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The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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Hon. Jim Antoine, Hon. Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Hon. Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Samuel Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Hon. Don Morin, Hon. Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Hon. Manitok Thompson, Hon. John Todd

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Good afternoon. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 11-13(2): Meeting Of Canadian Bar Association In Yellowknife

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Bar Association is having its first annual meeting of council in the Northwest Territories in the 100-year history of that organization. These meetings are occurring from February 22nd through the 27th in Yellowknife. Over 200 council members and guests have registered. Lawyers and judges from all across Canada will be attending the mid-winter meeting which is being hosted by the Northwest Territories branch of the CBA. The federal Justice Minister, Alan Rock, is among those scheduled to speak to council. Council will also debate various resolutions and will hear an expert panel debating legal and constitutional questions relating to national unity.

The local organizing committee of the NWT branch of the Canadian Bar Association has been very busy for the last year and a half planning a variety of activities and actively promoting the Yellowknife meeting. When the delegates are not in meetings, they will be involved in a variety of activities including dogsled rides, ice fishing, bus tours of the city, an aurora tour at Prelude Lake Lodge and tours of the Assembly facility, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and local art galleries. There will be a performance at

the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre featuring noted northern performers including Tracy Riley, the Gumboots, the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School Drummers and Dancers and the Yellowknife Youth Choir.

The NWT branch of the Canadian Bar Association, and in particular recognized for the work that they put into promoting the Northwest Territories as the site for this meeting, and should be congratulated for putting together an exceptional slate of activities for delegates. I am sure that Members of this Assembly will join me in wishing all the delegates and guests very productive meetings and an interesting stay in Yellowknife and safe travel to and from their homes. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 12-13(2): Sivuliuqtit -Nunavut Management Development Program

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the creation of the Nunavut territory is now about 36 months away. It will provide many new opportunities for Inuit to directly guide the growth and development of the new government and communities. To ensure the government of the new territory reflects the priorities of Inuit, it is essential that they hold key positions. I am pleased to inform this Assembly that Nunavut Arctic College is a partner in an initiative to train Inuit for senior management positions in Nunavut.

The three-year program is called Sivuliuqtit. Twenty participants from the Keewatin, Kitikmeot and Baffin regions are taking part. Each is training on the job with a sponsoring organization in his or her own community.

The program also includes mentoring, a distance-education component and six weeks at the Keewatin Campus of Nunavut Arctic College. The Keewatin Campus is managing the program in partnership with Radian, the business unit of the Canadian Centre for Management Development.

Sivuliuqtit is the result of cooperation between a number of Nunavut organizations, including the Government of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut Implementation Commission, Nunavut Tunngavik

Incorporated and the Nunavut Implementation Training Committee. These organizations share a commitment to developing management training and, as a result, have created a program which can serve as a model for others as we work towards the goal of creating Nunavut. The Government of Canada has also been a partner, along with Radian and Nunavut Arctic College

Mr. Speaker, I was honoured to attend the launch of the program a few weeks ago in Rankin Inlet and meet the participants. I believe that the kind of cooperation and collaboration that went into this program is essential if we are to provide the training needed to prepare the Inuit for employment in a Nunavut government and in other public I look forward to seeing the graduates of this program take their places in administering the new territory. Thank you.

---Applause and safe travel to and from their homes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

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Minister's Statement 13-13(2): Medevac Children From Arviat

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have an emergency statement. During the past weekend, 18 children were sent out from the Keewatin to Manitoba because of chest infections. The health centre nurse believed that most were suffering from a croupy illness called respiratory syncytial virus, usually referred to as RSV. RSV is a common winter infection of babies that makes it hard for them to breathe. This winter it has been particularly prevalent in the Prairie Provinces, in fact Saskatchewan has hundreds of cases. Last winter, there were many cases in the northern Baffin region. The last NWT outbreak was in Sanikiluaq in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, the department will be sending an experienced medical health officer into the region tomorrow to assess the situation and to assist the health board in dealing with the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Education Week And Congratulations To New NWTTA President

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In recognition of Education Week, which is coming up from March 16th to 22nd, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House of the outstanding record of service from the teachers in the community of Hay River. I had research check this out for me and we have 53 public school teachers in Hay River and their accumulated years of service in Hay River is 630 years amongst 53 teachers. That speaks very well of their commitment to education and their commitment to Hay River. So I would like to recognize them today and I would also like to offer congratulations to Ms. Pat Thomas who is the recently newly-elected president of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Member's Statement On Resolutions Passed At The Iqaluit Baffin Leaders' Summit

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Baffin Leaders' Summit met in Iqaluit January 13th and 14th. As the chairperson of that meeting, I am reporting to the Assembly on our discussions. The Baffin

Leaders' Summit is composed of all MLAs and mayors of the Baffin region. The four executive members of BRIA are the three chairpersons of the regional health and education boards and the regional chamber of commerce.

During our January meeting we passed 14 resolutions which dealt with a range of topics, some of the more significant resolutions were, one, invite the Minister of DIAND to visit Iqaluit, the future capital of Nunavut; two, endorse the principles of our decentralized government for Nunavut based on the Iqaluit-as-capital model developed by NIC; three, pledge our cooperation and goodwill towards the leaders and

residents of the Kitikmeot and Keewatin regions; four, support the maximum number of jobs in all communities of the three Nunavut regions through a highly-decentralized Nunavut government and through community transfers; five, petition the Minister of Health and Social Services to allow communities to take on the transfer of positions or programs without having to take over the entire departmental responsibilities in the communities. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have unanimous consent to continue with my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. EVALOARJUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Six, support our MP, Jack Anawak, as he works to have the federal government deliver on a 1998 commitment to provide a new hospital for the Baffin region; seven, encourage the Minister of Justice to support community justice initiatives as alternatives to expensive court circuits and correctional facilities; eight, develop community-based plans to address community wellness issues; nine, have Nunavut Arctic College develop community development training programs; 10, petition the Government of the NWT to suspend the sale of staff houses in Nunavut until a strategy is put in place to address the future staff housing needs of the Nunavut government; 11, urge Cabinet and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to reinstate a suitable level of funding for public service training to meet the spirit and intent of article 23 of the Nunavut land claim agreement; 12, reform the system for providing student financial assistance in the Baffin region.

Mr. Speaker, later today, I will be tabling the resolutions passed at the Baffin Leaders' Summit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement On Concerns Re Rankin Inlet As Hub For Fuel Resupply

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, plans to change the resupply operations in the Keewatin

region have been under development for the past three years. While we all agree with the need to be as efficient as possible in all government departments, including resupply, there have been a number of concerns about the government's plan to start using Rankin Inlet as a hub for fuel resupply in the Keewatin. Mr. Speaker, in response to these concerns, the Minister of Transportation and Public Works provided a briefing in Caucus this morning on resupply operations, specifically on the proposed changes in the Keewatin resupply. I would like to

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thank the Minister and their staff for providing us with the detailed information on this important subject.

However, I still have some concerns in this area, Mr. Speaker. One major example is the issue of anticipated cost-savings on using Rankin Inlet as a hub for fuel resupply in the Keewatin. Mr. Speaker, when the option was first proposed, I understood the government expects to save \$1.8 million per year. However, I understand the figures have changed and we are now looking at a savings of approximately \$600,000 per year.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all need time to digest the information provided to us before we proceed with such a large and important project. I appreciate the assurances received from the Minister that due to other circumstances, the project will not be going ahead in time to meet the summer of 1997 deadline.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure all the Members of the House will be able to take the extra time now available to ensure that this project receives the full and careful consideration that it deserves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Tribute To Bazel Jesudason

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to pay tribute to a man who was much loved and very much respected in his home of Resolute Bay, in the High Arctic, throughout the circumpolar North and indeed throughout the world. Bazel Jesudason died in Resolute Bay on August 9th of last year after a brief illness. Born in

India in 1941, Bazel chose to be buried in the Arctic amongst people he loved.

Mr. Speaker, Bazel was a man well-known for his love of people and acceptance of many cultures. He spoke many languages, including Inuktitut, and was a devout Christian all his life. Bazel first came to the North in 1969 to Iqaluit and then Lake Harbour as a power plant operator and mechanic. In 1970, he was transferred to Grise Fiord. It was there he met his lifetime partner, Terry DiPasquale.

Bazel had travelled extensively with Inuit on the land and decided to start his own business in tourism. In 1979, Bazel left the security of the civil service and launched High Arctic International Explorer Services Ltd in Resolute.

Starting with well-organized sled trips between Resolute and Grise Fiord, the business expanded to include a hotel which was very much a home away from home under Terry's guiding hands, and package trips were added to other High Arctic destinations including the North Pole.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for High Arctic is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Barnabas, conclude your statement.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bazel become well-known worldwide for his sound advice to a wide variety of groups who planned assaults on the North Pole, whether by dogteam, snowmobile, ultra-lite aircraft, skis or on foot. Bazel often joked that he was going to be the first one to reach the North Pole by elephant.

Many major expeditions relied on Bazel for logistical advice and radio support. In the slower winter season, Bazel travelled extensively around the world giving slide shows wherever he went. He was a wonderful ambassador for the North. More than any other person, Bazel put the High Arctic on the international tourism map.

Even though he was very well known throughout the world, Bazel never lost touch with his many beloved friends and neighbours in my constituency and in the North. He involved Inuit in his business and was very

happy to take them with him on some of his trips. His old friends, Pijamini from Grise Fiord and my predecessor, Mr. Ludy Pudluk's father, Mr. Kalluk, went with Bazel to Las Vegas and even to India.

Mr. Speaker, Canada and the Northwest Territories has benefitted enormously from Bazel's work in making the North accessible and friendly to all who came to explore. Bazel's efforts produced lasting benefits for the airline, communications and travel industries, and resulted in new facilities and knowledge in the North.

Beyond all this, though, it is the man we will always remember for his humanity, his humour and his joy in living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement On Industry's Concern With Privatization

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Mr. Don Morin announced in the Assembly on February 14th that a number of government functions will be privatized; among them, computer systems and services. A number of northern businesses currently providing these services have concerns as to how this privatization will be achieved. They believe that an open and competitive tree market provides the government with the best goods and services at the lowest prices, and wish to be consulted on the privatization plan that will be executed.

