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The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1996

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Jim Antoine, Hon. Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Hon. Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Hon. 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):

Good morning. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 10-13(3): Staff Housing - User Pay Fuel

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, the staff housing strategy implemented by the previous government provided that employee tenants of government-owned tied staff housing would be required to pay for their own heating fuel effective April 1, 1996.

This government has considered the move to user pay for fuel in relation to our accelerated timetable for removing ourselves from the position of landlord to our employees. As a result, it has been decided to defer indefinitely the implementation of user pay for fuel.

Mr. Speaker, it is the position of this government that the matter of user pay can better be addressed by selling our housing units to employees for an affordable price and by encouraging home ownership in other ways. This is a matter that I intend to address in a more comprehensive manner in the upcoming budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Concern Re Changes To Wages And Benefits Of Non-Unionized Employees

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to express my concern about the announcements made yesterday by the Minister of Finance about wages and benefits for nonunionized employees. I think we know that, judging from the past, this is a good indication of what will happen to our unionized employees as well. Mr. Speaker, I noted that the Minister of Finance stated yesterday that the Cabinet's objectives are to be fair and reasonable. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that these deep cuts to vacation travel benefits and settlement allowances will be especially hard on my constituents who live in small, remote communities off the highway system. People who live in Yellowknife and other communities on the highway system don't get a settlement

Mr. Speaker, the vacation travel benefit now given to my constituents is also not taxable. Mr. Speaker, cutting the VTA and settlement allowances back for my constituents in Baffin Central means that they are losing a lot more than people who live close to Yellowknife.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Shame, shame.

MR. ENUARAQ:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are losing a lot more money and they are losing a much larger tax deduction. This is my concern. Mr. Speaker, I believe all Members accept that cuts must be made. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is that those cuts should be

made in a manner which is fair to every employee regardless of where they live.

I am very concerned that my constituents and others like them who live in remote communities off the highway system, will have to make a much larger sacrifice than other comparable employees because they live so far away from Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Invasion Of Toddites From Planet John

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, fellow colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on a matter of extreme urgency. At 5:15 a.m. Mountain Standard Time, I was proceeding towards the Legislative Assembly of the

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Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, to the immediate left of the entrance to the Assembly, I spied something amiss. On closer inspection, as it was still dark, I could discern multi flashing lights. It was at that moment, a portal opened and I saw for the first time these extra -terrestrials.

Mr. Speaker, the leader came toward me and with the most pedagogical mind control ever witnessed, informed me that in fact these creatures were from the planet John and they called themselves Toddites. Mr. Speaker, they were dressed in pink slips and, through mind control, explained to me that fiscal destruction was happening on the planet John and they came to the planet Earth to escape and procreate. At that moment, I knew what I had to do, Mr. Speaker. Through procreation, many more of these pink-slipped creatures would be allowed to inhabit the earth, and we would be overrun by these Toddites.

Quickly remembering the song "Solidarity Forever," Mr. Speaker, I began singing at the top of my lungs. Mr. Speaker, the Toddites from the planet John beat a hasty retreat, their pink slips fluttering in the wind. Mr. Speaker, when I awoke, I was covered in sweat. It

was then I realized that it had been a horrible nightmare; or was it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Laughter

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr.

Barnabas.

Member's Statement On Resolute Bay Airport

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement concerns the airport at Resolute Bay. I understand that the Government of Canada, which controls flight service stations in Resolute Bay and other locations in the NWT, has plans to sell these operations to a new non-profit corporation controlled by a major Canadian Airlines, air traffic controllers and business-jet owners. This is all planned for June 1996. This sale will be done through Bill C-20, now before the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker, the Resolute Bay flight service station has a staff of six, including a manager. This facility provides vital services to aircraft in the High Arctic, especially at the airport in Resolute Bay, which is an important route and alternate for northern and circumpolar flights. I am concerned about the future of the Resolute Bay flight service station and others in the NWT as this privatization plan moves forward.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that Bill C-20 gives the Minister of Transport Canada an effective veto over the elimination of air traffic control services in remote and northern communities and that the government has said it intends to put in place a special process to review any planned service cuts in those regions.

Mr. Speaker, I will be urging our Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Jim Antoine, to inform the federal Minister of how important these flight service stations are for northern and circumpolar flights and urge him to continue these

services in the North. If cutbacks must be considered, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that our Minister can persuade the federal Minister to ensure that at least community air radio stations are established for at least the same hours of service provided previously

by the flight service stations. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today, I will be asking the Minister if he is willing to support these goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Thompson.

