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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1988

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Crow, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Lewis, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Nerysoo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Monday, February 15th. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 3-88(1): Federal Budget

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal Finance Minister, Michael Wilson, brought down his fourth budget on Wednesday, February 10th. There were very few tax or program changes in that budget. The only tax increase in the budget is an additional one cent per litre tax on gasoline. Primary producers such as hunters and trappers will be exempted from the increase. In the budget Mr. Wilson also announced that original prints would be exempted from the current federal sales tax, on the same basis as other art is now. This measure could be favourable for those native artists who currently pay this tax.

A minor adjustment to the rules relating to the northern allowance deduction will clarify that this deduction will be excluded from minimum tax. This change should not affect many taxpayers in the NWT.

On the expenditure side, the federal Minister of Finance announced a reduction in government spending of \$300 million starting in 1989-90. The impact of these expenditure cuts on the NWT will not be known until the details are announced later this year.

Although it is not expected that the measures in this budget will have a large effect on the NWT taxpayers, sales tax changes suggested for the second stage of federal tax reform could hit northerners harder than other Canadians. In his Budget Address, Mr. Wilson emphasized again that stage two of tax reform would be revenue neutral; that is, it will neither increase nor decrease the federal deficit. When a value added tax is introduced, it will replace the current sales tax, pay for further income tax cuts, fund an increased sales tax credit and eliminate the three per cent income tax surtaxes. Although the proposed sales tax may be revenue neutral for Canada as a whole, it may not be revenue neutral in the North.

Our government has suggested some steps to Mr. Wilson which could be taken to ensure that northern residents are not penalized when the new sales tax is put in place, and we are actively looking for other measures which could be adopted to ensure that northern residents do not bear a greater tax burden than other Canadians.



The measures in this budget are not expected to have a great impact on the North. Tax reform measures previously announced or still under consideration will have a much greater effect.

Mr. Speaker, in the next week I will table with this House a more detailed analysis of what these measures mean to residents of the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Ministers' Statement 4-88(1): Canada-Alaska Summer Institute For Northern Native Languages

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that for the first time, northern teacher trainees, interpreters and radio and television announcers will have the opportunity to improve and expand their native language skills at a special summer school.

This year the first summer school of the Canadian-American Institute for Northern Native Languages will be held at the Fairbanks campus of the University of Alaska. The institute is supported by our Department of Education, Arctic College, along with the Yukon College's native language centre and the Alaska native language centre at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

I am confident this language institute will provide an excellent meeting ground for many people who are actively involved in teaching, promoting, documenting and studying native languages. Students from the NWT will have the opportunity to enrol in such courses as interpreter skills, native language teaching methodology, language planning and policy, and radio and television production in native languages, at the summer institute. The institute also serves as a model of co-operation in areas of ongoing concern in circumpolar regions.

Establishing the summer language program is a direct result of the Circumpolar Education Conference I hosted at Mingutug Lodge near Iqaluit last summer. At that time, participants at the conference agreed to share educational opportunities and resources. The summer language institute will be held annually, hosted on a rotating basis in all three jurisdictions.

The University of Alaska is a leader in aboriginal language programming. It has extensive native language programs for its students working toward Bachelor of Education degrees. I know it will provide an excellent opportunity for our teachers and others working in languages, to improve and enhance their native language skills. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Allooooloo.

Ministers' Statement 5-88(1): Fur Products Labelling

HON. TITUS ALLOOLLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise Members of the House of actions presently under way in dealing with the fur product labelling as proposed by the British government.

As Members are well aware, the attacks on the fur industry are at times most difficult to counter. However, we are co-ordinating our efforts with a variety of agencies across Canada to achieve the best effect on the British government.

The following list outlines our actions to date:

- 1) Immediate contact to discuss the situation was made with officials in the office of the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, Minister of External Affairs.
- 2) Mr. Clark was requested to communicate and has already communicated our total opposition to the British government. He has made statements on our behalf in the House of Commons. On February 10, 1988, Mr. Clark made the following statement:

"Mr. Speaker, I was surprised by that announcement by the British Minister. We will oppose it, and we will fight it. It constitutes a very serious threat to the livelihood of Indian, Metis and Inuit Canadians who depend upon the fur industry to live. I must say that I particularly regret that there was virtually no advance warning to this government by the Government of Great Britain in bringing in this matter. I will be pursuing it personally with the British Foreign Secretary and with others."

3) Mr. Clark will be formally meeting with his counterpart, Sir Geoffrey Howe, in London. Discussions are under way concerning direct representation by representatives of this government in London.

4) Support has been sought from the Leader of the Opposition, the Rt. Hon. John Turner, and the Leader of the New Democratic Party, the Hon. Ed Broadbent.

5) Support has also been sought from the native organizations at the territorial and national level. A co-ordinated approach is felt to be the most effective means of countering the proposed legislation.

6) We have also been in direct contact with Mr. Georges Erasmus of the Assembly of First Nations to co-ordinate our joint efforts.

7) Various lobby groups are also included in this co-ordinated approach. The Fur Institute of Canada and Indigenous Survival International are working closely with us.

Mr. Speaker, we are still examining some strategic options open to us. Additional decisions will be made in the very near future on our final action plans. I will continue to keep all Members advised of these as they occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Ministers' Statement 6-88(1): Passing Of Mr. Don Maeers

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with sadness that I inform this Assembly of the passing of Mr. Don Maeers, who was an employee of my department since June 6, 1971. Don had served this government for the past 17 years. Initially he was the regional superintendent of Social Services in the Baffin Region and for the past several years he held a position as co-ordinator of community corrections here in Yellowknife. I know you will join with me in the expression of sympathy to his family. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Ministers' Statement 7-88(1): Setting Education Priorities To The Year 2000

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a turning point in education for the NWT will begin in March when the first-ever NWT forum on continuing education will be held in Inuvik. The theme of this important conference is "Educational Crossroads".

The agenda for the forum will include a discussion of program priorities, the need for literacy programs, accessibility to all programs, including student support, and financing of adult education in the NWT. More than 75 territorial, national and international representatives from education, business, native organizations and federal and territorial governments will meet from March 15 to 18 to determine priorities for continuing education in the NWT.

As a result of the four day meeting, delegates will make recommendations to the Minister of Education on structure, accessibility and financing of continuing education in the North.

Giving consideration to the territorial economy and the needs of northerners, program priorities to the year 2000 will examine the types of programs most relevant for the NWT. The availability of continuing education programs, student financial assistance and financing continuing education in the North will also be discussed. Literacy is also a major topic to be addressed at the forum. The NWT experiences the highest rate of English illiteracy in Canada, at 37.1 per cent. The recommendations that come out of the forum will provide direction for continuing education in the NWT.

Representatives from the Dene Nation, Inuit Cultural Institute, Tree of Peace, NWT Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Industry Association, Donner Foundation, Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, the NWT Science Institute, the Arctic College Board of Governors and the Department of Education are a sampling of organizations and individuals invited to the forum. Secretary of State, David Crombie; McGill University president, David Johnston; and Brian Segal, president of Ryerson Polytechnical, are also among the delegates to take part in the forum, which will be held at the Aurora Campus of Arctic College.



I will also be extending an invitation to all MLAs to attend this session, Mr. Speaker. This first-ever NWT forum on continuing education is a direct result of a similar national forum on post-secondary education held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in October, 1987. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Ministers' Statement 8-88(1): Aven Centre, Yellowknife

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to clarify the comments made in the Commissioner's address relating to the role of the Department of Social Services in the new personal care facility, Aven Centre here in Yellowknife.

This facility received O and M funding from the Department of Social Services. However, it is operated and owned by the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors, YACCS, which is a non-profit organization formed to advocate on behalf of seniors in Yellowknife. YACCS identified the need for this level of care and accepted the responsibility for the development and operation of the present facility.