At this time, they have not been consulted and are concerned that a privatization plan may have been developed completely in house without any consultation from private companies and industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Opposition To Public Service Act Amendments

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling in this House several

petitions from my constituency of Iqaluit and other communities in Nunavut against the amendments to the Public Service Act. Mr. Speaker, I spoke against the proposed act in this House

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earlier in the week, and, Mr. Speaker, unanimous consent at that time was not there.

Mr. Speaker, I think that putting the proposed amendments to the act to the Standing Committee on Government Operations, which I have the privilege of sitting on, was the correct process. Mr. Speaker, over the past days, I've been called a unionist. Mr. Speaker, I am and I do not deny this. However, I do understand the principle of the bill and I've tried to articulate this in and out of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Government Operations committee had the opportunity to seek input from the two major stakeholders on this issue, and I thank all of my constituents who have phoned and faxed me to let me know that I had their support. I would also like to thank my fellow brother and sister MLAs for their support. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On North Slave Self-Government Negotiations

MR. RABESCA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to tell the House that this week is one of the most important weeks for my people in my constituency. They are presently negotiating with the federal government on self-government in Rae Lakes, and I am very sorry that I cannot be there with them while the session is on here.

I wish to tell this House that I strongly support my people for all the energy, time and effort that they have put into this very important initiative. I wish them all success and I want them to know that thoughts are with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Opposition To GNWT Purchase Of Canarctic Shipping

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everyone. I understand that the federal government is negotiating to transfer its ownership of Canarctic Shipping Company to the Government of the Northwest Territories, and that negotiations are well under way. I understand that a number of aboriginal development companies were approached with a proposal to buy this shipping company. It seems that none of them pursued it, and now this government itself is planning to buy the company in the hopes of finding some northern company to ultimately purchase it in the future.

Three main difficulties exist to me. If the GNWT becomes owner of Canarctic Shipping, it will probably be able to find an eventual buyer only if our government retains the inherent liabilities. This means the GNWT would relinquish control but still be exposed to financial burdens.

Under the existing shareholder's agreement, a company named FedNav retains the indefinite right of first refusal on any transfer, so there is no guarantee that after all the agreements are signed the eventual transfer to a northern company can actually take place. Canarctic Shipping is saddled with a number of liabilities which the federal government will pass on to the GNWT if we accept ownership. Some of the liabilities which have been identified to me are the following: Canarctic has already accumulated over \$79 million in losses, and future operations can be considered only economically marginal at best. There is a guaranteed floating rate credit facility with a Canadian bank for \$10 million. Previous financial statements consistently show a foreign exchange loss of \$500,000 every year. There exists a potential liability exposure relating to the sinking of a ship under charter with Canarctic whose case has not yet been resolved, for the amount of \$5 million.

The possibility of finding a northern company to buy Canarctic is not assured. There already exists a northern aboriginal owned company, and resources in the North to encourage another company to enter this field may be limited. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. In a previous statement, I spoke of coming up with a balance when it comes to representing the people of Inuvik. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are elected to represent those who have a voice as unions do, as well as those who do not have the same voice as the unions: the elders, the children, the sick and the unemployed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear! Hear!

---Applause

MR. ROLAND:

Mr. Speaker, taking into consideration that all MLAs had input into the direction set by this government to reduce the deficit, we have to be conscious of the impact this direction will have on all the residents of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, this government is changing the way we do business. I believe that this will be seen and everyone is going to know that what we are doing is in the best interest of all people in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, I want to read something that I write down in my book on a daily basis. It is something I read early in the morning. It comes from the Bible; it is Proverbs, chapter 31, verses 8 and 9: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements.
Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement On Importance Of Self-
Government Negotiations

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we are aware, in the last few years with regard to aboriginal communities,

self-government has been high on their agenda. We have had the opportunity to start negotiations in settlement areas, particularly in the area that I represent with the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit negotiation process.

In the last few weeks, there have been statements made regarding the Premier's statement, as well as on events happening in this House. It is not clear how those changes will affect the aboriginal negotiations for self-government. In the past, negotiations between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the aboriginal communities have been strained with regard to the relationship between this government and the federal government. The majority of aboriginal communities are represented by band councils, as well as aboriginal groups such as the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

The current status as to the process with this new Assembly has been changed with the new Premier, Cabinet and Members of this House. There is now dialogue between the aboriginal groups and the regional summit that has been established for the aboriginal forum. In the Premier's statement, there were no comments made about self-government and the importance of it in the North. There has been restructuring of the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio. Does that mean the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs will no longer be the key person in those discussions?

The Government of the Northwest Territories has also talked about community transfers and community empowerment. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to community wellness and income support, these are all initiatives that are presently being negotiated at the table between the aboriginal groups and the federal government. So the question is, does the government seriously feel these issues will be looked at through self-government negotiations or will these transfers

empower the communities to take over these programs through the transfers.

Looking at the possibility of restructuring government with regard to empowering communities and transferring more initiatives to the regional governments, will that pose a problem in these negotiations? Later on, I will also be asking the Premier questions with regard to his sessional statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Tribute To Nahendeh Constituents On Receiving Commissioner's Award For Bravery At The Highest Level

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (English not provided)... Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in my own language. because of a shortage of money. We can't afford it, so I will speak in English.

On January 15th, Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of attending an awards ceremony in my home constituency of Fort Simpson. The Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Helen Maksagak, hosted the awards presentation and recognized the three individuals who rescued a Fort Simpson man from certain death. Mr. Ernie Paul Isaiah and Mr. Jack Lee Mouse received the Commissioner's Award for Bravery at the Highest Level.

They were instrumental in saving Mr. Mike Cazon from a burning house in Fort Simpson, which had ultimately taken the lives of three others in September of 1993. Mr. Isaiah and Mr. Mouse were in a neighbouring house when the community fire alarm sounded. They ran to the burning building, ran inside and while searching through the smoke for residents, they discovered Mr. Cazon unconscious and pulled him into the hall. While both ran back to look for others who still may have been in danger, Mr. Loutit entered the building and helped Mr. Cazon outside. By that time the whole building was engulfed in flames and both Mr. Mouse and Mr. Isaiah had been forced to give up the search.

Although Mr. Cazon received burns to 60 per cent of his body, he is here today as a result of the heroic efforts of Mr. Ernie Paul Isaiah, Mr. Jack Lee Mouse and Mr. Ernest Wayne Loutit. I wish to acknowledge

the risk that these men took with their own lives and there are many people in the North who show heroic feats and we should acknowledge them in this House. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

Just to let the Member for Nahendeh know, I believe there was a ruling in the federal Parliament and Mr. Anawak did make a statement in his mother tongue. The ruling was that you have the political right to be heard, but not understood. Mr. Antoine, you do have the right to speak in your own language in the House and it is up to the Members if they want to make a point of order regarding whether they understand Mr. Antoine or not. The rules are there for the Members. It is up to the Members to use them.

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 62-13(2): Community Wellness Worker Training Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two returns today. The first was a question asked by Mr. Erasmus on February 19, 1996, regarding community wellness worker training programs.

Mr. Speaker, a proposal for a community wellness worker training program was recently developed by Aurora Campus, Aurora College in Inuvik. Aurora Campus is currently having the proposed program content reviewed by community groups and other interested parties. If a community wellness worker training program is implemented, third-party funding will need

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to be identified to support the college's delivery of this program.

Return To Question 65-13(2): Awarding Of Brush-Clearing Contract At Frank's Channel

The second return, Mr. Speaker, if I may, is a reply to a question asked by Mr. Rabesca on February 20th, regarding the award of brush-clearing contract at Frank's Channel.

Mr. Speaker, the request for bids to conduct brush clearing along 34 kilometres of the Snare transmission line was advertised for the first time in News/North on January 29, 1996, with a closing date of February 16th.

On February 7th, the Rae band sent a fax to the Power Corporation head office in Hay River requesting the tender documents be sent by bus. The documents were sent that same day.

Two bids from qualified registered NWT businesses have been received and they are currently being evaluated. The contract has not been awarded yet. The target date for awarding a contract is February 29th.

Mr. Speaker, the process used is consistent with all Power Corporation tendering procedures. The level of security bonding requested is consistent with standard Power Corporation contract requirements. The corporation can adjust bond requirements, depending on the nature of the work. In future, contracts of this nature will be reviewed to assess the necessity of posting bonds, and tenders will be designed accordingly.

The Northwest Territories Power Corporation endeavours to increase local employment and business opportunities wherever practical and cost effective. It is committed to obtaining goods and services at the most economical rate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mrs. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I have three returns to oral questions. Can I read them all at once?

Further Return To Question 59-13(2): Government Employees Attending AWG

I would like to make a return to an oral question asked by Jake Ootes on February 19th regarding the Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, the following officials plan to attend the Arctic Winter Games as representatives of the Government of the Northwest Territories

I will attend, Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for sport and recreation. While at the games, I will attend a meeting of elected officials from all the participating units with the Arctic Winter Games International Committee. These meetings are scheduled to discuss strategic plans for the future of the Arctic Winter Games.

Also attending the Arctic Winter Games will be the Honourable Helen Maksagak, Commissioner.

Staff of the department who will attend are the deputy minister, who will attend with me the elected officials meeting and also meetings with Sport Canada officials who fund a portion of Arctic Winter Game costs; the director of the sport and recreation division will also attend, who is our representative to the Arctic Winter Games International Committee and the committee's technical director; the manager of sport programs will also attend, who is our representative for liaison purposes with the NWT Team mission staff.

Mr. Speaker, these are the government officials and staff representing the GNWT at the Arctic Winter Games. There are other Members of this Legislative Assembly and other government staff who may choose to go on their personal time and at their own expense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Question 71-13(2): Retention Of Hamlet Budget Surplus

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a reply to an oral question asked by Mark Evaloarjuk on February 19th. Mr. Speaker, the question concerned the retention of surplus in the hamlet of Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, the question from Mr. Evaloarjuk was regarding the water and sewage services budget in Hall Beach. Recently, the economic rate for Hall Beach water and sewage services was raised because it was too low and there was a deficit in the program. The rate was increased to help recover that deficit. There is no surplus in Hall Beach.