Member's Statement On Appreciation Of Organizers Of Rankin Inlet Dogsled Race

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to mention the dogsled race from Arviat to Rankin inlet. The people in Rankin Inlet worked really hard. There were a lot of hours put in by the volunteers because they want to help the communities. I would like to recognize them at this time. I think the race is just about completed. I am not sure exactly their location now. I think they are around Whale Cove. They can usually hear through the radio. I would like to thank the organizing committee for the race in Rankin Inlet and their elders. There are a lot of unilingual people who are quite capable of organizing such a race. There were people who came from all over. The person I want to recognize is my brother-in-law, Harry Towntongie, who worked really hard. Without his hard work, I don't think this would have gone through; he worked really hard. We have to recognize the importance of the people who organized such an event. I don't think they will be covered in the media too much, but they will be covered through the radio. I believe they have to be recognized. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement On Taloyoak Housing Shortage

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement is regarding the issue of housing in Taloyoak. I have received a letter from the Taloyoak Housing Association requesting the Government of the Northwest Territories recognize the shortage of housing in Taloyoak, as well as in other communities across the North.

Mr. Speaker, when I travel throughout the Kitikmeot region, I have noticed that there are some GNWT staff housing units that are not being occupied by anyone, while we have an extreme shortage of public units in the community. This is the case in Taloyoak. The Taloyoak Housing Association is requesting, since we have a number of empty GNWT staff houses in that community, that those units be allocated to

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the local Inuit who are employed by the GNWT, who are living in public units at this time, in order to recognize the shortage of public units in the Community. They should be allocated to people who were born and have lived in the community and have worked for the government for many years. They should be eligible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On New Eastern Arctic Toy

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had a statement prepared on the economy, but I realized that one of my colleagues will be speaking on the same issue, so I made a change. I would like to introduce to my honourable colleagues a new toy that was developed in the Eastern Arctic. This toy is capable of speaking for long periods of time on matters from honey buckets in Hard Luck Bay to the transfer of college programs in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, I would like to show you this new toy. It is called the "Eddy Picco speaking doll."

--- Laughter

--- Interjection

MR. SPEAKER:

Point of order, Mr. Picco. No? Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

Member's Statement On Attending Next Annual Nunavut Trade Show And Charity Auction

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my honourable colleague from Iqaluit for his kind invitation the day before yesterday to attend the next annual Nunavut Trade Show and Charity Auction and the opportunity to bid for his services. Mr. Speaker, I can inform Mr. Picco that if it is humanly possible, I will be happy to attend this fine event next year. If I am so fortunate, I would also like to put Mr. Harper on notice that he had better sharpen his pen for the next year's auction. I can assure him I would pay a great deal to simply keep Mr. Picco quiet for one hour.

---Laughter

However, I am not convinced that it is humanly possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Social And Economic Problems In Communities

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday of this week, my colleague, the honourable Mr. O'Brien, made a statement in this House in reference to the disastrous health problems that have plagued his home community. He included a statement saying that this incident only serves to illustrate the need for us in this Assembly to take dramatic action to deal with the social and economic problems being faced by communities such as Arviat. We can't just be driven by deficit management.

Like Mr. O'Brien, I also support the idea of Premier Morin's announcement to establish an advisory council on the economy and employment, for which he will invite business people from across the NWT to provide him with advice and ideas.

It will be invaluable for the Premier to get input from the business community and equally invaluable for those ideas and viewpoints to be passed on to

Members of this House. In that regard, I would suggest that the Premier's committee not become overweighted with political representatives from this House. However, I agree that the economy and employment must be given the same emphasis by Members of this House as we are giving deficit management, and that we create a mechanism by which we can play an ongoing role. I would support the establishment of a special committee of this House to also work on figuring out how to repair the northern economy.

We, in this House, must not deal solely with deficit management; let's not just roll along and let these costcutting measures lead us to despondency, let's wrestle with this ugly problem, let's develop a parallel vision with goals of where we want to go so that soon we will not solely be concentrating 100 per cent on cost cutting. Let's get back to building our economic future. Let's help kick-start the economy.

I would fully support the establishment of a committee made up of four ordinary Members who could study such issues as unemployment -- which, by the way, is the highest percentage-wise, in Canada -- a committee which could tabulate and review reports such as the SCONE report of 1989. This special committee could provide a valuable linkage to the Premier and could provide ideas that could be floated with the business community and industry, perhaps such initiatives as creating internships for our youth whereby we can involve industry and business to create entry-level jobs for youth entering the job market.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize we have to get our financial house in order and this will take some time to accomplish but, in the meantime, let's develop jobs for northerners which in turn will alleviate some of our social problems. This will also give us an opportunity to see how we are going to replace the dollars the federal government will continue to take away from us. Shrinking federal dollars will likely continue to plague us for many years to come.

By the time division of the Northwest Territories occurs on April 1, 1999, I want to see a strong, efficient, debt-free government with a vibrant economy that will put a big dent in the social and economic problems of those people who live

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in communities like Arviat. This will take our collective leadership. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Thanking MLAs For Support

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express my gratitude to all the honourable Members for supporting me. I will speak to my relatives about what you had written down for their support. Thank you. I would like to thank all the Members,

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank You, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement On Environmental Protection Strategy Conference In Inuvik

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though I just returned from home, I would like to say hello to my children and wife back home.