This government recognizes and appreciates the valuable work that the members of the concerned citizens association devote to ensure that seniors are properly taken care of and I personally commend them for their effort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Article Re Cape Dorset Drug Problem

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to do with Tabled Document 8-88(1). I want the Members of the Legislative Assembly to know why I tabled this article dated October 26th. It has to do with Cape Dorset residents. The people of Cape Dorset are not happy with the article that was written about them. It has to do with the fact that there are a lot of drugs in Cape Dorset and there is a lot of trafficking. This is false information. I want all the Members to be aware that I am not very happy with the document I tabled and I do not want the people of my constituency to be talked about in a false way. I am going to be notifying the RCMP in Cape Dorset and I would like the Minister of Justice to look into this and talk to the person who wrote the article about the people of Cape Dorset. I think everyone is aware that I am sorry I did not put a memo on top of this article as to why I am tabling it. This is the document I tabled on Friday and I just want to inform the Members and Executive Council that we are not happy with this article because it is misleading information. If you want to find out from the hamlet council, you can go ahead and do that, too.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Executive Council Lack Of Participation In Olympic Games

MR. LEWIS: Some Members believe that one of the rules and conventions of this Assembly may have been broken. On Friday, February 12th, in connection with our Executive Council decision not to send one of its Members to the Olympic Games opening, the Government Leader indicated that the Executive Council would be too busy to be represented at the opening on the weekend of February 13th. I pointed out that in the past week a decision had been made to adjourn the Assembly on March 9th for a break so that Members could attend the Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks. The break could be as long as 12 full days. In my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I was extremely careful to make no reference to caucus, how the decision had been made or to whom it could be attributed. It is now a matter of public record that it was Mr. Patterson who very quickly pointed out that this had been a decision of the 24 Members of this caucus, so eager was he to distance himself and his colleagues from the decision to disrupt government business in order to go to Alaska.

The point I wanted to make, Mr. Speaker, is that the Leader finds nothing wrong with disrupting the business of this House for a week and a half to visit Alaska, yet could not find the time to make a weekend journey to Calgary....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, your two minutes are up. Thank you.



MR. LEWIS: Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Butters.

Member's Statement On Official Opening Of Olympic Games, Calgary

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, some months ago some British experts, buoyed by the fact that they had never visited this country, pronounced Canadians to be dull, duller, dullest. I trust those self-styled arbiters of the human condition were among the one and a half billion television viewers who witnessed the official opening of the 15th Olympics, the Calgary Games, Saturday last. My congratulations, and I am sure our congratulations, to the citizens of Calgary and the more than 6000 volunteers of all ages and cultural backgrounds who participated in the welcoming ceremonies.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. BUTTERS: They have done themselves proud and put all other Canadians in their debt for communicating so ably, sir, the vitality, the vivacity and the humanity of Canadians and hinting, only hinting, at the richness of our cultural identity, native and non-native alike.

A few brief observations before I take my seat. Congratulations and thanks to the Rt. Hon. Jeanne Sauve, our Governor-General, for choosing fine Canadian fur garments with which to protect herself from the cold while enjoying the welcoming ceremonies. And also, how fashionable and warm looked the competitors and officials of the USSR, garbed in the flowing robes of Russian sable! And how attractive and moving sounded our national anthem in the Athapascan language, sung by the young singers from Alberta -- with that language, sir, being heard around the globe! Congratulations to Calgary and thank you for representing our country so well on the world stage.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 019-88(1): Status Of Land Lease, Pine Point Mines Ltd.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 019-88(1), asked by Mr. Morin on February 11th, 1988, with respect to Pine Point Mines Ltd.

The community of Pine Point is scheduled to close after the final lay-off takes place at the end of July of this year. Conditions of this closure are being negotiated with the mine and we anticipate an agreement in principle to be reached shortly. Pine Point Mines Ltd. will retain a crew of seven employees, who will commute to the loading site from either Hay River or Fort Resolution.

Within the boundaries of the town of Pine Point, leases will be returned to the Government of the Northwest Territories upon satisfactory completion of the restoration requirements. Pine Point Mines Ltd. also operates on lands which are leased from the Government of Canada, which will be surrendered once the terms and conditions have been met. Each lease contains clauses which define the conditions in which the land must be left at the cessation of mining. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 027-88(1): Radio And Television Services To Rae Lakes

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 027-88(1), asked by Mr. Zoe on February 12th, 1988, concerning radio and television services to Rae Lakes.

We received word on Thursday of last week that the satellite dish in Rae Lakes had blown over during stormy weather on Tuesday night. The community's maintenance contact for the system, Mel Rollheiser, followed the established procedure by contacting Sigmacom Ltd., the firm we have under contract to provide servicing. Action immediately began to solve the problem.

It was determined that the surface of the dish had not been damaged. A replacement bracket has now been custom-welded to proper dimensions, after consultation with the dish manufacturer. This is important since the dish must remain steady at the proper angle. The new bracket and replacement cables and connectors are being air-expressed to the community. We are projecting that the dish can be properly re-erected and radio and television service restored by Friday, February 19th. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Angottitauruq.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 043-88(1): Proposed New Department Of Transportation

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Government Services. Is the Executive Council developing a policy which would establish a new department of transportation? Will this policy be tabled during this session? That is the question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray, would you like to respond?

Return To Question 043-88(1): Proposed New Department Of Transportation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a result of the Snare Lakes meeting, I have been given the task of bringing forward an options paper to the Executive Council within the next six weeks on the formation of a new ministry of transportation, with its responsibilities and organizational structure. I intend to have that for the Executive Council no later than the end of March. However, it will not be tabled in the House until sometime, I suspect, in the fall, after the cabinet has seen it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 044-88(1): Hours Worked At Weekend By Cabinet Members

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, the Leader has impressed us with the hardworking group of people that he has, so I wonder if he could tell us whether, in fact, the cabinet did work this weekend and for how many hours they were engaged on cabinet business, or is that a secret? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 044-88(1): Hours Worked At Weekend By Cabinet Members

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the honourable Member, who might recall from his days as deputy minister in this government, that Ministers of this government are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and all the Ministers worked this weekend, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Butters.

Question 045-88(1): GNWT Participation In Heritage Day

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications advise what role or participation the GNWT has in this day, Heritage Day, as it is referred to across Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question 045-88(1): GNWT Participation In Heritage Day

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to be able to respond to the Member's question on the important occasion, Heritage Day, 1988. The third Monday in February of each year is officially declared to be Heritage Day across Canada. It is a day when all Canadians celebrate our rich heritage and rich history passed to us from generation to generation. Canada's policy of



multiculturalism encourages citizens from every ethnic background, from every racial and religious group to exercise their freedom of choice to retain their customs and honour their traditions. All Canadians are able to be themselves even as they are guaranteed their status as equal partners within Canadian communities.

Our heritage in the NWT is the sum total of all the cultural and traditional contributions made by all citizens. Our unique mixture of cultural values and traditions have added greatly to the identity of any person across the country who has called himself a Canadian. Our Heritage Day is a unique Canadian occasion for all citizens to reflect upon and celebrate ourselves as a unique group of people in the world. I hope that NWT residents across the territory will take time to think about this special day and participate in some of the activities being held in museums and schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ernerk.