Community water and sewage service rates are occasionally adjusted to reflect the costs of the program. If there is a surplus in the water and sewage services fund, the economic rate is lowered; if there is a deficit --as there is now in Hall Beach --the rate for water and sewage services must be raised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

Further Return To Question 76-13(2): GNWT Staff Dedicated To AWG Support

I also have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Mike Miltenberger yesterday on the GNWT staff dedicated to Arctic Winter Games support.

Mr. Speaker, the department has no positions that are responsible full time for Arctic Winter Games, Sport North, a non-government federation of territorial sport governing bodies, is responsible for overseeing the selection and participation of our NWT Team for the Arctic Winter Games, but it also has no positions dedicated full time.

Mr. Speaker, the only full-time position I am aware of is the position of 1998 Arctic Winter Games general manager. This position is a city of Yellowknife position, recently filled and with

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responsibility for the planning of the hosting of the next Arctic Winter Games to be held in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 37-13(2): Training Session For Justices Of The Peace

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Barnabas on the 15th of February with regard to training sessions for justices of the peace.

Mr. Barnabas asked the question of whether or not the Department of Justice would be prepared to hold training sessions for justices of the peace.

Training sessions were held in September 1994 in Iqaluit, and in October 1994 in Yellowknife.

Judge Bruser from the Territorial Court is currently on sabbatical leave and is currently redeveloping the justice of the peace training manual. As portions of the manual get completed, they are being used for JP training. A JP training session was offered by Judge Bruser in Yellowknife on January 26th to 28th of last month. The training module offered was the basic module, and 16 people attended the training.

A training session is now being offered by Judge Bruser in Iqaluit on March 22nd to 24th. The training

module offered will be the sentencing module, and it is estimated that 12 people will attend that training.

A training session is being offered by Chief Judge Halifax in Yellowknife on March 22nd to 24th. The training module offered will be the sentencing module and it is estimated that 10 people will attend that training.

We will advise Members when the training schedule for the coming year becomes available. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Jeannie Areak-Kullualik of CBC North Radio, based in Iqaluit.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize today Mayor Jack Rowe from Hay River; Terry Camsell, the president of the Hay River Metis Nation; and, Gwen Robak-Lepine with the Metis Development Corporation in Hay River. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to recognize Mr. Ron DiPasquale, of Yellowknife, Bazel Jesudason's brother-in-law. With him are Makkosan and Satomeesan, long time friends of Bazel's from Japan, who are here in Yellowknife on their way to Resolute.

---Applause

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Krutko,

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to recognize Mr. Gary Bohnet, president of the Metis Nation and the vice-president, Mr. Mike Paulette.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge a group in the gallery. They are a group of grade 8 students from Range Lake North School and their teacher, Ms. Tina Kennedy.

---Applause

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to acknowledge some scouts who are with us today as Pages. They are: Jonathan Bilodeau; Andrew Bishop; Ben Singer; Julian Morse; Zoltan Kalnay; and, Chris Mercredi.

---Applause

And one person I missed is Adam Gordon, too.

---Applause

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

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Hugh Lloyd, who used to be a teacher in the adult education centre in Igloolik. During a student exchange between Greenland and Baffin, he was the coordinator when we travelled to Greenland. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 81-13(2): Revised Completion Time Frame For Rankin Inlet Tank Farm Project

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works and it relates to my

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Member's statement. Mr. Speaker, could the honourable Minister please confirm to this House the revised completion time frame for the Rankin Inlet tank farm project? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 81-13(2): Revised Completion Time Frame For Rankin Inlet Tank Farm Project

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the original plan for the Rankin Inlet fuel terminal, as per Cabinet direction from the previous government, was that construction was to start this summer with the tank farm being in operation in June 1997. Because of a series of delays and concerns brought up by people in the communities of the Keewatin region, it is now no longer possible to get the project up and running for this summer, mainly due to time required for shipping, ordering tools, et cetera. So there is a minimum of a one-year delay on this project.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 82-13(2): Availability Of Report Re Transfer Of Arctic College Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the House on Monday, the Minister of Education said that the Lloyd report on the transfer of Arctic College programs is available to the public at Nunavut Arctic College's headquarters in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, media and some of my constituents have requested copies of the report, but were denied by staff in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, the Minister did assure this Member and this

House that copies were available to the public. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is why can't the public get copies of the stated report, as stated by the Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 82-13(2): Availability Of Report Re Transfer Of Arctic College Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member brought this to my attention last night. This morning I instructed my staff to contact the chairman of the board of Nunavut Arctic College and make sure the response to an oral question I made in this House earlier this week was true.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 83-13(2): GNWT Acceptance Of Decentralized Government Model Proposed By NIC

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, at the Baffin Leaders' Summit held in Iqaluit January 12 to 13, 1996, the Baffin leaders discussed and endorsed the model for a decentralized government for Nunavut: proposed by the Nunavut Implementation Commission because that model will provide the most jobs for Baffin communities outside Iqaluit.

My question to the Premier is whether the Government of the Northwest Territories accepts the decentralized government model proposed by the Nunavut Implementation Commission.

The Nunavut Implementation Commission proposed the model whereby 93.5 new jobs in Igloodik would be created after Nunavut and 77 new jobs would be created in Pond Inlet. If these new positions are to be established in 1999, there will need to be houses and office space built to accommodate them. I would like to ask the Premier if this government is now planning the infrastructure necessary to support these new jobs in Pond Inlet and Igloodik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Premier of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 83-13(2): GNWT Acceptance Of Decentralized Government Model Proposed By NIC

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories supports the main principles as outlined in the NIC model. They have mentioned many times in this House stressing government at the community level, as well as distributing new jobs through the regions and communities and decentralization where practical, with due regard to costs. We do have a deficit and we have to take costs into consideration at all times. We do not wish to be locked into endorsing all particulars of the NIC model. I note that the Baffin Leaders' Summit endorsed it. It is important for us to keep flexibility in the planning process. We are in a changing environment. Our government is confronted with serious fiscal constraints and discussions with the federal government on incremental funding for division are far from being completed. We have initiated those discussions. I talked to Mr. Irwin about this in January. Our officials are working on them as of today.

I would note, however, that the GNWT has done infrastructure costing for the NIC based upon the NIC model of government organization. This information was included in a supplementary report that NIC issued. Basically, on planning for jobs in Igloodik and Pond Inlet and building of office space and houses, we can't proceed until the federal government comes up with the cash. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Supplementary To Question 83-13(2): GNWT Acceptance Of Decentralized Government Model Proposed By NIC

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier tell this House whether the federal government has accepted the decentralized government model as

recommended by the Nunavut Implementation Commission? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 83-13(2): GNWT Acceptance Of Decentralized Government Model Proposed By NIC

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the federal government is best able to speak for itself as to the position of various issues; however, I would like to make the following comments. First, the GNWT officials have had some discussions with the federal officials on the federal approach to division. Second, the key question is probably the amount of funding that will be made available for division between now and 1999. It is our understanding that the federal government is basing its process for the establishment of Nunavut on the NIC model. It is my understanding that this would be establishing available funding levels, without locking us into acceptance of all details of that model. With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 84-13(2): GNWT's Support For Inherent Right To Self-Government

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier, Mr. Donnie Morin. In the Premier's statement last week, he spoke about developing a good working relationship with western aboriginal leaders. I'm very pleased and thank him for taking that initiative. However, there is not one word in the statement about something that is currently important to the Gwich'in leaders in my riding and also western groups down the valley. Does the government endorse the principle of the inherent right to self-government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Premier of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 84-13(2): GNWT's Support For Inherent Right To Self-Government

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the very first things we did as a government was meet with the Aboriginal Summit in the Western Arctic. We have talked to them and offered our support on aboriginal self-government. At one of our first meetings with the members of the Aboriginal Summit, they made it very clear that the implementing of inherent rights is one of their major priorities, and we agreed with them that we would work with them to make sure that that happens and that this government fully supports their inherent right to self-government.

Earlier this month, the government and the Legislative Assembly announced its vision and the priorities for the next three years leading up to division. One of the priorities that we have adopted as a government is to take aboriginal rights, treaty rights, aboriginal concerns and views into account, and to move forward with a meaningful self-government agenda that is based both on recognition of inherent right and on public government and self-government models for the rationalization of delivery of services.

We, as a government, also have contributed \$50,000 to the Sahtu Secretariat to assist in the Self-government Forum '96 to be held in April. The government has contributed an additional \$48,500 to the Aboriginal Summit to enable it to prepare materials and possible linkages between aboriginal government and public government for the use of the Self-government Forum '96. The GNWT will use the results of the conference to finalize its approaches to self-government so that our negotiators can participate in a more effective way in the decisions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, my government remains committed to the development of new relationships with the members of the Aboriginal Summit, and is willing to discuss with the summit a protocol to formalize meetings and for the Aboriginal Summit to meet with Cabinet. I feel quite confident that the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Jim Antoine, will work with the Aboriginal Summit to get signatures to that protocol.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, yes, this government does support the inherent right to self-government.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 84-13(2): GNWT's Support For Inherent Right To Self-Government

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is also a lot about empowering communities in the Premier's statement, but there's not one word with regard to regional governments. Most of the aboriginal groups, including Gwich'in, are seriously looking at forming self-governments that have regional as well as community powers. Does the government endorse forms of self-government that include regional and tribal governments as well as community governments?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 84-13(2): GNWT's Support For Inherent Right To Self-Government

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has not finalized the policy on self-government, including taking a position on what should be the purpose and the scope of regional government institutions. Government will await the results of the Forum '96 conference before it formulates any self-government policies. When we met with the Aboriginal Summit -- I believe it was last month -- they raised that concern at that time, that we shouldn't be developing policies without their input on aboriginal self government or regional government. So we are going to wait and work with them leading up to that forum.