--- Applause

I would like to say thank you to Mr. Picco for sending greetings to us while I was in Inuvik. We did get a rise out of it.

I would like to make a statement as to what went on back in my home community of Inuvik. I went to attend the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy Conference that was going on; unfortunately, I didn't meet up with Steve. We crossed paths. I found it to be a good experience that the northern communities and countries ate getting together to set directions to what

can be done, to talk of sustainable development. It's a positive thing to be involved with. I look forward to things coming from such types of conferences.

I would like to put in a kick for Inuvik that the people who worked and volunteered their time to put the conference on did a very good job. The Ministers were entertained in the evening by the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers as well as the East Three Reelers. I believe they enjoyed themselves. I would like to say that Yellowknife better watch out, we might take over as conference capital of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Concerns Re Housing Corporation Contracts

MR. RABESCA:

Mr. Speaker, I wrote a letter to the Honourable Charles Dent and Mr. Kelvin Ng on March 7, 1996, and to date I have not received any response regarding the building and learning strategy program without any notice to Wha Ti First Nation. They had to use the previous year's profits to train the project manager because \$20,000 was withdrawn and was not made available for training dollars as part of the housing project costs from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

Mr. Speaker, the problems do not end here. The Wha Ti First Nation was not only hit financially due to the loss of \$20,000, the Housing Corporation wanted the Wha Ti First Nation to agree on administering their housing programs on a fixed price and stated that if they had not signed an agreement before March 31, 1996, the Housing Corporation threatened that the housing project would go out to tender.

Mr. Speaker, a letter from the Housing Corporation dated February 27, 1996, to the Wha Ti First Nation stated that in the coming year, construction will be up for tender. The Wha Ti First Nation has a serious concern about the manner in which contracts are being forced upon them and about how numerous training dollars can be cut without notice to the people who will be mostly **affected** and will drastically **effect**: the community's ability to successfully bid with any other bidders in a housing project. I do not accept the

way the programs are being administered by the two departments, and have serious concerns about how transfers of housing projects to the communities are being handled.

Mr. Speaker, I will have a question for both the Honourable Charles Dent and Mr. Kelvin Ng at the appropriate time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Investing In The Northwest Territories

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You may wonder what this little piece of paper is here. Just for your information, Mr. Erasmus is going to keep track of me and the number of times I speak in Members' statements from now on.

This afternoon, Members of this House will be playing hockey ... Sorry, will be skating.

--- Laughter

Let me try that again. Members of this House will be attempting to copy what is being called one of Canada's national sports, against the local media team. What is significant about this event? Let me tell you the irony of this event. The team of MLAs will be playing in a hockey rink in Yellowknife, the operation and maintenance of which is subsidized and paid for by the taxes of the citizens and businesses of Yellowknife. The original building was built by the sponsorship of the owners of the local mines. The labour to build the Gerry Murphy Arena was supplied on a volunteer basis by the residents of Yellowknife. Then, when times get tough, the community that grew by virtue of the fact that they had a hard-working, industrious population, a vibrant business community, gets slashed in a Draconian manner that was demonstrated by the government in this House yesterday.

I will be asking the Minister of Finance to explain this new math where he said, and I quote:

"...that the job losses in headquarters will be slightly higher." Mr. Speaker, you don't create prosperity in a family by stealing from another family member who took the initiative of hard work and worked smarter

than another member of the family. Bear in mind that when you take this slash-and-burn attitude towards the community, it flies in the face of investors from outside the Northwest Territories where they look at what is going on and say they don't want to risk their money in the NWT.

Look at how they treat their communities.

The successful investor will say there is no significant benefit in being prosperous. The government will not allow it. Look at what they did to their capital. We need investment in the Territories. We need the jobs that will get people off of social programs and give dignity back to people; the dignity and pride of having a job and the social additions that it will create. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. Are there any further Members' statements? Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased that I was able to convince my husband to take the day off work today and come and defend the Groenewegen name on the ice against the media. I would like to recognize my husband, Rick, and my daughter, Jillian,

--- Applause

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Caribou Carnival Volunteers

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this weekend is Caribou Carnival weekend in Yellowknife. Fort Caribou opens today at noon and will operate through Sunday. This is Yellowknife's annual winter -_ some might say spring -- festival, but the outside

temperature doesn't really lead us to believe that it is spring yet.

Mr. Speaker, one of the premier events of the weekend will be the Canadian Championship Dog Derby, which is managed by the Yellowknife Rotary Club. That race kicks off today; three 50-mile heats that will start today at 12:30 and on Saturday and Sunday, the race begins at noon each day.