Question 046-88(1): Mail Service To Coral Harbour

MR. ERNERK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Government Services. Is he aware of the fact that no planes are now carrying mail, especially first-class mail, into Coral Harbour? Would the Minister advise me and the House of what arrangements this government has for carrying mail into communities such as Coral Harbour? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Government Services has left to represent this government and Legislature before the Ontario select committee on the Meech Lake Accord and therefore is not present today. I would be pleased to take the question as notice on his behalf. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. You are taking the question as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 047-88(1): Elements Included In New Transportation Policy

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for transportation or the Department of Public Works and Highways. As supplementary to the question asked by Mr. Angottitauruq, will the Minister consider seeking the approval of the Executive Council to make public the elements that might be contained in a new transportation policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 047-88(1): Elements Included In New Transportation Policy

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I do not really know if I need Executive Council approval for that. The elements contained in the new department of transportation will be the airports function, which presently lies with Municipal and Community Affairs; the highways function which presently lies with the Department of Public Works; the vehicle licensing function, which presently lies within the Department of Government Services. These are the three main functions we are looking at. Public Works and Highways has a minor responsibility for docks inasmuch as we do some minor work on docks. That will also be part of the new ministry of transportation. It is essentially a collecting together of all the transportation functions with the exception of the function in Government Services which co-ordinates government travel, for example, air charters and so on. That will stay within Government Services because it is a service function of government, but all the other transportation elements will be collected into one department.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question 048-88(1): Maintenance Of Radio And Television Equipment

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications. In his response to my question on Friday, the Minister indicated that radio and television services would be restored in Rae Lakes on February 19th. I would like to ask the Minister if he would undertake a review of the contract for maintenance of various services in the



Territories so that when an occurrence like this happens in other communities, the government could take prompt action so they can have these essential services restored more quickly than has happened in Rae Lakes. It is going to be 10 days before radio and television will be restored there.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 048-88(1): Maintenance Of Radio And Television Equipment

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I am quite happy with my department's response to the problem that occurred last Tuesday. We were not notified until Thursday about the problem. The problem here is that the dish in each community has different brackets and they have to be custom-welded to suit the position of the dish to get the best reception from the satellite. This has been the case here; there was the assessment of the damage that was done to the dish and the cables and connectors, also the bracket that has to be custom-welded has taken time to fix and also there is the remoteness of the place. Right now we are airlifting some parts to that community. I would assure the Member that we will make an assessment in other communities as to whether this sort of thing could happen faster. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 049-88(1): Radio-Active Contamination Of Caribou Meat

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tabled Tabled Document 3-88(1) on February 11th, concerning caribou disease. I would like to ask the Minister of Health if there can be information made available to the people who utilize the caribou meat. There have been some studies done by Environment Canada of renewable resources. I believe that studies that have been conducted on the Inuit diet and white people's diet -- they are not well enough informed. We have been informed that we can only eat cooked meat but the elders do not eat just cooked meat. For that reason, could the Department of Health produce more information on this as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 049-88(1): Radio-Active Contamination Of Caribou Meat

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. Pudluk's bringing up that issue. I have had a number of requests from different areas and from Baker Lake, the area of concern in relationship to cancer and in relationship to the diseases that caribou may or may not carry. So I regret to say that we have not had time to tie together all that information and field a strategy on how we are going to develop that information package. Presently we are aware of the problem and certainly I have been working with the department to a certain extent to see how that information can be presented to the communities without creating an alarmist attitude so people get afraid, because all the evidence that has come forward is not conclusive and we do not know for sure whether there is a real danger or not too much of a danger.

So rather than moving forward with a program that would create anxiety among people, I feel that we should get the concerns together from various parts of the Northwest Territories and attempt to present something that is reasonable and something that people can digest easily and certainly to take precautions if there is need to have precautions in the areas of concern because there are two or three different concerns coming from various sectors. So it does not only relate to one disease factor but to two or three. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 050-88(1): Return Of Artifacts

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not too sure as to whom I should direct my question, perhaps to the Minister of Culture and Communications. I have heard in our area that there used to be whaling done in our area. There have been some artifacts that were obtained by the whalers and taken away to another country and we were informed some time ago that the Commissioner would try and return these artifacts. There has been some whaling equipment returned to Pangnirtung. Have you got any information concerning this because we have not been informed further. Are you aware of the latest information on this at all? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Culture and Communications, Mr. Alloofoo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the Member's question, I am not too sure. I do not have the information on these artifacts in your area, especially in Pangnirtung. I could look into this further, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions, Item 5. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 051-88(1): Support For Building Airport, Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not the first time I have asked this question. I would like the Government Leader to face this way. Mr. Government Leader, with the old Department of Local Government, I used to ask the Minister of Local Government. I am not happy with the response I have received up to now concerning the Lake Harbour airport. Do you not care because the Lake Harbour population is too low, or are you in support of building an airstrip in Lake Harbour or not? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The question was directed to Mr. Patterson, Government Leader.

Return To Question 051-88(1): Support For Building Airport, Lake Harbour

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the honourable Member that I do care about the air facilities in Lake Harbour and Mr. Wray has recently discussed the problems with the airstrip in Lake Harbour with the cabinet. Within the financial resources that are available to us, we are endeavouring to find a solution to those problems based on the recommendations of Mr. Wray. I fully support him in seeking a solution to those problems. Mr. Speaker, I realize that the airstrip could be made more safe and, based on Mr. Wray's advice, I am confident the cabinet will be doing what it can to improve the safety of that airstrip. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question 052-88(1): Implementation Of Reorganization Plan For Fort Smith Region

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader. Mr. Speaker, according to Tabled Document 6-88(1), Mr. Gary Black was charged with developing implementation plans for the reorganization of the Fort Smith Region. Mr. Speaker, the goal of this reorganization was to create three area centres: one each in Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Rae-Edzo. I would like to ask the Minister, has this implementation plan been completed in full? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 052-88(1): Implementation Of Reorganization Plan For Fort Smith Region

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, only last week were some positions in this reorganization plan established. So, the reorganization really is still being implemented and I would not describe it as having been fully implemented. I can inform the honourable Member that the government is committed to ensuring that a smooth and effective implementation occurs and that government services to residents of the Fort Smith Region will be enhanced as a result of this reorganization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 052-88(1): Implementation Of Reorganization Plan For Fort Smith Region

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, supplementary please. Mr. Speaker, I was questioning the Minister on the issue of Mr. Black's developing the implementation plans. He indicated that they are currently implementing parts of the plan so I assume that this implementation plan for the Fort Smith Region is completed and if it is completed, would the Minister table in the House the implementation plan for the Fort Smith Region? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Patterson.



Further Return To Question 052-88(1): Implementation Of Reorganization Plan For Fort Smith Region

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what more the Member wants. I have tabled a summary of the report which laid the basis for reorganization of the Fort Smith Region, Tabled Document 6-88(1), and Tabled Document 5-88(1) provided detailed information about the reorganization completed in 1987-88 and planned for 1988-89, with respect to all departments. I think Tabled Document 5-88(1) is the closest that we can come to meeting the Member's concerns for an implementation plan. That tabled document describes by department the positions which will be moved and also lays out new organizational charts. So the plan is contained, Mr. Speaker, in Tabled Document 5-88(1). Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is that a supplementary, Mr. Zoe?

Supplementary To Question 052-88(1): Implementation Of Reorganization Plan For Fort Smith Region

MR. ZOE: Yes, supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, although the Minister has indicated that he pinpointed Tabled Document 5-88(1) as the plan for the Fort Smith Region, the plan does not include such things as the detailed financial implications of the region. I would like to point out to the Minister the section in Tabled Document 6-88(1) under number nine. It states here, "After reviewing the consultant's report and recommendations, the Executive Council has appointed Gary Black to develop implementation plans for Executive Council review by March 31, 1987..." to include the following: distribution of communities among area centres; two-centre concept for service departments and the recommended locations; relocation of personnel...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Zoe, you do not have to read from the document; it has been tabled.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, the point I am trying to make is that Mr. Black was appointed to develop this plan and all I am asking the Minister is: Is there such a plan in place? He indicated they are implementing some type of plan and to me it appears that the plan is not fully developed. I am asking the Minister if there is such a plan for the Fort Smith Region and, if it is fully developed, that he table the full plan in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 052-88(1): Implementation Of Reorganization Plan For Fort Smith Region

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had made it clear to the Member that the guts of the reorganization plan, which I believe is the positions and where they will be located by department, is before this House in Tabled Document 5-88(1). As far as financial implications, these were contained in a submission presented to the cabinet's Financial Management Board by Mr. Black. They form the financial underpinning for this reorganization. There is no plan other than what has been tabled in this House, Mr. Speaker. There are back-up financial considerations which were considered by the Financial Management Board, but there is no other plan.