There are some sources we can look at for guidance in getting to that end result, Mr. Speaker. The general consensus from the CDSC constitutional conference in 1995 concluded that the government must be the basis of any new structure. The community must be a basis of any new structure of government. All four levels of government --community, aboriginal, regional and central --are necessary. There is a need for a central government that is community driven. Communities should have the power to form regional and district governments. While the primary focus of self government will be shifting the power to the communities, there

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will clearly be a role for regional institutions, particularly suggesting that certain decisions should be made and programs and services delivered at a

regional level. I am confident that self-government negotiations will determine the appropriate division of governmental authority and responsibility within the regions. With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 84-13(2): GNWT's Support For Inherent Right To Self-Government

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A clear statement from this government endorsing regional governments, at least the principle, would go a long way towards improving relationships between the western aboriginal leaders and this government. When can I expect to hear such a statement from this government in this House?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 84-13(2): GNWT's Support For Inherent Right To Self-Government

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you. As I mentioned earlier, we are working with the Aboriginal Summit and we are working up to Forum '96 that will be held in the latter part of April or early May. Hopefully out of that, there will be some very clear direction of where we're going to go in the 1990s with our aboriginal partners to establish a new Western Territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 85-13(2): Hanging Ice Bison Ranch

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources and it's with regard to the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch. While I must acknowledge the one thing of substance the government left us was a substantial pile of buffalo chips and buffalo pies...

---Laughter

... there was not much else. I would like to ask the Minister if he would provide to me or to this House a

copy of the proposal from the Fort Resolution people, the FMB submission approving the request and the contract between the GNWT, Fort Resolution people and the private investor, outlining the conditions of the grant of \$1.3 million worth of bison that were taken from Fort Smith. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. I'm not sure if he has all his figures right, so I need to review what the Member has said and see if it is something that we should respond to. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 86-13(2): Canarctic Shipping Contract Negotiations

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question relates to dollars, as usual, and I think we're all concerned about that area these days. My question is for the Minister of Transportation, with regard to the contract that is being negotiated regarding Canarctic Shipping. I wonder if the Minister would commit to keep the Members of this House informed as to the progress of negotiations and the details of those negotiations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 86-13(2): Canarctic Shipping Contract Negotiations

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I said a couple of days ago to another Member's question that at the present time there are no negotiations of any kind in terms of dollars or anything with this Canarctic Shipping Company. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 87-13(2): Number Of Bison Shipped South

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources who I hope is not just trying to give me the shuffle, so I'll ask him a very specific question. Can he tell me or this House how many bison are going to be allowed to be shipped straight south without touching ground in Fort Resolution, in order that the investor may recoup its investment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice to give the Member the exact number of bison and perhaps even the age and the sex of the creatures. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 88-13(2): Privatization Plan For Computer Services

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works and Services. Has the privatization plan for computers systems and services, been developed, and, if so, what information or consultation with local businesses was used in the development of this plan?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 88-13(2): Privatization Plan For Computer Services

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is true, last week the Premier did announce that the government will be privatizing the computer services function of the Government of the Northwest Territories, partly in response to

industry's request and the fact that they have been saying they can do it better and cheaper.

At this time, the different government departments are looking at what needs they have in the area of computer services, what they do now. Coming out of that will be implementation plans, and during that time there will be information gathering from different areas of the community, including industry. They will be consulted.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 89-13(2): Construction Of Road Between Inuvik And Tuk

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before the Christmas break in the December sitting of this House, I asked a question to the Minister of Transportation as to whether or not he would consider undertaking pooling the transportation infrastructure between Tuk and Inuvik as a way of improving the economic conditions in my region. Mr. Speaker, shortly after I got home after the House adjourned, my community received two dogteams from Economic Development. I spent a few days convincing people that I did not think the request had any relation to what we received from the government.

Yesterday, I received a response from the Minister of Transportation as to possibly doing something with this request I had put forward to him. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that it's \$160 million, a rough estimate, to build a road between Inuvik and Tuk. Mr. Speaker, I'm beginning to wonder who was serious here, whether it was the person who was questioning me about the dogteams or whether it was the Minister, because I really think that these figures put forward are discouraging figures, rather than encouraging. I believe, as many people in my community believe, that Economic Development projects could be undertaken which could be productive in the sense that we would undertake constructing this road or at least starting on construction of this road. We cannot do it alone, Mr. Speaker. We need assistance from Economic Development and the Minister of Transportation, in particular, for the process of the road to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, as well in the letter I received, the Minister stated that it is a federal responsibility. Mr.

Speaker, I have noticed that in the past couple of months this government has taken on a lot of federal responsibilities that they were not really entitled to, I think. I would like to address my question to the Minister of Transportation. Would he seriously consider again undertaking this project as a way of improving the economic development situation, both in my community and in Inuvik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 89-13(2): Construction Of Road Between Inuvik And Tuk

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable Member for Nunakput for his concerns with regard to transportation linkage between Inuvik and Tuk. He has raised this issue with me before, and I think it's a good initiative for his part of the area. The department experts have looked at this section of the road that is being proposed, and with their best estimates, the figure --as Mr. Steen stated - was roughly \$160 million to build such a road. On the other hand, it is correct that the federal government is responsible for all new roads in the Northwest Territories. This being a new road, it fits under their mandate. This is one of the areas that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has the task, has no money and has nobody running that program for them.

Until the federal government decides to spend more money on their infrastructure development in Canada, only then will we have a chance to get some money from the federal government for new roads. On the other hand, the federal government is also looking for places where there could be some programs for employment development. Perhaps that might be an area to seek it out. But at the present time, the Department of Transportation, as everybody in this House knows, is going through a business planning process and we have been asked to look at reducing how much is in this budget already. By adding a project of that significance, it is difficult. On the other hand, I have no problems in looking into a joint venture project at the same time as making cuts in different areas. We also have to look at what we can do to enhance economic development in different areas. Perhaps this would be one area to look at. I will seriously consider such a proposal perhaps once the

Member puts forward a good proposal. Maybe we can talk about it. That is what we are here for: to look at what we can do to develop the North. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Just to remind the Members, try to keep your preambles brief and to the point. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. As he is checking his figures to facilitate providing some information that should be made public, and as he is checking the age and sex of the buffalo -- I am not sure whether he means their sexual orientation or not -- would he also be kind enough to give this House the cost of the ice road that was built across the Slave River into the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch, breaking down the equipment, staff time, regular hours, overtime and use of casuals? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, that was a long preamble. I didn't get the question at all. I will have to ask the Member to clarify what it is he is asking me to provide.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 90-13(2): Cost Of Building Ice Bridge Across Slave River

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak slowly and clearly. Could the Minister please provide, along with the other information that he is checking into, the cost of the ice road into the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch that was built across the Slave River, using highway staff, Renewable Resources staff and give me a break down of the equipment

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costs, staff costs, regular hours, overtime and use of casuals. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 90-13(2): Cost Of Building Ice Bridge Across Slave River

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, it might take a few days, but I would be prepared to try to provide the Member with that information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 91-13(2): Lack Of Response From Minister Re Alcohol Education Funding For High Arctic

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services and Housing. I have a question regarding funding for alcohol and education programs. Why hasn't his department responded to the letters that were sent from my constituency --from Arctic Bay and Resolute -- requesting funding for these programs? This program is being funded by the hamlet and it is getting to the point where it is accumulating a deficit for the hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 91-13(2): Lack Of Response From Minister Re Alcohol Education Funding For High Arctic

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member pointed out the situation with respect to one of the communities to me yesterday. I will find out the status of the request and get back to the Member on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 92-13(2): Request For Premier To State That GNWT Represents All NWT Residents

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like the Premier to state clearly in this House that this government that sits here today represents all citizens of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Premier of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 92-13(2): Request For Premier To State That GNWT Represents All NWT Residents

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I completely agree with the Member, we do represent all citizens of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 93-13(2): Status Of Gwich'in And Inuvialuktun Language Programs

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment with regard to aboriginal languages, especially in the Mackenzie Delta with the Gwich'in language program and also the Inuvialuktun language. Are there any attempts made to cut these languages because of the present financial statement we are in?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 93-13(2): Status Of Gwich'in And Inuvialuktun Language Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Member knows, we are currently in the process of reviewing our budgets and planning for the 1996-97 fiscal year. While I can't be very specific about what is in those budgets because they are still in a draft stage, I can tell the Member that the official languages programs are recognized to have taken a major cut in the current year we are in because of the reduction that this government saw from the federal government's contribution for official languages. Our goal is to

avoid, as much as possible, any further reductions in the coming years.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 93-13(2): Status Of Gwich'in And Inuvialuktun Language Programs

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I question this initiative because when I got into this House, I received a lot of phone calls from my constituency with regard to the Gwich'in language program which was being run out of this Legislature. I was told to save money, we were going to cut out that program and those dollars were going to be spent in the communities. Being told that and arguing the point, I was told by constituents that these languages and the programs that were delivered through this House regarding the translation were important to my constituents.

If that is the case, I have made an attempt to save this government money by doing away with the language program out of this House regarding the Gwich'in translators who were here in the past and who aren't here today. That way, they could continue their work in the communities. Was that the game plan all along or not?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 93-13(2): Status Of Gwich'in And Inuvialuktun Language Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is not responsible for providing the translation services in this House. That comes in with the budget of the Legislative Assembly. I can't respond to questions about changes that are made at the Legislative Assembly. I can tell the Member that Education, Culture and Employment's goal is,

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with the program funds we have available, to try to significantly involve the language groups in determining how those programs are delivered. I will be discussing with the Standing Committee on Social

Programs in the very near future a review of how language programming is delivered and making some recommendations about how we can change that and move the services closer to the people in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 93-13(2): Status Of Gwich'in And Inuvialuktun Language Programs

MR. KRUTKO:

My supplementary is with regard to fairness. As you know, the seven official languages includes all the aboriginal languages and French, which you see in the newspapers. A lot of dollars and resources are spent in the area of the Francophone community which is a small group versus the aboriginal majority in the North. To be fair, there should be a fair allocation based on population. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 93-13(2): Status Of Gwich'in And Inuvialuktun Language Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, almost all of the French language information the Member sees has been paid for by the federal government. The program is largely funded, to the tune of \$18 million over three years, including this year, by the federal government. In the agreement, they have called many of the shots as to where the funding is spent. I just want to remind all Members of this House that that program saw significant reductions from the previous three-year agreement. It was \$38 million.