Caribou Carnival includes activities for all. We have snowmobile races, fireworks, ice carving contests, northern games on the ice stage and there will be special events for young people. As Mr. Henry has already talked about in the early part of his statement, one of the best spectator sports of the weekend will happen at 2:00 this afternoon, which is the hockey game between the MLAs and the media.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend a vote of thanks to the large corps of volunteers who put together Caribou Carnival this year. They are headed by Mr. Mike Kalnay and they have put in hundreds of hours of volunteer time to pull this carnival off. I wish them well. I would like to invite all Members and all members of the public to participate in events this weekend and enjoy the hospitality of Yellowknifers and the fun that helps warm our late winter weekend, no matter what the temperature is outside. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. 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. Today we have a group of visiting students who are part of a program called Northern Experience '96. I would like to acknowledge Jensenne, Erin and Ann of Calgary, Jamie from Drumheller, Lara and Kristin from Lloydminster, Charelle of North Battleford, Anita from Peace River, Anya and Chris of Red Deer and Laura of Swift Current. The northern experience program has been sponsored by the local Yellowknife Rotary Club. On behalf of the Assembly, I would like to welcome them to Yellowknife and wish them a pleasant visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. See, Mr. Todd, I can be quiet for a few seconds.

--- Interjection

Question 29-13(3): Time Frame For Delivery Of Programs At Nunavut Arctic College

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I tabled the response of the Minister of Education on the petition supporting keeping programs at Nunatta campus of Nunavut Arctic College. Mr. Speaker, I have had some time to review the consultative report on the proposed transfers. Mr. Speaker, the report did not alleviate my fears of the cost implications. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education. When will he announce to this House how many programs, what programs and when said-programs currently offered elsewhere in the NWT, will be offered in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

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Return To Question 29-13(3): Time Frame For Delivery Of Programs At Nunavut Arctic College

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the delivery of programs is, in large part, determined by the board of governors of Nunavut Arctic College. Which programs can be delivered by both of the colleges, East and West, is determined by the level of budgets. As the Member knows, we will be discussing the budget shortly, so I would expect that we would get into some detailed discussion of that when the budget is introduced in May.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 29-13(3): Time Frame For Delivery Of Programs At Nunavut Arctic College

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said earlier in this House over the past few months that because of third-party funding of programs, he does not feel that Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit will be hurt by the said-program transfers. Mr. Speaker, with the continued reductions in Pathways funding by the federal government, which is the largest third-party funder of programs at Nunatta Campus, how does he expect the campus to make up that shortfall?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Evaloarjuk, are you getting translation? Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 29-13(3): Time Frame For Delivery Of Programs At Nunavut Arctic College

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member brings up a point that has caused the colleges some concern and myself, as Minister, and that is the change in the way that Pathways funding is being delivered. In fact, the dollars are not necessarily diminishing, but it is a question of how those dollars are being administered. Instead of going through tire boards, as they did previously, the funds are now going directly to aboriginal groups. The college is working to establish partnerships with the aboriginal groups with the hope of maintaining a consistent purchase of seats at the college. Although this is far from assured, it is certainly something that the college has been actively working on since hearing about the change in how Pathways would be delivered.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 30-13(3): Importance Of Flight Service Stations In The North

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this morning, I discussed my concern about the future of flight service stations after the sale of Transport Canada's flight service stations to NavCan. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Does the Minister of

Transportation agree that the flight service stations in the Resolute Bay airport and other NWT airports are important to the service for northern and polar air transportation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 30-13(3): Importance Of Flight Service Stations In The North

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to everyone. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for High Arctic has concerns about the flight service stations in Resolute Bay and other parts of the Northwest Territories. I agree that the type of work that the flight service stations in the North do -- they monitor weather and they also report on runway conditions at these airports -- is very important to the safe and reliable air navigation that is very necessary here, particularly in our remote northern airports. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 30-13(3): Importance Of Flight Service Stations In The North

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the federal Minister of Transport exercise his powers under Bill C-20, to veto any planned closures of northern flight service stations including the flight service station in Resolute Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 30-13(3): Importance Of Flight Service Stations In The North

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal Minister of Transport has committed to consult with the Government of the Northwest Territories on any future changes to the air navigation services at Our northern remote sites. NavCan is a commercialized company that is going to be taking over from

Transport Canada in the operation of air navigation service, and they will assume this commitment.

Mr. Speaker, rather than urging the federal Minister to invoke the veto provision, the territorial Department of Transportation would prefer to convert the flight service stations to the community air radio stations, as has been successfully done in other airports in the North such as Tuktoyaktuk, Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk, which is Coppermine. In terms of local training and employment benefits, CARS -- the community air radio stations -- can be an even more attractive program than the flight service stations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 31-13(3): Funding Assistance For Building And Learning Strategy

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Charles Dent, based on my statement today. Mr. Dent, has your department made any decision regarding my request that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment allocate \$20,000 this year to go towards Wha Ti's expenditures for their allotment of funds for training

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which should have been in the distribution of funds this year?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, typically, the funding for the building and learning strategy is provided by the department which has the project in their budget. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment coordinates the building and learning strategy, but the actual funding typically comes from the department. In order to make sure that I have an accurate response to the Member's question, I would like to take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be put off for a moment or two. The Minister of Finance is absent from the House and that is to whom my question is to be addressed.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Henry, you are out of order. The rules indicate that any person who is absent from the Chamber cannot be mentioned by name.