I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, perhaps to give the Member some assurance, that this reorganization, which has been described in Tabled Document 5-88(1), was designed to improve services. It is just now in place. There may be improvements that can be made upon it. There may be adjustments that are required. We will be open to receiving advice from the Member on how the reorganization might be improved upon and we are quite open to reviewing the effectiveness of this reorganization once it has had a little bit of time to settle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 5, oral questions. You have a new question, Mr. Zoe?

Question 053-88(1): Numbers Of Positions In Fort Simpson And Rae-Edzo

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, again I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader. According to Tabled Document 5-88(1), during the fiscal year 1987-88 and 1988-89, a total of 18.5 new positions will come to Fort Simpson and approximately five to Rae-Edzo area service office. Can the Government Leader explain why so many new positions are required in Fort Simpson?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Patterson.



Return To Question 053-88(1): Numbers Of Positions In Fort Simpson And Rae-Edzo

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, in looking at reorganizing the Fort Smith Region, the government intended that there would be the creation of three centres which would provide government services closer to home for residents of those three areas within the Fort Smith Region. I think the fact that there are fewer positions in Rae-Edzo and more positions in Fort Simpson is simply a reflection of the fact that many services provided to Rae-Edzo are provided from Yellowknife. There are functions within the government that are provided to Rae-Edzo from Yellowknife and Rae-Edzo is close enough to Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, that citizens of that area have improved access to programs that are being administered in Yellowknife. Whereas, by contrast, in the Fort Simpson area, which includes a larger population, it was felt that there was a need to provide more direct access to people delivering programs and making decisions critical to the people of that area. So the difference, Mr. Speaker, in sum, is because of the distances involved and the differences in population of the area centres served. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 053-88(1): Numbers Of Positions In Fort Simpson And Rae-Edzo

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, although I agree with the Government Leader on some of the points he mentioned, I am still not convinced on the number of positions and the reason why they are going to one particular area. Tabled Document 6-88(1) certainly concludes that the Executive has accepted the concept of three area centres and specifically it pinpointed Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Rae-Edzo. Now I would like to ask the Minister, would he give assurance to the other area service offices that they will be adequately staffed in the near future?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Further Return To Question 053-88(1): Numbers Of Positions In Fort Simpson And Rae-Edzo

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are committed to providing an improved level of service to the residents of the areas which are affected by this reorganization. We are, as I have also said, open to fine tuning this reorganization to make sure that it is working well and, indeed, it is providing improved services to residents of the area, with the minimum expenditure of public funds and minimum utilization of person years to provide that improved service.

Mr. Speaker, I think one has to recognize that when the reorganization began there was very little support in service functions, such as Finance and Government Services, present in the Fort Simpson area. So, in order to provide those essential services, staff had to be deployed to the Fort Simpson area. It just did not make sense to us to establish staff in areas like Finance and Government Services in the Rae-Edzo area where access to Yellowknife and headquarters departments, which can provide those services, is so much more convenient than for the people in the Fort Simpson area. So, with those geographic and financial limitations in mind, I can assure the Member that, yes, indeed we are committed to ensuring that adequate staff is present to provide improved services to residents in his constituency and in the other areas affected. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary. Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 053-88(1): Numbers Of Positions In Fort Simpson And Rae-Edzo

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that, yes, he will give us assurance that he will provide us with adequate staffing. But as the Minister just pointed out, the area service office in Rae-Edzo is being currently serviced from Yellowknife, and I do not agree with the Minister's comments because right now the area service office in Rae-Edzo still deals with Fort Smith. I would like to ask the Minister again. The number of positions that are going to Fort Simpson area office is to bring the government closer to the people but, there again, the other two area offices are not currently enhanced at the moment. It appears, Mr. Speaker, that...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Zoe, there will be other opportunities for debate. Would you get to your question, please? This is question period.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, the question that I have for the Government Leader is that I am still not satisfied with his answer to the previous question that I asked and I will ask the Minister if he would undertake to review the whole situation of the Fort Smith reorganization. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 053-88(1): Numbers Of Positions In Fort Simpson And Rae-Edzo

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 5, oral questions. That would appear to conclude oral questions for today. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W3-88(1): Canadian-American Institute For Northern Native Languages

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a result of the statement regarding the summer school of the Canadian-American Institute for Northern Native Languages, I would like to ask the Minister of Education the following questions: Will the Minister of Education outline the process by which individuals can apply to participate in the Canadian-American Institute for Northern Native Languages summer program? Also, could the Minister include an outline of the appropriate financial assistance programs that can be utilized by participants in the summer program as outlined by the Minister's statement?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question W4-88(1): Price Of Fuel Oil At Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Resolute Bay are purchasing fuel oil from Brent Horn Crude Oil today. This fuel is much cheaper than the oil coming from the southern markets.

My question is, why are the residents of Resolute Bay paying the same price as before?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question W5-88(1): Gasoline Tax Exemption

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a written question for the Minister of Finance as a result of the statement on the federal budget. Would the Minister of Finance clarify to this House how primary producers, such as hunters and trappers, will be exempted from the additional one cent per litre tax on gasoline? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a letter in answer to the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Ernerk, who asked me about a letter on AIDS in November, 1987.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. You cannot table under returns. Would you intend to table it under the item for tabling?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes, I will table it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Item 9, replies to Budget Address. Mr. Lewis.



ITEM 9: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

Mr. Lewis' Reply

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, under the new rules of the House, we are allowed to use 20 minutes to reply to the Minister of Finance's budget speech. I would ask the House, if I happen to use up my 20 minutes, would they let me have a few more minutes to finish what I have to say?

AN HON. MEMBER: It depends how good the speech is.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying that when you do not have much money you really have to think. When you are rich you do not have to think very much about buying a new pair of shoes, for example, you just go out and you buy them. As the Minister of Finance pointed out when he addressed us on February 12th, he was wearing nearly new shoes because this was only a "nearly new" budget. Most of it had already been developed before he became Minister. I am glad the Minister pointed this out to us.

The previous government, and there are several Members of that government on the other side, dug very deeply into our capital reserve, our savings of \$65 million. Over the next four years, with little room to raise revenue, the government will find it difficult to meet ever-increasing demands for government service. Our population is exploding at several times the national rate. People are living much longer because of improved living conditions that government has brought about and because of major advances in medicine. Disabled people now living in southern Canada are returning home in increasing numbers as the provinces close down their institutions and ask us to handle our own problems. We now have over 800 students in colleges and universities, many of whom will be eager to work during the life of this government. Nearly half of the children born in the Northwest Territories are born to single parents. Without adequate day care, both parents and children are doomed to an existence which threatens the very fabric of our northern society unless we do something about it.

Government's Commitment To Problems Of Youth

The Commissioner committed this government to deal with the problems of youth in his November Opening Address. It was singled out as the major problem facing this 11th Assembly. I had hoped this budget would reflect to some degree the commitment made to the young people of the Northwest Territories.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that the last government had plenty of money in the bank. It did not have to think. It is now time to start thinking. What lies ahead of us, Mr. Speaker, as I have said, is four lean years. This balanced budget sets the proper tone for our Members. We have to start learning to live within our means.

The Minister of Finance no doubt will have many pressure groups telling him to find more money to spend. But I support the balanced budget that he has placed in front of this House. I agree with the Minister that any new taxes will not raise significant amounts of money. The key to our fiscal policy in future must be a careful evaluation of programs and the political will to drop or cut programs that are not working well. In other words, we must make far better use of existing resources that we have and new resources for new sources of money. We cannot simply hold out our hands to the federal government like a bunch of beggars. We need to stimulate the economy. We need to put more people to work and reduce dependency on government for handouts.

I am very pleased to see no growth in the number of person years in this budget. We can no longer expect the government to continue to create jobs just for the sake of creating jobs. We must look to the private sector to create employment and to provide us with new, much-needed revenue, more taxpayers and more consumers.