So there is no question that we are under pressure to continue to deliver services, while having received a significant decrease in the amount of funding we get from the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 94-13(2): NTPC Process For Bidding On Contracts

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the response from the Minister of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if the process to bid on the contract to do brush clearing would be the same as to build a hydro dam. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 94-13(2): NTPC Process For Bidding On Contracts

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given the magnitude of the finances of the two projects, the answer is no. They would not be the same.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 95-13(2): Clarification Of Clause 3 Of Public Service Act

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd. It is regarding Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, which will be dealt with later on today. I understand that clause 3 revokes the articles in three collective bargaining agreements which state that the agreements will stay in force, even after their expiry date, until new agreements are concluded. This has understandably lead to significant confusion and consternation among organized government employees. However, it is my understanding that even with the passage of this bill, the collective bargaining agreements will continue to be in force as long as negotiations are continuing. Can the Minister tell me whether this is so and clarify this issue for the benefit of all unionized government employees?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. I must rule your question out of order. The document is not on the order paper and I believe it is still in committee. While there is a report on the order paper that will be done regarding the act,

it isn't in the House for the Minister to respond to. So I must rule the question out of order.

---Ruled Out of Order

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 96-13(2): Clarification Of Relationship Between GNWT And Canarctic Shipping

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transportation. In view of the recent press that Canarctic Shipping has received, can the Minister please advise this House as to the present relationship that this company has with the Department of Transportation, if indeed there is a relationship? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 96-13(2): Clarification Of Relationship Between GNWT And Canarctic Shipping

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to Canarctic Shipping, I may have to go into some background so everyone understands where I am coming from. Canarctic Shipping was created in 1975 by the federal government in partnership with Northwater Navigation. It was a consortium of three companies. The federal government owns 51 per cent of Canarctic, while Northwater Navigation had owned 49 per cent.

Canarctic is based in Ottawa with a seven-member board of directors; four of them who are appointed by the federal Transport Minister. All have been federal civil servants. The remaining three directors are appointed by FedNav.

Canarctic was created as a vehicle to build and operate the MV Arctic. It is an ice-breaking bulk oil carrier built in 1978. The Arctic was converted to an ore ship in 1986. It can carry about 25,000 tons of ore or petroleum products. It is 17 years old. However, it was surveyed by Lloyd's and it is deemed to be equivalent to five years old.

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The original purpose of Canarctic was to develop and demonstrate Canadian expertise in the Arctic shipping of mineral resources. As a ship built in Canada and operating under the Canadian flag, Canarctic was not expected to be a profitable company. By 1993, the federal government had invested approximately \$80 million in Canarctic and any future profits were to go to reimburse Canada for this investment.

Mr. Speaker, Canarctic had succeeded in its mission of demonstrating Canadian expertise, providing shipping services to Nanisivik and Polaris mines and carried crude oil from Panarctic's Bent Horn Well in Baffin. In doing so, Canarctic has also developed world leading expertise in ice-navigation systems, utilizing satellite and radar systems and has been doing an increasing consulting business with industry, government and Arctic shipping.

Canada now considers the experiment complete and wants to move Canarctic towards commercial viability and away from federal ownership. The 49 per cent ownership is by FedNav. It is a Montreal-based privately-held Canadian shipping company with revenues that range in millions per year.

The proposal from FedNav was proposed by Canarctic management. The option was that the shareholders' agreement gives FedNav right of first refusal of the shares. As early as January of 1992, the Minister of Transportation of the day was Titus Alooloo, who wrote to the federal Minister advising him of the GNWT's interest in Canarctic. Subsequently, the Minister of Transportation and Mr. Todd, did intervene with the federal Minister of Transportation and DIAND and there were a lot of discussions. The idea behind these discussions, Mr. Speaker, was that if FedNav had the right of first refusal and if the government was wanting to get out of this Canarctic experiment, we would have lost the northern expertise in shipping.

With no aboriginal groups at that time interested in taking over the Canarctic interest, the GNWT had discussions to see if Canarctic could be turned over to northern management, through the GNWT first and then turn it over to the private sector at a later time. However, this whole exercise has stopped as of last fall and there is no more development between the government and Canarctic at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 96-13(2): Clarification Of Relationship Between GNWT And Canarctic Shipping

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can we, therefore, assume that the Department of Transportation or the government is not involved in the negotiations to purchase Canarctic? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 96-13(2): Clarification Of Relationship Between GNWT And Canarctic Shipping

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, there is no direction to me as the Minister of

Transportation by the rest of my colleagues in Cabinet to proceed with following this any further. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by the residents of Pangnirtung. Mr. Speaker, Petition No. 4-13(2) contains 14 signatures and they request, "We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill; and further

"That Members of the Legislative Assembly who fail to act to prevent the travesty that the passage of Bill 2 would represent, especially if done without public

consultation, be condemned for anti-worker and undemocratic conduct." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 10, petitions. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by the employees at the Baffin Regional Hospital and residents of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, Petition No. 5-13(2) contained 42 signatures and, Mr. Speaker, the petition requests the following:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill; and further

"That Members of the Legislative Assembly who fail to act to prevent the travesty that the passage of Bill 2 would represent, especially if done without public consultation, be condemned for anti-worker and undemocratic conduct."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by the employees

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of Baffin House in Montreal. Mr. Speaker, Petition 6-13(2) contains 11 signatures, and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request, "We, the undersigned citizens of Montreal, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly

as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill; and further

"That Members of the Legislative Assembly who fail to act to prevent the travesty that the passage of Bill 2 would represent, especially if done without public consultation, be condemned for anti-worker and undemocratic conduct."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by the residents of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, Petition No. 7-13(2) contains 22 signatures, and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill; and further

"That Members of the Legislative Assembly who fail to act to prevent the travesty that the passage of Bill 2 would represent, especially if done without public consultation, be condemned for anti-worker and undemocratic conduct." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. At this time, I would like to recognize the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Dan Marion.

---Applause

Item 10, petitions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by employees

at Arctic College in Hall Beach. Mr. Speaker, Petition No. 8-13(2) contains six signatures, and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill; and further

"That Members of the Legislative Assembly who fail to act to prevent the travesty that the passage of Bill 2 would represent, especially if done without public consultation, be condemned for anti-worker and undemocratic conduct." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by residents of Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, Petition No. 9-13(2) contains 122 signatures and the petitioners requests:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill; and further

"That Members of the Legislative Assembly who fail to act to prevent the travesty that the passage of Bill 2

would represent, especially if done without public consultation, be condemned for anti-worker and undemocratic conduct."

Mr. Speaker, I have a second petition. I request to petition Petition No. 10-13(2) dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by employees from Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 58 signatures, and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners requests:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

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"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill; and further

"That Members of the Legislative Assembly who fail to act to prevent the travesty that the passage of Bill 2 would represent, especially if done without public consultation, be condemned for anti-worker and undemocratic conduct." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by the residents of Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, Petition No. 11-13(2) contains 148 signatures, and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill, and further

"That Members of the Legislative Assembly who fail to act to prevent the travesty that the passage of Bill 2 would represent, especially if done without public consultation, be condemned for anti-worker and undemocratic conduct."

Mr. Speaker, I have a second petition dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by residents of Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, Petition No. 12-13(2) contains 19 signatures, and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to present Petition No. 13-13(2) that I received today signed by 110 unionized public service workers in Hay River, objecting to the passage of Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by residents of Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, Petition No. 14-13(2) contains 131 signatures, and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request as follows:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by the residents of Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, Petition No. 15-13(2) contains 20 signatures, and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request as follows:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 10, petitions. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to present a petition signed by three residents of Nanisivik, Northwest Territories. Petition No. 16-13(2) reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the Northwest Territories, do humbly petition the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as follows:

"That Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be rejected outright by the Members of the Assembly as it implements an unfair regime of collective bargaining in the Northwest Territories; and further

"That should Bill 2 not be rejected outright, a minimum commitment to democratic action demands that the public be provided full opportunity to comment on the proposed bill, and further

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"That Members of the Legislative Assembly who fail to act to prevent the travesty that the passage of Bill 2 would represent, especially if done without public consultation, be condemned for anti-worker and undemocratic conduct." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

present two petitions, Petition No. 17-13(2) from the staff of the Department of Health and Social Services with 12 signatures going against the amendments to the Public Service Act.

I also have another petition of 102 signatures from workers on the UNW, I believe, not only from Inuvik, but Tuktoyaktuk and Paulatuk. Again, Petition, No. 18-13(2) speaks against the amendment to the Public Service Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would table Petition No. 19-13(2) signed by staff members of the Cape Dorset Health Centre protesting the passage of Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, with nine signatures.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (English not provided)

I would like to table this petition. Petition No. 20-13(2) is a listing of the union workers in my constituency who have sent in this petition with regard to the Public Service Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly wouldn't want to be left out today. I would like to present Petition No. 21-13(2) dealing with the matter of An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, signed by employees of the Union of Northern Workers in Rankin Inlet, and it's signed by 39 employees.

MR. SPEAKER:

reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Erasmus,

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Report On Bill 2

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 2 and wishes to report that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, is now ready for Committee of the Whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

committees ...Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe Mr. Miltenberger has a report.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) to have Bill 2 ordered into Committee of the Whole for today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5). Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent. Bill 2 is moved into Committee of the Whole. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As required by section 32.1(2) of the Financial Administration Act, I am tabling the following document. Tabled Document 10-13(2) is a list of all interactivity transfers exceeding \$250,000 within the departments for the period of December 9, 1995 to February 12, 1996. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 11-13(2), Minister of Transportation's Report to the Legislative Assembly for 1995, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 12-13(2) which is 20 letters from residents of Yellowknife which indicate that they prefer arbitration over striking.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 13-13(2) which is 14 motions passed by the Baffin Leaders' Summit at their meeting in Iqaluit on January 12th and 13, 1996. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I would like table Tabled Document 14-13(2) which is two letters I received from constituents with regard to amendments to the Public Service Act.