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Speaker, I apologize for that. I would ask that my question be put off for a few minutes.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member has the option to ask the Premier. He can redirect his question to the Premier, if he chooses; if not, we can go to the next person who wishes to ask a question. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 32-13(3): MACA's Plans To Implement Regional Responsibilities

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the release yesterday by the Minister of Finance regarding the number of people who are being laid off and the reductions in pay and benefits, it behooves this government to make decisions for logistic financial and administrative reasons. Yesterday, the Premier stated that MACA would be the lead department in the regions, taking over the functions of the Executive. Will the Minister of MACA inform this House how her department plans to implement these responsibilities ties?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mrs. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will refer the question to the Premier.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 32-13(3): MACA's Plans To Implement Regional Responsibilities

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With MACA being the lead department in community empowerment, under normal conditions in the regions when issues arise,

MACA will play a coordinating effort. When an initiative **Effect:**s several departments in a region and you need coordination, we will -for example, if it's DPW, the Housing Corporation or Transportation - appoint on that given issue, one department to lead it and see it through. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 32-13(3): MACA's Plans To Implement Regional Responsibilities

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier table in this House the actual cost savings that he envisions by devolving the functions of the Executive in the regions and by taking it over by the lead department -- as he said yesterday in the House -- by MACA, and when can we expect this?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 32-13(3): MACA's Plans To Implement Regional Responsibilities

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is aware, we will be tabling the budget in this House, I believe in May. All that information will be available at that time for all the general public. But all indications that we have as a government, so far, state very, very clearly -as we have shared with Members of this House -- that the annual savings will be \$1 million by eliminating the regional directors of this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 32-13(3): MACA's Plans To Implement Regional Responsibilities

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, I noticed yesterday, the figures tabled by the Finance Minister, but June 30th seems to be the cut-off date for a lot of the people who were discussed. In three short months, there won't be anyone left in the Executive offices. My earlier question still stands because I haven't received an answer on what will be happening to the role of the Executive in the regions.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 32-13(3): MACA's Plans To Implement Regional Responsibilities

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said previously, the elimination of the regional officers and the regional directors will save this government a substantial amount of dollars. We also propose to keep a certain amount of dollars within the Executive budget for a transitional period, and for a period of time that we have to work with the communities for community empowerment. We will have dollars in place to make sure that that transfer occurs, and we will put a plan to this House through the budget process of how this will all happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Question 33-13(3): Percentage Of Lay-Offs In Yellowknife

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I apologize for my oversight earlier. My question is to the Minister of Finance. The Minister tells us that in Yellowknife we have 2,212 employees in the government. He also tells us that there are 150 lay-offs, 72 of which will be in Yellowknife. Could the Minister tell me what percentage 72 is of 150?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance ... That is a very detailed, technical question which I don't know if it's on top of the Minister's head to respond to, but I will allow the Minister to respond. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 33-13(3): Percentage Of Lay-Offs In Yellowknife

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to point Out to my honourable colleagues there are 2,212 employees in Yellowknife. As I said yesterday and will say again today, out of the 150 positions, we've managed to cut in a caring and compassionate way, that the only actual layoffs are 72 which is three per cent of the total employees in Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 33-13(3): Percentage Of LayOffs In Yellowknife

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Minister, for answering a question I didn't ask. My questions was could you tell me what 72 is of 150. I realize it may be a technical question, but that's around 50 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, I have supported and realized right from the beginning that job cuts would be necessary. I supported that. I think it's imperative that we get our fiscal house in order, and one component of that work would be to, unfortunately, lay-off some of the people who provide services to the government. With that, my question would be, when most other provinces or territories in the country where the capital city is -- and I will read examples of Alberta, where 53 per cent of their total government employees are located in their capital city; in Manitoba, 56 per cent of their employees are located in their capital city; in Newfoundland -- which has a large number of small communities -- 75 per cent of their government employees are located in their capital city; in Nova Scotia, 68 per cent of their government employees are located in their capital city; in the Yukon, 82 per cent of the government employees are located in the capital city. What does this government know better about the economies of scale that would see Yellowknife's numbers go from 35 per cent to much less?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 33-13(3): Percentage Of LayOffs In Yellowknife

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, it is Friday, so I will be kind to the honourable Member. This is not Newfoundland, this is not the Yukon, this is not Alberta; there are 52

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 34-13(3): Allocation Of GNWT Housing Units To Taloyoak Residents