Although it will be the job of our group, our ajauqtit group, to push government and to make it accountable for its decisions, it will, I hope, be reasonable and will give credit to Ministers when credit is due. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for a good beginning in his new job. We will probably wish to argue with some of the details of this budget, however, but on the whole it shows responsibility and it shows responsiveness to many of the issues raised by Members in November. The relatively small reserve of \$16 million should make all Members in ajauqtit, in the group, realize that we cannot make demands on government without providing some indication of where the money is going to come from.



### No Ongoing System Of Program Evaluation

Since the Minister of Finance has agreed that internal reallocation of funds offers the best solution to financing new initiatives, I would like to remind the Minister that in our standing committee on finance review we found a huge gap in the management of government, which will make this process very difficult. I cannot recall one department of government which had an ongoing system of program evaluation in place. Without such a system, how can internal reallocations take place? How can government decide to drop or cut programs without some kind of ongoing evaluation about the effectiveness of what we do? On Friday, February 12th, just to give one example, we discussed the role of the Ottawa office. Such discussions have gone on for the past 15 years. We simply cannot go on inventing new reasons for the existence of things which may no longer be needed. The Ottawa office represents money which could be used to sustain existing programs and to initiate other ones.

Our young people and our economy have been identified as priorities for the next four years and beyond. For this reason, I find it difficult to understand, for example, why the Minister of Education is proposing selective cuts in the financial aid of post-secondary students. I note that it is only the non-native students who will suffer.

I should point out to the Minister that we have a public system of education in the NWT. My children have gone to the same schools as native children. My daughters, for example, began school in kindergarten in your riding in Iqaluit. Yet, when they proceed to college or university we treat them differently. This budget takes another \$400,000 out of the pockets of non-native students.

These young people are part of the future we talked about last November. They are an important factor in our economy. Compared to this, what does the Ottawa office, what does the Edmonton office, add to our economy? What do they do for young people? Cut those two facilities, save \$400,000 but do not continually cut away at financial aid to students. We are not far away, Mr. Speaker, from the day when this government will have to face many challenges in the courts over its legislation. If these cuts in student aid remain, it is likely this government will get more than petitions from angry students.

### Suggestions For Cut-Backs

I have several other suggestions for the Minister, Mr. Speaker. The standing committee on finance examined a sample of 30 positions which had not been filled for six months or more. If 30 positions can remain empty for that length of time, they are clearly not needed. The federal government has consistently used this criteria for the elimination of positions. One government position costs, on the average, \$100,000 of taxpayers' money when salaries, benefits and all hidden costs are added up. By eliminating the 30 positions identified by the standing committee on finance, the government could save itself three million dollars. The committee believes there are many more than the 30 empty positions which could be eliminated. Even three million dollars could be a good beginning for a day care program. Young people are supposed to be a priority of this government. This would give the very young a very good start.

In tough economic times, one area which is always restrained, Mr. Speaker, is travel. It was therefore with a sense of shock and disbelief that among the details of this budget I found a whopping 48 per cent increase in Executive Council travel. The reason given in the documents is that this reflects historical precedent, an historical use of travel. History is not always a good guide of what is right. A better guide would have been whether that had been effective travel and needed travel.

I would like this House to note, Mr. Speaker, that the intense competition among airlines has introduced a new element in the economy of travel. It is called the frequent flyer program. I am sure the travel industry will be delighted to hear about its impact of this program on the work of our Executive Council. As you may be aware, Mr. Minister, the frequent flyer program is open to abuse. I shall urge our standing committee on finance to undertake a major study of the entire travel budget of the NWT government. Meanwhile, I should remind the Minister that all travel bonuses are taxable. I would hope that the Executive Members would bear this in mind when they set an example, when they set out to fill out their income tax forms.

### Decisions That Could Bankrupt The Future

Mr. Minister, several decisions have been made by this government which could bankrupt the future. Although the GNWT began its mandate in the late 60s with a commitment to strong local government, each community these days seems to want to be a regional centre as well. Government is being spread out all over the place with little regard for the real function of government. We cannot continue to use decentralization as an economic tool to provide community benefits at the expense of good overall services. Government can no longer be the only means of distributing wealth and jobs among competing communities, since I believe it will in the end destroy itself.

Decentralization is very expensive. It creates further dimensions for growth. Each cost centre we establish will continue to grow just as this government has continued to grow. All those capital projects begun last year, when we were so rich and did not have to think, will make heavy demands on our future budget. We have not calculated exactly what those costs will be.

The major flaw in this budget, Mr. Minister, despite the kind things I have said about it, is no fault of the Finance Minister's. It has been created within a government system that has spent little time on the development of policy. The program of spending has emerged from a mishmash of departments, secretariats, agencies, boards and commissions, which have uncertain mandates, inadequate policies and unevaluated programs. In fact, it is a perfect example of the weakness of so-called consensus government, which muddles on from crisis to crisis because it has no set of principles, ideals or policies to guide it. We have yet to see the firm hand of Mr. Patterson, who must take a stand on many issues. He has been given a powerful mandate and we would expect that over the next while there would be a clear look at what this government really stands for.

These are early days yet, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance has made a very good beginning and I believe he has the support of this House in the difficult years ahead. There will be little money to spend.

However, to conclude, Mr. Speaker, since I have not used up my 20 minutes. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, we have insufficient funds and we will have to think hard. Last Friday, although what Mr. Ballantyne said in his budget statement made sense, since we do not have any funds, we will not be able to get new shoes. (Translation ends)

Since I try to speak Inuktitut, it is my commitment over the next four years to do much better and to reflect better, the kind of sentiment that is building in this House. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Item 9, replies to Budget Address.

Item 10, petitions.

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, tabling of documents. Ms Cournoyea.

#### ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will try again. I wish to table Tabled Document 9-88(1), a letter written to Mr. Ernerk, Member for Aivilik, in reply to his Question 020-87(2) given on November 19, 1987 on AIDS.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Tabling of documents. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 10-88(1). This is a letter dated February 2, 1988, to Calm Air from the hamlet council of Coral Harbour. It indicates that planes are not now carrying mail, especially first-class mail, on many occasions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I would like to table Tabled Document 11-88(1), a letter from Pitsiulaaq School in Cape Dorset. This letter was written in January and is addressed to Joe Enook, chairman of the Baffin Divisional Board of Education, with a copy to Mr. Dennis Patterson. I would like the Minister of Education to take a good look at it. Thank you.



MR. SPEAKER: Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): In accordance with Rule 57(10), responses to Petitions 1-87(2), 2-87(2), 3-87(2) and 4-87(2), have been tabled as Tabled Document 12-88(1).

In accordance with section 184(4) of the Elections Act, I wish to table Tabled Documents 13-88(1) to 53-88(1), the election returns and declarations on behalf of Titus Allooloo, Seeana Attagootak, Michael Ballantyne, Wayne Cahill, Mary Carpenter-Lyons, George Cleary, Nellie Cournoyea, Charlie Crow, Roy Desjarlais, Peter Ernerk, Roy Fabian, Henry Ford, Peter Fuglsang, Samuel Gargan, Stephen Kakfwi, Ipeelee Kilabuk, Joseph Lanzon, Brian Lewis, Bobby Takoolik Lyall, Bruce McLaughlin, Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Frieda Martselos, J. Michael Miltenberger, Noel Montagano, Don Morin, Randy Mulder, Richard W. Nerysoo, John Ningark, Tommy Owljoot, Dennis Patterson, Red Pedersen, John Pollard, Ted Richard, Louis A. Sebert, Don Sian, Nick Sibbeston, Don Stewart, Jim Villeneuve, Gordon Wray, James Wah-Shee and Henry Zoe.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 12, tabling of documents. The Chair would like to recognize in the audience His Worship Mayor Randall Pokiak of Tuktoyaktuk and Mr. Eddie Dillon, hamlet councillor and chairman of the local education committee, also from Tuktoyaktuk.

---Applause

Item 13, notices of motion.

Item 14, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 15, motions. Motion 3-88(1), Transfer of Northern Canada Power Commission. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I believe that under the rules of the House I can defer this for another day and if I am able to, then I will defer it. If I am not, then I will carry on.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Yes, you may defer it.