MR. SPEAKER:

item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to 183(4) of the Elections Act, I wish to table Tabled Document 15-13(2), candidates' election returns and declaration of election contributions and expenses for the following candidates: Marion T. Love; Manitok Thompson;

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Mark Evaloarjuk; Paul Haulli; Jaypeetee Akpialialuk; Tommy Enuaraq; Jaypeetee Karpik; Lottie Toomasie; Goo Arlooktoo; Joachim Bonnetrouge; Sam Gargan; Richard C. Lafferty; Ron Courtoreille; Mansell C. Grey; Jane Groenewegen; George B. Morin; Elizabeth Allakariallak-Roberts; Levi Barnabas; Aziz Kheraj; Fred E. Koe; Floyd K. Roland; Gordon Mcintosh; Edward Picco; Mary Ekho Wilman; John Todd; Ernest N. Bernhardt; Kelvin Ng; David Aglukark; Sam Alagalak; Silas Arngna'naaq; Kevin J. O'Brien; David Simailak; Joy Suluk; David Krutko; Richard Nerysoo; Jim Antoine; John Ningark; Uriash Puqiqnak; Leon Lafferty; Richard Lafferty; James Rabesca; Henry Zoe; Joseph Zoe; Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott; Eddie T. Dillon; Vince Steen; Stephen Kakfwi; Allan Heron; Sean Mageean; K.A. Jeannie Marie-Jewell; J. Michael Miltenberger; Larry Bearard; Archie Catholique; Don Morin; Gary J. Boyd; Marie Coe; Roland Gosselin; Arlene Hache; Jake Ootes; Dave Ramsay; Don Yamkowsky; Charles Dent; David McCann; Tom Pagonis; Rob Roman; Roy Erasmus; Jim Evoy; Donna Hunt; Wally Larocque; Louis Leonardis; Clem Paul; Kirby Marshall; Seamus Henry; and, Tony Whitford.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call the committee to order. We are dealing with Bill 2. Before we proceed with Bill 2, we will take a 15-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 2: An Act To Amend The Public Service Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I'd like to call the Committee of the Whole back to order. We are dealing with Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. The Minister responsible for this act, Mr. Todd, do you have any opening remarks?

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, over the past several days, a number of concerns have been expressed to the Members of the Assembly on some aspects of this bill. I can understand the concerns that have been raised and the emotion of the debate around the bill. These issues have been raised to me by my constituents in a petition that I tabled earlier today. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify the purpose of the bill and perhaps clear up some of the misinformation surrounding certain aspects of it.

One of the concerns raised is that this bill is being fast-tracked through the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Chairman, this government is entering into negotiations on a collective agreement with the union that represents our employees. This bill sets a clear framework to support the negotiating process as it places full responsibility for collective bargaining with the parties. The importance of having this framework in place at the beginning of negotiations cannot be overstated. Negotiations are expected to be difficult.

As both the Premier and I have stated on several occasions, the government is facing a \$150 million deficit in 1996-97 if no action is taken to bring expenditures in line with revenues

Mr. Chairman, it's been suggested over the past several days that the government is planning to deal with our budget reductions solely on the backs of our employees. This is simply not the case. All expenditures must and will be considered to meet our budget reduction targets. Wage and benefit

reductions are only one area being considered. We're also reviewing all of our capital and program expenditures.

It's also important to note, Mr. Chairman, that any reductions in wages and benefits packages will affect all employee groups alike. This means that both unionized and non-unionized employees, our management employees, and, yes, Mr. Chairman, Members of this Legislative Assembly. I also would like to stress that the budget reductions will affect all other people in the Northwest Territories who depend on government programs. It will affect social program clients, it will affect businesses, it will affect students, and it will affect those who are not fortunate enough to have jobs. It is the responsibility of the Members of the Assembly to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and equitably, including our employees.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to address some of the specific aspects of the bill. One, the ability to change terms and conditions of employment and the right to strike, it is standard for the employer to have the ability to change terms and conditions of employment and employees to have the right to strike if reasonable efforts at negotiations do not result in a new collective agreement. The Canadian Labour Code, has such provisions. Also, other unionized employers and employees in the NWT fall under the Canadian Labour Code.

The time lines for negotiation: The bill provides as much time as the parties require for negotiation. It also sets out a process similar to legislation elsewhere such as the Canadian Labour Code to ensure that reasonable effort is made to negotiate collective agreements. This includes the assistance of a mediator who is skilled in helping the parties with collective bargaining difficulties. Only after negotiations have broken down, mediation has failed, and the collective agreement has expired can the employer change the terms and conditions of employment and employees take strike action. The time lines following the mediator's report is intended to provide a cooling off period, Mr. Chairman.

The bargaining unit definition on exclusions, which is a big issue: It's important that the bargaining units be clearly defined to avoid conflicts and misunderstanding about who has a right to strike. Bargaining unit exclusions are employees who perform management duties for the employer and who support, Assist, and advise the government on the legislative, executive, and management functions. Under binding arbitration it was not as critical as

under the right to strike to clearly identify appropriate exclusions for these functions. agreement with the union that represents our employees. This

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Change to the exclusions: This bill would increase the number of exclusions by approximately six per cent --and I stress, six per cent. Mr. Chairman, the Union of Northern Workers has raised a number of concerns on this issue and have publicly stated that this bill could exclude up to 35 per cent of employees from the bargaining units. We have met with representatives of the UNW to address their concerns and tried to incorporate significant changes to the wording of the bill to alleviate some of these concerns. While I recognize that we have not gone as far as the UNW wanted, I believe we have moved a significant amount to address the concern raised.

Further, Mr. Chairman, I will make a public commitment today to table in the House at our next sitting in March, a listing of the exclusions that will be made subject to the passage of this bill. I am confident that the number of exclusions will be within the additional six per cent that I have mentioned earlier.

Essential and emergency services: Some employees perform duties that are essential to the prevention of danger to life and destruction of equipment. These employees may be members of the bargaining unit but may not participate in a strike. They will not be required to perform management functions; mainly to provide the services that are designated as essential. The objective will be to designate only those positions that are truly essential or perform emergency services and where possible, employees who are excluded from a bargaining unit will perform essential emergency services. The bill sets out a process for the parties to decide who performs essential and emergency services and includes arbitration to resolve disagreements.

Mr. Chairman, it is critically important to emphasize that these amendments set the stage for the parties to achieve reasonable negotiated agreements. It's our commitment to negotiate, not legislate, a collective agreement that drives this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, Mr. Erasmus.

Standing Committee On Government Operations
Comments

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Government Operations met on February 19th and 20th to review Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. Witnesses appearing before the committee included the chairman of the Financial Management Board, the Honourable John Todd; the president of the Union of Northern Workers, Mr. Darm Crook; and the president and executive director of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, Mr. Jim Gilbert and Mr. Blake Lyons, respectively.

The witnesses representing the UNW and the NWTTA raised some concerns before the committee regarding some provisions of the bill. This bill will fundamentally alter the negotiating framework between the government and its organized employees. As a result, the committee took the concerns raised by the union representatives very seriously. After hearing those concerns and discussing them with the Minister, amendments to the bill were prepared and will be the subject of motions here in the Assembly today.

The standing committee concluded its meetings by moving to refer the bill back to Committee of the Whole for consideration by all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Before I allow the general comments on Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, I would like to ask the honourable Minister if he would like to bring in his witnesses. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Does the committee agree that Mr. Minister will bring in the witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Proceed. Mr. Minister, for the record, would you please introduce the witnesses.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate left, Mr. Chairman, is Diane Buckland, who is our legal counsel. On my immediate right is Lew Voytilla, who is the deputy minister of FMIB. We also have with us Mr. Herb Hunt who is assisting us with negotiations with our partners in the bargaining unit. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Before we get into general comments, I would like to remind the Members that any Member at any one time can only speak for 10 minutes to allow the Members who have not spoken to speak to the issue on the floor. After everyone has spoken, I will allow Member who have already spoken to speak. Thank you. General comments on Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These proposed amendments to the Public Service Act are very significant. I am very concerned that no one has had much opportunity to study this bill or have a chance to have input. Although the Standing Committee on Government Operations did have some opportunity to review the bill, there hasn't been very much time available.

Mr. Chairman, I also know that many of my constituents are concerned about this bill and they have called or sent their concerns to me. They have asked for more time before the bill is passed. So, Mr. Chairman, I am concerned with the process. Mr. Chairman, I know we are facing very difficult financial times. I have heard the clear message from the Premier that the wages and benefits of our public servants must be looked at. I think many of my constituents understand this. However, they would like to have some opportunity to have input. Introducing a major bill on Friday and passing it the following Wednesday seems like a big rush. I wish there had been more time allowed by the government for the public input and debate. Mr. Chairman, this bill allows for the right to strike and gives the Minister significant new powers over the employees.

I sincerely hope that if this bill passes, it will not be necessary that we go through a strike or that the

Minister must exercise these new powers. I believe in the collective bargaining

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process. As a former teacher, I was quite impressed with the concessions the NWTTA made in recent years in recognition of the government's difficult financial situation. I hope that even in the current climate of extreme concern and anxiety amongst the public servants in my constituency, the collective bargaining process can be allowed to work.

If both parties approach these negotiations in good faith and with a spirit of compromise, it should be possible to reach agreement. Even in this financially difficult time, I know there are strong concerns about this bill. I am not sure that passing it in a hurry will encourage the good faith bargaining we all wish to see occur in the near future.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I have decided that I cannot support Bill 2 at this time. I will be asking for a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. General comments. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we all got elected back in October, we have been working together to come up with priorities, a direction and strategic objectives for this government, of which we are a part. So we have asked the Cabinet who we elected to do a job for us, to help put the financial house of this Government of the Northwest Territories in order. We can ascribe the blame for the deficit on previous governments if we wish, but it doesn't change the fact that we have inherited a situation and we knew we were going to do that when we ran for election.