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, because my question touches more than one portfolio -Public Works and Services, Housing, Personnel -- I will direct my question to the Premier of this government. As I indicated earlier in my Member's statement about the request from the Taloyoak Housing Association concerning the shortage of housing, in that community there are some public units without running water. We have overcrowding in homes in that community at this point. Will the Premier seriously consider either turning over the empty GNWT units to the housing association in that community or allowing the GNWT employees who live in that community to move to vacant GNWT units? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 34-13(3): Allocation Of GNWT Housing Units To Taloyoak Residents

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this day and age with the shortage of housing in the Northwest Territories, we should not have any empty houses in the Northwest Territories. I completely agree with the Member. Also, previously, as a government, we have turned administration of staff housing over to the Housing Corporation so that this type of problem should not happen. I understand that this function will be completed by April 1 st of this year. By all means, it

should mean that you never have staff housing sitting empty when people in the communities need a roof over their head. So I will talk to the Minister of DPW as well as the Minister of Housing and address that issue so that we do not have empty staff housing at the community level. I would like to thank the Member for bringing that issue to our attention. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 35-13(3): Baffin Fishing Licence Applications

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Renewable

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Resources, on the subject of our developing Baffin fishery. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware of pending Baffin licence applications for about 3,000 tons of groundfish in the waters of Davis Strait.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 35-13(3): Baffin Fishing Licence Applications

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the ongoing push by the Baffin communities, particularly, to acquire licences for offshore fishing, particularly adjacent to Baffin Island, and the difficulty they are encountering. This has been going on for about four years and we are still having some difficulty acquiring allocations and licences for the Baffin people to fish in areas adjacent to Baffin Island. We have been trying to add our voice to the Baffin communities and the Nunavut leaders, in asking the federal government to do what they can to ensure that the Baffin people benefit from the resources that are found adjacent to their communities. We will continue to do what we can to ensure that some of the licences that are presently in existence are reallocated to the Baffin so that it's not existing fishermen and businesses from the Maritimes and Newfoundland who are, after having fished themselves out of existence, moving North to possibly do the same. We will be doing what we can to ensure

that the Baffin people get to fish and that this is probably, on a conservation basis, the best way to ensure that someone will take responsibility for ensuring that the fisheries are handled in a way that's going to be sustainable. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 35-13(3): Baffin Fishing Licence Applications

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask Mr. Kakfwi if he supports the applications from Baffin for a fishing licence.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 35-13(3): Baffin Fishing Licence Applications

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I have, in fact, in my previous six-month tenure as a Minister of Renewable Resources, brought this very specific issue up with the Minister of Fisheries at the time, Brian Tobin, in a meeting I had with him in Quebec City. Now we have a new Minister. I shall be advancing the same position to him, as well.

The difficulty that the federal government has I think is that there is an overabundance of licences with a depleted fisheries stock in the Atlantic. So they are hesitant, possibly for political reasons, to issue new licences when they already have an overabundance of licences. We believe that because of the Nunavut agreement and because of reasons of sound, practical reasons as well as principles of conservation, it is only logical that the Baffin communities and the Baffin people should have first access to this fish stock. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 35-13(3): Baffin Fishing Licence Applications

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister and his officials convey their support for these licence applications to the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 35-13(3): Baffin Fishing Licence Applications

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have intentions to actively push the federal Minister to do what he can to recognize the legitimacy of the views as put forward by the Baffin. It is and should be beneficial primarily to the Baffin communities, before anyone else in Canada. It is in fisheries adjacent to their communities, and the Baffin is not adjacent to the Maritimes, it's not adjacent to Newfoundland and it is fish stock that is in waters within the Nunavut settlement region. Every economic opportunity is supposed to be, under the claims agreement, given preferential treatment for the Inuit in the first instance. So we will be asking the federal government in every way we can to ensure that this is done in the interests of the Baffin communities. We will be asking the Members of Parliament as well as the federal Minister to act on it as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 36-13(3): Contamination Of Fort McPherson Water Supply

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation regarding the water supply in Fort McPherson. The hamlet council of Fort McPherson has great concerns regarding the fact that no action has been taken to protect the sole source of water that they have, due to the proximity of the Dempster Highway which is adjacent to the water supply source in the community. They do have concerns in case of an accident on that stretch of the highway, or of contamination caused by calcium which is being used on the road, or dust which is carried into the water supply. Is there anything that the department is doing to deal with this concern of the community.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to take this question as notice since there is some detail that I'll have to get the department to come up with. I'll reply to the Member after I get it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Question 37-13(3): Hiring Policies For Northern-Born Students

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just noted that the press is not here today. I imagine they must be out practising for the big game this afternoon.