Item 16, first reading of bills.

Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Report of Standing Committee on Finance on the 1988-89 Main Estimates and Bill 1-88(1), Appropriation Act, 1988-89, with Mr. Angottitauruq in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON THE 1988-89 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-88(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1988-89

Bill 1-88(1), Appropriation Act, 1988-89

Department Of Executive

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): The last time you were dealing with general comments on the Executive Council. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses to the committee?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman, if I may.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Proceed, Mr. Minister. For the record would the Minister introduce his witness, please?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me, Mrs. Louise Vertes, deputy minister to cabinet. Ms Janet-Marie Fizer, the finance chief, is on her way and I would ask that she be given permission to appear as a witness when she arrives in the House. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

Costs Of Decentralization

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could, Mr. Chairman, pursue a couple of questions with regard to the issue of decentralization, with the Minister. Firstly, has the government completed an assessment of the costs of decentralization and has this assessment included a review of the advantages or disadvantages on improved program or service delivery with regard to this particular policy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I should make it clear that with regard to the decentralization or reorganization in Fort Smith and also the decentralization that took place in Kitikmeot, Keewatin and Baffin Regions, I believe it is fair to say that the decentralization has actually only just this month been implemented. I know that in the Baffin Region employees were only relocated to Pond Inlet within the last couple of weeks. So, Mr. Chairman, it would be premature to do an evaluation immediately. We want to take some time to fully assess the implications on service delivery and on costs before evaluating whether these changes were effective or not. To answer the Member's question, Mr. Chairman, we do indeed intend to evaluate the effectiveness of those decentralization decisions that were made but it is really going to take us, I think, up to a year to properly assess the costs and effectiveness of those changes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, further to the comments that were made by the Government Leader, were any assessments of costs or costs with regard to decentralization made known to the Executive Council prior to the decision made on both the Kitikmeot and the Keewatin, and also in terms of the decision with regard to Fort Smith? Was there a decision by the Executive Council to whom Rae was to report? Having a working relationship with Yellowknife, to what extent would there be a reduction in person years in the Fort Smith Region to accommodate that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Executive Council did consider forecasts about the financial implications of decentralization. I think I can say that the general intention was that decentralization should not occur at great additional cost to the government but rather what we were attempting to do was redirect growth that was inevitable anyway, away from regional centres, which were already fully taxed as far as housing, land and employment, to other areas where housing, land and available employees might make it easier to establish those departments. So, the general consideration given to costs with decentralization in the regions was that the costs would be no greater than if we had added the necessary government services to that regional centre.

With regard to the Fort Smith reorganization, there was not a net decrease in person years. There were increases in person years as a result of that reorganization. However, in every case it was attempted to provide for those increased person years by reallocating and reorganizing from within existing resources in the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could pursue this, Mr. Chairman, with just a few more questions. In terms of the decision to decentralize other programs, were all regions that were affected required to submit a financial accounting of the costs? Also, did the government do an assessment of the ongoing cost to government when they made the decision to decentralize programs and services?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Evaluation Of Cost Estimates

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Yes, all departments were asked to submit estimates of costs. With respect to decentralization in the regions, and I am not referring to the Fort Smith reorganization which was handled a little bit differently, the estimates showed that



there would be only minor increases in costs. As far as the assessment of whether or not those estimates were, in fact, accurate, as I said earlier, I think that the only fair way of assessing the accuracy of those estimates and the effectiveness of those decisions would be to wait through this coming year in order to take a look at what actual costs were incurred. That evaluation has not yet been done but it will be done in the coming year and I think then we will be in a position to judge whether the forecasts that were made by departments were in fact accurate and realistic. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we have very few Members of the government here, does that mean we could quickly defeat them now?

AN HON. MEMBER: Move a motion.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Friday, I made a number of statements regarding two things. One is the issue of decentralization, when I said something to the effect that decentralization could be a good thing if you bring the power to go with it or if it means that there are going to be more jobs and training opportunities for the local people. But to me it does not seem to make that much sense if it merely means transferring of bodies from one community to another, which is basically what happened in the Keewatin Region. It really means that there is really no more co-ordination between the regional director, regional superintendents and managers. It also means that some of the communities will get fewer visits, say, from Baker Lake to Repulse Bay or Coral Harbour or for that matter, Eskimo Point to Repulse, Chesterfield or Coral Harbour. To me it means a lot of wasted time. Those are the kinds of things that I was trying to bring out during Friday's discussions on the issue of decentralization.

Why can we not take a look at training local people? And I again refer to the government's policy of bringing the jobs to the local people. It is important that we start training the local people so that they could take positions of responsibility and positions of management. It would have been good to start training people from Baker Lake and from Eskimo Point to take on those positions of superintendents and senior managers. And I am talking Inuit. That is the kind of thing I wanted to talk about when we were talking about the issue of decentralization.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to get back to the other issue of releasing information to one group of people prior to releasing information to the Legislative Assembly a little bit later on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

#### Travel Budgets Adjusted

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly have taken note of the Member's comments. Mr. Chairman, I think that it should be made clear first of all that there has been no reduction of travel budgets in the regions associated with decentralization. In fact, it is acknowledged that travel might be slightly more costly because of the locations of some of these new offices in various regions and the travel budgets have been adjusted to take those costs into account. I think it is too early to assume that there will be less attention paid to communities in regions because certain departments are outside the traditional regional centre.

As far as co-ordination is concerned, Mr. Chairman, I think that the reality, at least in my view, is that we expect a regional director to co-ordinate the activities of departments in a region. I think the Member made some strong comments about how important that is. I think that what happened traditionally in Rankin Inlet when the regional director wished to talk to a superintendent of a department, was that the regional director picked up the phone. Now, that is still quite possible in the Keewatin Region except that perhaps rather than calling across town to another office, the regional director will now be dialling "1" before dialling the department's number. So, I think we certainly do continue to stress the importance of communication and co-ordination but a lot of the day-to-day co-ordination occurs by telephone and moving offices to another community need not prejudice that flow of communication.

### Local Hires Resulting From Decentralization

Mr. Chairman, as far as local hires are concerned, again it is a bit early to assess the effect but I would like to agree with the Member entirely that one of the benefits we were hoping to achieve from decentralization in the Keewatin Region and in other regions was to give more native people the opportunity to get employment with our government. I think the feeling has been that all available, good, qualified candidates have got existing jobs with the GNWT in communities like Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay and that by moving various functions of the government to communities like Eskimo Point, Coppermine, Pond Inlet, we would be able to tap a pool of excellent human resources that would be able to take up some of these existing government jobs, too many of which are still going to southern people.

I am happy to say that, although it is very early to tell, we have had some good results. For example, in Pond Inlet, two Inuit have already obtained employment with our government in the Executive position and a Renewable Resources job that opened up as a result of decentralization. In Coppermine, we have several native people working as clerk typists and we have an administrative officer working in the Department of Renewable Resources. Similarly, in Baker Lake, three native people have been given jobs with the Department of Education as a result of this decentralization.

It is important that we provide training positions so that there are management opportunities in association with these new jobs and they are not all clerical jobs. It is certainly our intent to see that those kinds of training positions are offered, for example, with the new jobs that are expected to open up with the Housing Corporation in Kitikmeot and the Keewatin. The Member has given us a good challenge to improve our communication and co-ordination, improve hiring and training of local people and also make sure that proper decision-making authority is transferred as well as the positions. My reading so far, at least for the communities to which departments have moved, is that there has been a very good response; that Coppermine, Pond Inlet, Baker Lake, Iqaluit and Eskimo Point are pleased with the action taken by our government.