I think it is up to this Assembly to acknowledge that we are part of this process. We have to, as part of this plan, give the tools to Cabinet to do the job. It has been very clear from the start that nobody wants to balance the budget on the backs of the poor, the disadvantaged, the homeless, the unemployed, students and single mothers. It has also been very clear by comments made in this House by many people, including the Premier, that no one group is going to be singled out. We have to share the pain.

If we don't have our financial house in order, then all our good intentions, all our programs and plans are nothing but paper and rhetoric. The key, to me and to a lot of people whose comments I have heard around this table, is that we want to maintain services to the people in the communities, the people we represent and the people who put us here and the people who are relying on us to keep the service and the government running.

I also see this legislation as a way to avoid massive lay-offs. If we had no alternative than to cut program dollars, by extension, to me, we are cutting staff. Massive lay-offs do nothing for the territory. It cripples the economy. The effect across the Territory would be catastrophic. I don't think anyone wants that.

Since I was elected, and especially since December, I have been pushing for money to be cut from all aspects of the budget. I have no problems saying this publicly because I have been saying it in my constituency. I thought \$40 million out of the pay and benefits envelope of \$455 million was not unreasonable. Take money from capital and take it from programs. We all have to share the pain. I want the people where I live and where they live across the North to be able to count on health services, social services, education, sewer and water; all the things that people have come to require.

Mr. Chairman, I have no problem supporting this legislation. We have been on the fast track since we were elected. We have made significant changes to how this government runs, We have changed the process. We have gone back to a consensus style of government which I think is long overdue. We have been pressed for time. That is unfortunate, but I don't think it can be avoided. We have made a reasonable attempt to get required input. I am satisfied that while it isn't perfect, it is enough of a direction and enough time for me to go forward. As I have indicated in Caucus, I will go anywhere to talk about what we are doing as a government, the decisions we make and the direction taken in Caucus.

I will be, at the end of the day when these amendments are made, supporting this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the government knew last summer that it was facing a severe budget shortfall. It is my opinion that the government should have begun discussions with our union and our public servants at that time, to work out common solutions to the fiscal situation. This was not done and now the 13th Assembly is put in a very difficult situation.

Mr. Chairman, the window of opportunity for the 13th Assembly to balance this budget and to get our fiscal house in order is narrowing. Mr. Chairman, I realize this and I also realize that the changes in the Public Service Act are to make this so. Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, being introduced before the public service bargaining units sit down to negotiate with the government sets out a dangerous precedent for the collective bargaining process in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, the process does not allow for the input needed. I will vote against the bill, as I have stated from the beginning of this debate, because of the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. General comments on Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make general comments on the bill. First of all, I would like to speak with respect to the 110 names I received today from my constituents opposing the passage of the bill to amend the Public Service Act. I want to assure all those people that I will be available to discuss this process that led to the bill being brought to the House today. I will have a meeting with all concerned parties upon my return to Hay River.

The bottom line is that we have a projected deficit of \$150 million. We put this bill into committee and we consulted with the union representatives. I feel that the government moved considerably on the concerns that were raised by the unions.

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I sat in on every meeting possible to hear both sides of that because I wanted to obtain a certain level of comfort with what was being said and what was being done. We do not want the public service to be unduly or unequally treated in the process of implementing

the reductions. I want to say that there is nothing that I will expect the unions to take at the negotiating table that I, personally, as an MLA, would not be prepared to take in terms of reductions in the area of salaries and benefits.

The reductions in our budget have to come from many sources. The warning bells have been sounding for some time that this government was in difficulty financially. I would be surprised if the unions did not fully expect that there would be reductions coming. Now I believe it is time that the union and the government come to the table and negotiate collective agreements in good faith.

I would be acting irresponsibly as a representative of all my constituents if I asked this government to fairly and compassionately identify \$150 million in reductions but exclude the public service. These are difficult fiscal times and difficult decisions are going to have to be made. We have no choice but to proceed with those difficult decisions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my first comments are in response to a comment made by the Minister of Finance with regard to the public perception of having this piece of legislation fast-tracked through the House.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out to the Minister that if he was so concerned about the bill receiving proper consultation, why did he suggest unanimous consent to put it straight into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Chairman, I voted against unanimous consent, but it wasn't particularly that I was against the piece of legislation. I voted so that the bill would go to the committee and from there it would be up to the committee as to whether or not they felt more public consultation was needed or not. In other words, I didn't want anyone to say that this bill was fast-tracked through the House.

Mr. Chairman, I don't particularly have any concerns with the wording of the bill. My concern is more with the snowball effect these amendments to the legislation will have. It would give this government the opportunity to amend the wages and benefits of the employees. Where my concern comes in is although I

don't have very many government employees in my region, we do have a lot of hamlet and housing employees and they have unions. No doubt the next thing that is going to happen is they will be requested to reduce their wages and benefits to their employees as well. Their wages and benefits reflect what this government has. I do have that as a concern.

I am also surprised that at this time of great restraint, the Federal government hasn't taken the same action to reduce their wages and benefits to their employees. Our wages and benefits for our employees reflect what the federal government used to have.

Mr. Chairman, because I don't particularly have any concerns with the wording of this bill and I believe the unions have had proper opportunity to have input into the bill, according to the Members of the committees, I would vote in favour of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Ootes and Mr. Henry. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When this bill was introduced, I indicated my concern about excluded positions. I had heard on the radio that perhaps 30 per cent or more of people in the bargaining unit could be excluded the way the bill had been worded. Through the Government Operations committee, we had input from the union bosses. As a result of that, we tightened up the wording of several clauses.

We have also been assured by the Minister of Finance that less than 400 people would be excluded as a result of this new legislation.

During our meetings, which were public for the most part, the union indicated that it was okay with them to take out arbitration. They indicated that that process was too slow and that the arbitrators were reluctant to make hard decisions. They also indicated that they had been trying to get the right to strike for years. They also indicated that they wanted us to change the legislation so they could strike on the same day that the government could change terms and conditions of the previous agreement. We have done that.

I would like to add that several members of my family work for the government. They, too, will be affected by this legislation. However, I would prefer that they

and others have their wages and benefits cut rather than laying them off because that's the alternative: massive lay-offs. It's been a very difficult process and very difficult to make a decision upon, however, I will be voting in favour of this bill. Thank you. Reflect what this government has. I do have that as a concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ootes. Federal government hasn't taken the same action to reduce
MR. OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've approached this issue on a very serious basis because it affects a lot of people, employees of the Government of the NWT. I can truly tell you that I've given it a lot of consideration. I was pleased that we moved into considering this bill through the Government

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Operations committee where we had an opportunity to have input and I had some opportunity to have my input. At the Government Operations committee level, we had presentations by the stakeholders: Mr. Todd, the Minister of Finance; Mr. Crook of the Union of Northern Workers; and Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Lyons of the NWT Teachers' Association. They expressed their concerns about the government's bill.

I can understand the emotion associated with this situation but I feel that the government has moved substantially since we first looked at it. I'd like to speak for a moment, as well, about our financial problems here in the North. It is driving a lot of the need for us to make decisions. The bottom line is we need to shave \$150 million off of our budget and all northerners will be affected; all northerners, not just our employees. We have a difficult situation on our hands here but our agenda is to solve those difficult problems. I'm not going to make the budget be solved on the backs of the workers; I'm going to make the budget be solved on the backs of everybody in this territory because that's reality.

I see the process we're going through as a solution to massive lay-offs, as some other Members have stated, and we're here to make those tough decisions. Not all of our decisions will be very popular. I know that we will hear from a lot of people, once we start discussing the budget: people who don't have jobs, the people who are on social assistance, the students, everyone, the workers in the government, we will hear it from everyone.

I hope that both parties will approach this issue in good faith and I am confident that it will result in a satisfactory solution to this issue. I will be voting in favour of this bill today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's your pleasure, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question first and carry on with a statement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Sorry about that, I was momentarily distracted looking at my list. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

What?

MR. HENRY:

(Microphone turned off)...and proceed with my statement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We allow the Members to ask questions if they wish to.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier on this afternoon I had asked a question of Mr. Todd, the honourable Minister of Finance, and it was ruled out of order. I feel that it's important that that question be asked again. I accept the fact that during Mr. Todd's presentation at the beginning, it was probably covered but I would specifically like to separate it because it has been brought to me by a number of my constituents and I believe it deserves clarification.

I will reread this again, if I may. This is with regard to Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. I understand that clause

3 revokes the articles in the three collective bargaining agreements which state that the agreements will stay in force, even after their expiry date, until new agreements are concluded. This has understandably lead to significant confusion and consternation among organized government employees. However, it is my understanding that

even with the passage of this bill, the collective bargaining agreements will continue in force as long as negotiations are continuing. I would like the Minister to tell me whether this is so and clarify this issue for the benefit of all unionized government employees.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The straightforward answer is yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry, please continue.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many of my constituents have raised concerns to me over the proposed changes regarding the Public Service Act. I feel confident that this government has responded to many of the concerns raised by the elected leaders of the NWTTA and the Union of Northern Workers. I have the confidence that both parties can reach an agreement with the employer at the bargaining table as they have in the past.

As a government, we have to take the responsibility and be seen by all residents of the Northwest Territories to be fair and, more important, to be financial responsible as to our employees. That is why I'm optimistic that a negotiated settlement can be reached in all cases. This legislation represents a change and change is difficult but not impossible.

We have to conduct this government in a new way. We do not have the financial resources available today that we once had. If we are to continue in the present mode of spending, we would be bankrupt in short order. We have to get this government back to being run like a home by not spending more than we bring in. The past government has been like a child with a credit card; we have to take away that credit card, we have to live within our means.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to finish with a comment that I'm sure we're all familiar with and it goes like, "You're damned if you do and damned if you don't." I have been one of many on occasion, to criticize government for not taking action, for continually meeting and prolonging the process and yet, I hear

criticism of the government when they do take action.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Any further general comments to Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act? Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm not overly pleased with the rapid speed of this process but I'd have to say, in general, that I do support the bill, the amendment, although I'm not totally pleased or happy with it. Mr. Chairman, this amendment will affect my family, friends, and many of my constituents. I have said on many occasions that my real concern is the unemployed, the less fortunate,

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and, of course, our elders. Mr. Chairman, the riding of Arviat and Baker Lake, which I represent, is approximately 65 per cent unemployed. I would be very concerned if the monies that we were looking for had to come out of the social programs that would directly affect these individuals. Having said that, Mr. Chairman, it shouldn't be too difficult to understand why I would have to support this amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, had concern with the bill during second reading and I voted accordingly. However, after this process, I believe we've gone through the process as required and listened to all parties and their opinions. I go back to when I was running for election to this position; I had many people ask me why I was doing it because they could see that there would be many things coming up that wouldn't be, as a government, good things to do. Changes had to be made, they said. The way the government operated wasn't good. I, too, think of the people who don't have a common voice, as well as those that do. I've tabled petitions here and many of the names of those petitions I know personally as friends. However, I know those friends have employment and they will continue to have employment if this is worked out. But I don't know about those who are unemployed. I don't know about

the elders who won't get their housing or their elders' homes.