--- Laughter

My question is for the Minister responsible for Personnel. Yesterday, in response to my question with regard to the northern-born students, he indicated there would be a directive going out concerning hiring northern-born Students and that the northern-born students would be hired and given preferential treatment. What I would like to know is will there be a central clearing-house for these students or do they have to apply directly to the departments?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Personnel, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 37-13(3): Hiring Policies For Northern-Born Students

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each department will be recruiting its own students under the guidelines that are put forward by this government. Personnel will be providing all departments with the copies of the applications it has received. Education will also be playing a coordinated role on the whole issue of hiring our students who come back from southern institutions or post-secondary institutions. Hopefully,

we can try our best to supply jobs for all our students this summer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 37-13(3): Hiring Policies For Northern-Born Students

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understood that this initiative to amalgamate Personnel into the other departments was going to save time, energy and money. If each department is going to have to be doing their own personnel recruitment, it seems to me that there are going to be more people doing this than before. Could the Minister explain to me how this is going to save time and money by doing it this way?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 37-13(3): Hiring Policies For Northern-Born Students

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that every department already has a basic function of hiring personnel in their department, or employee relationship-type function in their department already. It is also my understanding that the departments will not get any new money for doing the same job that they are already doing; they will do it within their existing funds. What is very important to understand is that the managers of these departments will have the guidelines issued by this government as well as the policies issued by this government of what they will have to follow. It will allow the managers to manage and also be held accountable. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 38-13(3): Housing Corporation Priorities And Objectives

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier announced significant changes in senior management assignments the other day, so the government will be in a better position to achieve objectives and priorities. I noticed that over the past several months, the Housing Corporation has had three different presidents and a new one now. Will the Premier explain to me how this rotating-door policy for the Housing Corporation will achieve objectives and priorities of the Housing Corporation, and could he tell me what the future plans of the Housing Corporation are?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 38-13(3): Housing Corporation Priorities And Objectives

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you look at all 17 deputies that this government has and you look at what they're capable of doing and where they would best fit, it's my job as the Premier of this government to assign those deputies their jobs. I've done that and I've looked at all functions that need to be carried out by this government. I've put the right people in the right places, I feel, with consultation with my Cabinet colleagues, to do that job. As far as the revolving door of the Housing Corporation is concerned, I don't think that door has revolved that much. There have been people put there to do a job. They've done their job very, very well, and I'm very pleased with the job they have done while they were there. We do have a new president in place as of Monday, and I feel that lie will be able to accomplish the direction that this government gives. Through the Minister to that deputy, they'll be able to accomplish the direction that we give and they'll be able to carry it out.

As far as continuity is concerned, all deputies meet weekly if not bi-weekly. They discuss issues of this government. The outgoing president has fully briefed the incoming president, so the direction will continue in the way we're going. Those people are in place to make sure it happens. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Just to remind the Members, I know that Members have been wanting to ask a second question, but I'm allowing all the Members who haven't asked questions to ask

questions first, then go back to the people who want to ask more questions. Mr. Barnabas.

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Question 39-13(3): Income Effect Of Changes To Wages And Benefits

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. Since the Minister's major announcement yesterday, my constituents have been calling me. We're trying hard to figure out the actual effects of the cuts to wages and benefits which were announced. They're not sure how changes will **Effect:** how much more income tax they will have to pay. I would like to ask the Minister if he and his officials have done an analysis to figure out how these changes would effect: the larger as well as the smaller families, the gross and net income of typical employees in the various regions of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 39-13(3): Income **Effect:** Of Changes To Wages And Benefits

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have done those analysis. As I said yesterday, we have rolled in the settlement allowance, vacation travel benefit, etcetera, and taken the reduction Out of there. The FMBS will be discussing with individual employees or groups of employees what the net effect on their pay cheque and on their annual income is in the days and weeks ahead, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 39-13(3): Income **Effect:** Of Changes To Wages And Benefits

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he could make that analysis available to this House as soon as possible. The analysis will look at the situation of employees with small, medium and large families in each of the different community

groups which have been set up under the collective agreement for the settlement allowance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

That was two questions. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 39-13(3): Income Effect: Of Changes To Wages And Benefits

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I would have to check with the FMBS to see if I could divulge on an individual basis what people have. Certainly, on a constituency basis, I Would be prepared to provide to the honourable colleague, and to anybody else to wants it, the changes and the impact those changes have on the overall retained earnings by individual employees. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 39-13(3): Income **Effect:** Of Changes To Wages And Benefits

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already been receiving anxious calls about these issues from my constituents. There are lots of concerns right now about

how these changes will **Effect:** their take-home pay, after taxes. I would like to ask the Minister if these examples could be given to us by the end of Monday, March 25th. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 39-13(3): Income **Effect:** Of Changes To Wages And Benefits

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we can provide, as I said, constituency by constituency, the impact it will have on the constituency at large. I would have to check on the individuals. I'm not sure what the legality is of divulging, if it's Joe A in community A and his package. But I'm prepared to provide, as I have in the past, all the information with respect to the take-home pay and the changes that we've made for the non-

unionized employees in the overall cost of living strategy and the cost of living package that we've put together. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 40-13(3): Status Of Housing Construction Tender