As I say, it is still too early to assess the overall effect and I will be interested in receiving ongoing advice from the Member as to whether or not there are drawbacks to this decentralization. But our fundamental goal, which is to improve the access of government to people and improve some of the employment opportunities by spreading those employment opportunities around, shall remain something that we will monitor in the coming year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for telling me the good things that are happening in the NWT as a result of the decentralization. Baker Lake and Eskimo Point may be happy but we in Rankin are not happy. When I talked about the same bodies, I merely meant the fact that we still see the same bodies in terms of senior managers. I am not saying we should kick them out but I think what we have to start doing now is -- using some of the words that have been mentioned by various Members of the Legislative Assembly -- we have to start looking at high school students who are going to be graduating from high schools in the spring of 1988. So that is number one.

### Training For Senior Management Positions

Number two, our objective has to be to take training seriously. I, for one, do not wish to continue to see the people at the community level working as clerks and secretaries. We have to look beyond that. We have been talking about this for many years now. We have to consider the fact that we are going to have high school students graduating every year out of Rankin Inlet and we have to start putting them into training positions alongside the regional superintendents and managers. We have to give them a good training. If it means that we bring them over to Yellowknife, if it means we bring them out of the NWT to take further training, maybe that is something that we have to do in order to give them a good training.

I want to really encourage the government to continue the course that you have taken in terms of placing native people into higher level positions. There are two or three of them in the Keewatin Region who are holding senior management positions. I was very pleased that Tom Sammurtok was taken on as a regional superintendent of Municipal and Cultural Affairs. That is very good. But we have to go beyond that. We have to go further and take a look at other departments.



Some departments are very technical. Some say that you have to be a teacher in order to be able to manage in Education. Some say that you have to be a biologist and wildlife officer in order to be able to manage in Renewable Resources. I disagree with those philosophies. I think what we have to do is to take a look at training in terms of management. I have no training in terms of renewable resource biology but I was a regional superintendent. What you have to do I think, Mr. Chairman, is to take training seriously. Take on the best possible minds. Send them out for various courses across the NWT and if it becomes necessary, take them down south and train them. There are programs available for native people from the NWT to take training courses like that and I think we have got to do that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I can only agree with the honourable Member. I think that is going to be a challenge for our government. As far as numbers of native employees are concerned, we are making progress in the actual numbers in the Department of Executive. In 1985 we had 31 per cent, in 1986 we had 36 per cent and in 1987 we had 42 per cent. However, I do agree with the honourable Member that what counts more than actual numbers is the importance of the positions. It is going to be critical to train managers and people who are decision makers. I am determined to improve substantially on our record in that regard.

One of the challenges, Mr. Chairman, is that we are only now starting to get qualified high school graduates. Perhaps as Minister of Education, I take some responsibility for the failure of native people to have taken full advantage of the opportunity for high school education and post-secondary education. I can only assure the Member that I will make it my goal to do something to improve the success in hiring native people in the Department of Executive to management positions.

As for the impact of decentralization on inspiring young native people to attain jobs, I feel encouraged that thanks to decentralization there are now more senior government jobs visible and apparent to young people in communities from Spence Bay to Coppermine to Pond Inlet. They can actually see that there are opportunities close to home in their own communities that they can obtain.

#### Effect On Rankin Inlet Of Decentralization

I am not sure why the honourable Member suggests that people in Rankin Inlet are dissatisfied with decentralization, Mr. Chairman. As far as the important economic impact of government on communities is concerned, the people of Rankin Inlet should be happy that there was no loss or reduction of the presence of government in that community as a result of decentralization. All decentralization accomplished was to redirect the growth and, in fact, to reduce some of the pressures on land, housing and employment that regional centres such as Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit have experienced. So I hope that the concern is not an economic one, because the government presence in those centres did not decrease as a result of decentralization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Ernerk, do you have any more comments?

MR. ERNERK: I just have one more to make, Mr. Chairman. When I said that the people of Rankin Inlet are not happy, I think what I really meant by that, Mr. Chairman, was -- how many bodies have we lost in Rankin Inlet and what did we do to replace those bodies? Is there something else that is coming into Rankin Inlet from the Government of the NWT, or if not, from other government agencies such as the Government of Canada, taking into consideration the fact that Health and Welfare will be transferring some of their staff to Rankin Inlet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, although there were 32 positions that were reallocated from Rankin Inlet to Eskimo Point and Baker Lake, this same year past there were over 32 new positions established in that community. So the net result was that Rankin Inlet did not lose but, in fact, gained government positions. I understand that, because of housing shortages, there are jobs presently available in Rankin Inlet which simply cannot be filled because we lack the basic housing to provide for those jobs. The growth of positions in the Keewatin Region has simply been redistributed so as not to have such a concentrated impact on one community.



Mr. Chairman, I think that also generally describes the approach that was taken in Iqaluit and in Cambridge Bay. There was a strong growth forecast as a result of the health services transfer and population growth and the government decided that these communities could not take any more growth; that it would be better diverted to other communities so that there would be appropriate benefits available to those communities in employment and economic benefits. So we will be, as I said, evaluating the effectiveness of those decisions in the coming year, Mr. Chairman, but I do not think it is fair to say that there is an erosion of the government presence in any of those regional centres as a result of decentralization. They kept up with their establishment or even gained positions in the year that decentralization was implemented. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Executive Council, general comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

#### No Consistent Rules In Decentralization Policy

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a couple of comments with regard to decentralization again. Firstly, let me say to the Government Leader and to this House, in my raising the questions with regard to cost, financial benefits or economic questions related to decentralization, much of the questioning, I believe, stems out of the fact that there is no clear policy. There are no clear rules that are applied to every region by which we can apply the policy of decentralization, including decentralization from headquarters to the regions. It seems that because of that, the type of information that is requested from particular regions who may suggest that decentralization occur in their region, differs depending on the circumstances. Therefore, no one clearly knows what the rules are. They do not know what the rules are with regard to the business or economic advantages of decentralization.

The rules that apply to utilization of native businesses are not clear. I had conversation recently with an individual, who told me that he was applying the issue of utilizing northern native businesses equally. I pointed out an exception. When it came to community corporations applying to build buildings in order to contract those buildings or rent those buildings to the government in the regions then the rules changed. As long as they were not in the regional centre, the rules changed. They did not apply the same rules to the communities that they were applying in the regional centres. So in that sense it concerns me that there are no clear guidelines. I think that is the point that Members in this House want to raise with the government, that there have to be clear guidelines, there have to be clear rules and there has to be some method by which those rules apply equally to all regions.

The other point is that the decisions of the government have to be made public and have to be made clear so that we can justify the decisions of government to the community and to the region and so we know why government made the decisions they did in decentralization. I think that is very, very important in any decisions we make in this House or for that matter, the type of support we give to the government. I just wanted to make that very clear to our Leader. I do not think people are opposed to the idea of decentralization, but there have to be certain rules and those rules have to be applied equally and fairly to all regions, not depending on whether or not you are on the Executive Council, or whether or not you have more influence with the Executive Council. The rules have to apply equally.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

#### Testing A New Approach

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Member's comments. I think I should be open and say that the initiatives of decentralization, which were aimed at regions where there was a clear, strong growth, even more growth than we felt the regional centres could handle, could be called a testing of a new approach. We need to assess the success of that approach in meeting the goals of improved employment and improved services. I think that the government organization policy, which does exist and which does have principles which are aimed at bringing programs close to home wherever possible, balancing community benefits with efficiency, will have to be refined as a result of our experience with decentralization. There is, no doubt, a need to clarify where we go next and how our experience might be applied in other communities.

As for the policy for giving preference to native corporations or local corporations, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Wray tabled a document in November which laid out options for improved approaches on local benefits and northern benefits. I think we can do a lot better to clarify our policy and improve our policy in contracting so that northern companies and northern native companies can have the benefit of public money being spent in their communities.