We've heard a lot around the table here and I believe, as well, that the concessions made are enough to make this a workable agreement. I think that we all have to face the reality of what's coming upon us. Each and every one of us in the Territories will know the results as the budget comes down. I think that as this goes by and time goes on, we'll see that we've made the right decisions. It won't be perfect and we won't make everybody happy but we'll have done the thing that was required of us to try to make this a better place for everyone. As I've heard throughout the talks in the committees as well as during the campaign, people realized that there had to be cuts and that they were willing to take cuts to have employment. Hearing all the parties involved say that they want to reach a negotiated settlement, I'm very happy to hear that.

One of the things I said earlier in my statement was a voice of those who couldn't gather together and didn't have the power of numbers. They don't have the ability -- the have-nots, I guess we can say -- to go to the government to make a stand. They don't have the equipment at their hands that they can circulate information that puts everybody against the wall. As I said, I represent everybody equally in my community and I've tabled the petitions that came my way. Today when I vote, I believe I'll be voting for those that don't have a collective voice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Any further general comments on Bill 2? Are we ready for clause by clause? Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. Clause 1 of Bill 2. Do I hear agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Members. If you have any questions, please signify and we'll allow you to ask questions on specific clauses of Bill 2. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 4 of Bill 2. Ms. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can make some remarks with respect to a motion, I do the remarks and the motion. These are remarks to the specific clause, Mr. Chairman. The first motion to amend clause 4, paragraph 3, as I'm just making general comments to the motion first.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

You can make comments to clause 4. Proceed with your comments.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Subsection 41(1.7)(d) to (j) tightens up the exclusion clause to ensure that only those employees who provide certain services on a regular basis are excluded from the bargaining unit. The amendment also adds the word "and" instead of "or" to subparagraph (g), dealing with assessing performance and imposing discipline which means that the employee will have to perform both functions rather in addition to assigning work in order to be excluded. This motion also deletes the clause and allows the Minister to exclude any other position that is inappropriate for inclusion in the bargaining unit.

Committee Motion 1-13(2): To Amend Clause 4 Of Bill 2, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that clause 4(3) of Bill 2 be amended by

(a) deleting proposed paragraphs 41(1.7)(d) to (j) and by substituting the following:

(d) as a legal officer or in a position that provides translation services to a legal officer on a regular basis;

(e) in a position with duties and responsibilities that include providing advice and assistance, on a regular basis, respecting the terms and conditions of employment, including collective bargaining;

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(f) in a position with duties and responsibilities that include carrying out the following on a regular basis:

(i) staffing;

(ii) interpreting employment contracts,

(iii) resolving workplace disputes,

(iv) responding to grievances, or

(v) providing advice in respect of the matters referred to in subparagraphs (i) to (iv).

(g) in a position with management responsibility that includes directly assigning work to, assessing the performance of and imposing discipline on other employees;

(h) a dentist or a medical practitioner; or

(i) in a position that provides administrative or secretarial support directly

(i) to a person referred to in paragraphs (a), (c) or (d), or

(ii) to a person referred to in paragraphs (b), (e), (f) or (g) in respect of the duties and

responsibilities referred to in those paragraphs.

(b) deleting proposed paragraphs 41(1.8)(c) to (i) and by substituting the following:

(c) as a legal officer or in a position that provides translation services to a legal officer on a regular basis;

(d) in a position with duties and responsibilities that include providing advice and assistance, on a regular basis, respecting the terms and conditions of employment, including collective bargaining;

(e) in a position with duties and responsibilities that include carrying out the following on a regular basis:

- (i) staffing,
- (ii) interpreting employment contracts,
- (iii) resolving workplace disputes,
- (iv) responding to grievances,
- (v) providing advice in respect of the matters referred to in subparagraphs (i) to (iv);

(f) in a position with management responsibility that includes directly assigning work to, assessing the performance of and imposing discipline on other employees; or

(g) in a position that provides administrative or secretarial support directly

(i) to a person referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c), or

(ii) to a person referred to in paragraphs (d), (e), or (f) in respect of the duties and responsibilities referred to in those paragraphs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried.

Clause 4, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 5 of Bill 2. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to propose a motion to this clause. The motion I am going to be proposing amends proposed 41.02(1) so as to add "reasonably" to the definition of "emergency services." It also amends the definition of "essential service," so as to ensure that only those services that are necessary to ensure the continuation of minimal service are essential.

The motion also changes the wording in the clause on services to prevent danger to life, health or safety by deleting the word "life." Arguably, the word "life" does not add anything to the clause. All concerns are covered.

The amendment adds the services provided by the most senior employee at a power plant to the definition of "essential" which correlates with a later amendment removing them from the definition of "excluded employees."

Finally, this motion adds a new paragraph to the process surrounding making of the essential services agreement, so as to require the parties to reach an agreement on the protocol to deal with unanticipated emergency situations.

That clause 5(1) of Bill 2 be amended by

(a) deleting proposed subsection 41.02(1) and by substituting the following:

41.02...

(i) (h) or (c), or (ii) (e), or (f) in respect of the duties and pas. I move that clause 5(1) of Bill 2 be amended by responsibilities referred to in those paragraphs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Miltenberger. At the beginning of your motion, you have to say "I move." Thank you.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Do I have to say it all over again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Yes.

Committee Motion 2-13(2): To Amend Clause 5(1) Of Bill 2, Carried

MR. MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, I apologize for the faux pas. I move that clause 5(1) of Bill 2 be amended by

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(a) deleting proposed subsection 41.02(1) and by substituting the following:

41.02. (1) In this subsection,

"emergency situation" means an emergency as reasonably determined by the Minister; -- I am assuming that it isn't necessary to read the French. Oh, it is, wonderful.

--Interjection

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Oh, thank you.

---Laughter

"essential services" means services that are necessary to ensure a continuation of minimal service

- (a) to protect the health and safety of the public,
- (b) to prevent destruction or serious deterioration of machinery, equipment or premises, or
- (c) to prevent disruption of the courts,

and includes services provided by the most senior employee at each power plant who has responsibility for the on-site operation of the plant.

(b) striking out "and" at the end of proposed paragraph 41.02(2)(d) of the English version;

(c) striking out the period at the end of the proposed paragraph 41.02(2)(e) and by substituting ";and"; and

(d) adding the following after proposed paragraphs 41.02(2)(e):

(f) setting out a protocol to deal with unanticipated emergency situations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 5, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mahsi. Clause 6. Mr. Henry.

Committee Motion 3-13(2): To Amend Clause 6 Of Bill 2, Carried

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that clause 6(2) of Bill 2 be deleted and clauses 6(3) and (4) be renumbered respectively as clauses 6(2) and (3).

Mr. Chairman, this motion deletes 6(2), which had provided that if the parties are unable to reach an agreement within the time specified in subsection 41.02(2), the next stage of the bargaining process is invoked; namely the appointment of a mediator. The proposal is to delete the words which would allow the parties to engage in collective bargaining negotiations for longer than 60 days and also allow them to appoint the mediator earlier than 60 days if the negotiations break down prior to the 60 days.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question is being called. All to prevent disruption of the administration of the those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

Clause 6, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 9. Mr. Erasmus.

Committee Motion 4-13(2): To Amend Clause 9 Of Bill 2, Carried

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to amend the Public Service Act. I move that clause 9 of Bill 2 be amended by striking out "28 days" in proposed subparagraph 42(2)(d)(i) and by substituting "21 days."

This motion amends the proposed bill to allow the bargaining units to strike after 21 days rather than the proposed eight days in the original legislation. This makes the time frame for striking the same as the time frame for the Minister changing terms and conditions of employment and I make this motion for an amendment as a direct result of a request by the union. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 9, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that Bill 2 is ready for third reading, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 2 is now ready for third reading, as amended. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing before Committee of the Whole. I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and would like to report progress with four motions being adopted and that Bill 2 is ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Is there a seconder? Mr. Erasmus. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 10, petitions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Kitikmeot is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 10, petitions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent, Mr. Ng.

REVERT TO ITEM 10: PETITIONS

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Better late than never, Mr. Speaker. I have two petitions. Petition No. 22-13(2) is from 51 residents of Cambridge Bay opposing the proposed amendments to the Public Service Act.

Petition 23-13(2) is from 52 residents of Kugluktuk opposing amendments to the Public Service Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Mrs. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This also came in late. This is Petition 24-13(2) and it is from 16 residents of Chesterfield Inlet concerning the Public Service Act.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Are there any further petitions? Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 2. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 2. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Todd.

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ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 2: An Act To Amend The Public Service Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by my honourable colleague from Tu Nedhe, that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for a recorded vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

There is a request for a recorded vote. All those in favour?

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Todd, Mr. Morin, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Antoine, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Ng, Mr. Henry, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Roland, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Krutko, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Steen, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Dent and Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those opposed?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Picco, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those abstaining? Thank you. The results of the vote are 19 for; four against and zero abstentions. This motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 2 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. It is my understanding that the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to assent to bills and prorogue this session of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber and assent to bills and prorogue this session?

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER MAKSAGAK:

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills: Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1995-96; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, prior to proroguing this session, I wish to announce that the Third Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly will convene on Wednesday, March 20, 1996, at 1:30 p.m.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the Second Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

---Applause

---PROROGATION