, but I see it as giving me the opportunity to do other work that I have to do in my riding. I have scheduled for two weeks to go into my riding. The commitment was made by Members last fall, so I would like to keep my commitments in my riding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the amendment. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting this amendment either. We got together, at least most of us did last fall, and the reason we got together was so we could make our plans for this year. Everybody had full opportunity to make their point for one week or two weeks, everybody has an opportunity to do it the fair way so we can all plan accordingly. We came out of Caucus the same way we came out with the concept of a fall election so everybody made their plans based on that agreement

we made. Like Mr. Morin, I keep my agreements and I will support it.

The two issues that have been brought up; one, whether or not we vote supply doesn't really matter. We voted supply, I think, five out of the last seven years or whatever it is. It's just mechanics and it doesn't interrupt the flow of government expenditures or of revenues. As far as what we've done in two weeks, I'd like to remind Members not only have we done two departments we've also done 13 bills. There has actually been a fair bit of work done. A lot of Members, though, have made commitments to go into their constituency so it's not just taking a break, they will go into their constituency during these weeks. I'll just live up to the agreement we made last fall and I'm afraid, with all due respect, I can't support this amendment.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the amendment. Mr. Zoe, do you have a last comment to your amendment?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER:

A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour of the amendment, please stand.

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Zoe, Ms. Mike, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudlat, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those who oppose the amendment, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Dent, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Koe, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Ng, Mr.

Pollard, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Todd, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Lewis.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those abstaining from the amendment, please stand. The result of the recorded vote on the

amendment is eight for; 14 against; and, no abstentions. This amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

To the motion. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say a few words with regard to the motion. We agreed before that we would take a break at these dates mentioned. We have not forgotten this. We all know that we have some work to do in our constituency during the break and our constituents know that and they are expecting us. We didn't know at the time we made the decision what amount of work we were going to finish with the budget. We have completed two departments since we have been here and there are numerous departments to be completed. I know we don't have very much time until the end of March to deal with the main estimates. The motion is trying to support the government to finish the budget by the end of March. I would like to make an amendment to the motion.

Motion To Amend Motion 14-12(7), Ruled Out Of Order

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, to amend the motion to take a recess after the main estimates are dealt with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Can I get a copy of your motion, Mr. Pudluk? Now I have a copy of the motion and it's in syllabics. I don't understand syllabics so we will take a break until the appropriate translation is done and all the Members have a copy of it.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

An amendment was moved by Mr. Pudluk, the amendment is out of order as written.

---Ruled Out of Order

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To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Motion To Amend Motion 14-12(7), Withdrawn

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to propose an amendment. I move, seconded by the honourable for Baffin Central, that the motion be amended by deleting March 10, 1995 and substituting March 24, 1995.

MR. SPEAKER:

Can I have a copy of your motion, Mrs. Marie-Jewell?

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, if I could correct my amendment to avoid a weekend break.

MR. SPEAKER:

Okay. Could you withdraw your first amendment then?

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I withdraw my first amendment if my seconder agrees. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike agrees. Ms. Mike, for the record, could you withdraw your first amendment?

MS. MIKE:

I'm seconding the amendment and I agree to the withdrawing of the motion.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to ask Members when they are making a statement to please stand. Okay, so you withdraw. It's recorded that your seconder to the motion to amend is withdrawing the motion.

---Withdrawn

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I have an amendment.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

To the motion. Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion.

Motion To Amend Motion 14-12(7), Withdrawn

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that the motion be amended by deleting March 10, 1995 and substituting March 24, 1995;

And further, deleting March 27, 1995 and substituting April 7, 1995. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Can I have a copy of your motion, Mrs. Marie-Jewell? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move this amendment for two reasons...

MR. SPEAKER:

I'm sorry. Can I have a copy of your motion so I can make a ruling on it first? We will recess until we get the motion typed and we get the right wording. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to withdraw my amendment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Does the seconder, the Member for Baffin Central agree? Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE:

Mr. Speaker, I agree.

---Withdrawn

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Motion To Amend Motion 14-12(7), Defeated

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that the motion be amended by deleting March 10, 1995 and substituting March 24, 1995;

And further, by deleting both references to March 27, 1995 and substituting April 10, 1995. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the amendment. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this amendment would allow us to complete our budget, allow the Nunavut Caucus to meet their other obligations and it will allow for a two-week break. So I ask Members to support the amendment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Secunder, Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify to the House that, as the chair of the Nunavut Caucus, I tried to change the dates of the March 16th meeting scheduled to be held. But because of the Price Waterhouse report not being available prior to that date, we could not change the date. I'm supporting the motion to accommodate the Nunavut Caucus Members because this document is a key part of a Nunavut government and I hope that Members will support it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the amendment. Mr. Whitford.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's close to 6:00 pm and there are important items that have to be concluded. I would like to make a motion that we extend the hours to conclude these items.

MR. SPEAKER:

We need a seconder to extend sitting hours. Mr. Nerysoo. The motion is order. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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The House will continue until we finish this one item. To the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been called.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER:

A recorded vote has been requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour of the amendment, please stand.

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Zoe, Ms. Mike, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudlat.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Dent, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Koe, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Ng, Mr. Pollard, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Todd, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Lewis.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those abstaining from the motion, please stand. With the recorded vote to the amendment, we have eight yes and 14 no. This motion is defeated.

---Defeated

To the main motion. Mr. Koe, do you wish to make closing remarks?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, item 22, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Friday, March 3, 1995:

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

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

- Motion 13-12(7), Defence of Extreme Drunkenness

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1995-96

- Committee Report 2-12(7), Report on the Legislative

Action Paper on the Office of Ombudsman for the

Northwest Territories

- Committee Report 3-12(7), Report on the Review of the

Legislative Action Paper Proposing New Heritage

Legislation for the Northwest Territories

- Committee Report 4-12(7), Report on the Review of the

1995-96 Main Estimates

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Elections Act

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 3, 1995, at 10:00 am.

---ADJOURNMENT