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Kelvin Ng, Minister of the Housing Corporation, based on my Member's statement. Is your department going to put the upcoming housing construction project out to tender?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Housing, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 40-13(3): Construction Tender Status Of Housing

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member is referring to the community of Wha Ti. I am aware of concerns brought forward by the honourable Member and by the band council, in the process for awarding the contract for housing. At this time, based on those concerns, I have directed the Housing Corporation staff to enter into a negotiated contract or arrangement with the local band's company to construct the housing for the upcoming year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 40-13(3): Status Of Housing Construction Tender

MR. RABESCA:

My supplementary to the same Minister. I'm wondering how the housing program will be transferred to the Wha Ti First Nation. Will someone from your department be designated to deal with the transfer of the housing program to the Wha Ti First Nation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

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Further Return To Question 40-13(3): Status Of Housing Construction Tender

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that the honourable Member was speaking about construction contracts. If he's speaking about the actual transfer of housing programs, if the community council or the band is interested in taking on that initiative, then I could have Housing Corporation staff discuss the matter with the local representative as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 41-13(3): Percentage Of Job Cuts In Yellowknife

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. The Minister talks about fair and compassionate Guts. Both the Premier and the Minister of Finance told us in this House that cuts would be fair and that all segments of the economy and communities would feel the effects. Why does Yellowknife take 50 per cent of the job cuts when it is 35 per cent of the positions and when 37 Communities in the Northwest Territories have no job losses? I would like to ask the Minister where the fairness is in that approach.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 41-13(3): Percentage Of Job Cuts In Yellowknife

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, we have made every attempt to be as fair as we can in identifying the positions for lay-off, early retirement, education leave, et cetera. I, quite frankly, don't know how to answer my honourable colleague's question. I understand his concern, but this is the same Member who has been consistent in asking me to remove the deficit over a one-year period rather than two. This means that there would

be no lay-offs, not less lay-offs, if we took that approach. We have managed to the best of our ability, the lay-offs. I understand the concern of the honourable Member. It's his responsibility to represent his riding. It's my responsibility to bring forward a fair and reasonable approach in this deficit elimination plan we've put in place. The only why I can explain it is to say I believe we've accomplished that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 42-13(3): Breakdown Of New Northern Allowance

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in a statement to this House, the Minister of

Finance stated that the new northern allowance is structured to ensure that employees can continue to receive the income tax deductions for travel expenses. However, the Minister also stated that the existing settlement allowance and vacation travel assistance benefits will be combined into a new northern allowance. What portion of the new combined northern allowance is vacation travel and what portion is for settlement allowance?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question was taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special ... Mr. Evaloarjuk, petitions.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present Petition No. 2-13(3) dealing with the matter of the extension of the airstrip in Pond

Inlet. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 175 signatures. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the Government of the Northwest Territories proceed with an extension to the airstrip in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents to table. I wish to table Tabled Document 7-13(3), the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation 1996 Annual Report.

I wish to table Tabled Document 8-13(3), Business Development Fund Annual Report, April 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995.

I wish to table Tabled Document 9-13(3), the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement for a period of April 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mrs. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 10-13(3), the Status of Women Council of the NWT Annual Report, 1994 to 1995. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 11-13(3), a copy of a letter written to the district manager of the Kitikmeot Housing Association from the Taloyoak Housing Association concerning staff housing units. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

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ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 4: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1995-96

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 25, 1996, I shall move that Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1995-96, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 2: Write-off of Debts Act, 1995-96

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two. The first one is Bill 2, Write-off of Debts Act, 1995-96. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 2, Write-off of Debts Act, 1995-96, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Bill 2 has had first reading. Mr. Todd.

Bill 3: Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1995-96

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 3, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1995-96, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Your 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

Bill 3 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 1-13(3), Report of the Commission on MLA Compensation, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

I would like to call Committee of the

Whole to order at this time. Today on the agenda is the

continuation of the consideration of Tabled Document 1

13(3), Report on the Commission on MLA Compensation. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Due to Caribou Carnival happening and that we would like to let our staff out to enjoy the carnival and also the fact that there is a very important event this afternoon, the hockey game against the media, I would like to move that we report progress.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Committee of the Whole is then agreed ... The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Would you like to be the only one who is opposed, Mr. Kakwi? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

I will call the House back to order. Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 1-13(3) and I would like to report progress and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Is there a seconder? Mr. Picco. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 22, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations with all ordinary Members tomorrow, Saturday, at 9:00 a.m. Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., there will be a meeting of the Caucus and at 11:00 a.m. of the Government Operations committee with ordinary Members.

Orders of the day for Monday, March 25th:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions

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7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 1, Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 to June 30, 1996
 - Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1995-96
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 2, Write-off of Debts Act, 1995-96
 - Bill 3, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1995-96
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and
 - Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 1-13(3), Report of the Commission on MLA Compensation
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 25, 1996, at 1:30 p.m.

--- ADJOURNMENT