The tender documents that we use tend to specify, I believe, when local involvement and local employment is a criterion and is a paramount criterion. I do not think it is correct to say that no one knows what the present rules are, but I do agree with the Member that the present rules can be strengthened and enhanced so that we give benefits to the priorities that our government has identified; community businesses, native-owned businesses. That is the purpose, that is the reason Mr. Wray tabled that document. It contains a number of options for strengthening our approach. Our government will be giving serious consideration to applying those options so we can do an even better job and perhaps clarify opportunities that the Member is referring to. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): We have got Mr. Zoe on the line but we believe the soup is getting cold so we might as well come back to Mr. Zoe's questions or comments right after coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

Mr. Zoe, general comments.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Executive department, I have a few general comments to make. I will be asking further questions once we get into the details of the Executive. On the issue of decentralization, I would like to be specific on the Fort Smith Region, if I can. I would like to tell the Minister I agreed with the government when the Minister indicated that to decentralize would bring the government closer to the communities. On top of that, the local economies of the area service office will benefit from the increase in government presence. Residents of those communities and the communities they service will also benefit from more responsive, more accessible and more efficient program deliveries.

Now, in the case of Fort Smith decentralization, it appears to me that the person that was charged with developing this plan to be implemented sort of overlooked the other two area service offices. From Tabled Document 6-88(1), the PYs that are going to various area service offices indicates to me that about 90 per cent of the PYs being transferred from the Fort Smith Region, or new positions created, are totally going to only one service office and that happens to be Fort Simpson.

I requested the Minister to review that whole plan to see if he can make sure that the other two area service offices have equal distribution of the number of PYs from the Fort Smith Region. Can I ask the Minister to elaborate a little further on the decentralization of Fort Smith area? I am a little confused because in the tabled document he referred to, saying this is the plan, he gave us the organizational charts of various departments and the three area service offices, but the reporting relationship does not really connect. Could the Minister elaborate on the Fort Smith decentralization issue, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

#### Review Of Effectiveness

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I can only repeat what I said before, that this reorganization has just been implemented. I am quite prepared and, in fact, have already directed that there be a review of its effectiveness, to ensure that there are no problems. I recognize that some of the reporting relationships may well have to be reviewed, and I am quite open to reconsidering how it was set up, once we have a little bit of experience with the new system operating.

If the Member finds that Tabled Document 5-88(1) is unclear or fragmented, I would be happy to attempt to present an overall picture of the region. I realize that the organizational charts presented are by department and that by looking at each organizational chart it is not possible to get a picture of the whole regional organization. I think in connection with this review that I have agreed to, we would want to take a look at the whole region and see how things fit and see how things are working.

As I say, Mr. Chairman, I would welcome the Member's advice on where there might be problems or inequities and we are quite prepared to fine tune this reorganization to make sure that it works properly. It is just now, only in the last couple of weeks, finally in place, and I think we should test it and see how it is working before we assume that it is a failure. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Is the Minister indicating that he will have a review once all these positions are all in place? Are you going to put a halt to this implementation plan and review the plan itself? What are his intentions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the plan has just been implemented. I do not think there is anything left to stop. It has finally been completely implemented. I have directed that now that positions have been transferred and filled, we should begin immediately to assess its effectiveness. So beginning immediately, we will be taking a look at whether the system is working the way it is intended to work and how it might be improved, and I certainly will pay attention to equity between area service centres. I certainly will want to ensure that the people in the Rae area are getting the same access to government programs as people in the other areas. I am open to considering adjustments if our review determines that adjustments should be made. As I say, I welcome the Member's comments on what might be missing in his area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can ask the Minister, he indicated that the positions that were transferred are all going to be filled. The 18.5 positions are supposed to be completed in 1987-88. The Minister agreed to a review, but would he do the review before the additional five PYs are transferred to the Fort Simpson area, those slated for 1988-89?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

#### Positions To Be Implemented In 1988-89

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated, I have directed that a review of what is in place already be undertaken. As for the remaining positions to be transferred, I believe there are five, including the filling of a co-ordinator position in Rae. We do have to wait until April 1st before those positions can be filled. So I am quite open to reviewing those positions before they are implemented. The review I have asked to be undertaken should be completed before April 1st, so we will be in a position, then, to review the plan as far as those other five positions are concerned, before they are actually established and staffed. I will make that undertaking to the Member, that we will review those positions, as well as the ones that have already been put in place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Executive Council, general comments. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment. I believe what Peter Ernerk said just a while ago, that the managerial positions should be taught to the native people. When I was a Member of this Legislature before, I saw quite a few of the managerial positions being taken by the native people and taught to the native people, but I have not seen this since then. I mentioned when I was an MLA then, at least if you cannot put them in the managerial positions, you can put them as assistant managers. So I am not very clear on that right now. I think we all know that in the regions native people are getting government jobs all the time but I know that in my community there has not been a person co-ordinating government offices for quite some time. A lot of native people, Inuit people, are taking over positions, not just in my community but in the other communities as well.

#### Training For Native Managers

I think those native people that are put in those management positions have a great knowledge of the operations of the day-to-day government programs and I would like to see more of this being implemented. I have seen this a long time ago, that Inuit people were looking after the Inuit people, when the federal government was still in the communities. I feel that if you give more training to the native people, they could fill the positions of the management in the communities. I feel that, knowing their community, they could do a better job in the operation of the community. I feel that there should be more of this kind of training being done in the regions. The people in the communities are all Inuit people or native people and they should have Inuit managers, with more training by the government for native people as managers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.



HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I agree entirely with the Member. I would like to point out that this is a priority of this government. I am pleased to inform the Member that in the Baffin Region, there is a management development program which is producing qualified middle managers for this government. To date, two managers at the assistant superintendent level have been hired as a result of this program. The assistant superintendent of Municipal and Community Affairs and the assistant superintendent of Personnel are Inuit. The superintendent of Culture and Communications is an Inuk and additional graduates from that program will be available in the coming year. As well, Mr. Chairman, there is a public and business administration program at the Arctic College which is available to encourage people from the Eastern Arctic to obtain management positions. That program, although it is new, should soon produce graduates who can take over some of these responsibilities. I think that it is realistic to expect that within the next number of years we will have at the assistant superintendent and superintendent level native people taking over these positions who have been educated at the Arctic College or through the management development program. I thank the Member for his support. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Kilabuk.

#### Appreciation Of Work Of Hamlet Councils

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, just a supplementary to my comments. I have seen in many instances that in the communities, the hamlets have Inuit mayors. Their secretary manager is also native. There is quite a lot of money spent in the operation of hamlet councils and a lot of time the work that they are doing does not seem to be recognized by the government, especially their ability to run a community. Sometimes I am very concerned that these are persons in positions of responsibility and these people and the work that they are doing nowadays should be appreciated.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully refer that question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I see the Minister indicated he will give Mr. Kilabuk a reply. If the Minister would like to answer now, he might as well. Thank you.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would certainly agree with Mr. Kilabuk. Being a former hamlet section manager myself and a former settlement manager and a former mayor, I could not agree more with Mr. Kilabuk that the running of the communities at the community level is probably one of the most difficult jobs that exists in the NWT. He has my complete agreement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. I think I had Mr. Ernerk down as the next person to make general comments. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take it that we are finished with the discussion of decentralization. If we are, Mr. Chairman, my statements on page 136 of the Hansard report deserve an answer; deserve at least some kind of a reaction from the Government Leader, as well as Members of the Executive Council, with regard to having a policy for one group of people with regard to releasing information before information is released to the Legislative Assembly. I do not want to repeat myself. I do not think it is necessary to repeat myself. I want to know from the Government Leader what his thoughts are, what his policies are with regard to releasing information to one group of people in Iqaluit and to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I have not heard a reaction from the Government Leader since Friday. I was the last speaker when we adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Friday afternoon.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I was saved by the bell on Friday and I should not expect to be spared from answering that question. Mr. Chairman, this is an area which I agree needs clarification. I would just like to explain that on my part, as I have done generally for the past eight years or so, I have a public meeting in my constituency prior to the session, to obtain advice and direction for the forthcoming session of the Assembly. People in my constituency, knowing this was a budget session, were very interested to know what was going on and what was planned in my constituency in the coming year.

Capital Projects Had Been Advertised

I had met earlier with representatives of the local education authority and the housing authority in Iqaluit, and I had found out that they already knew about capital projects that had been planned in education and housing for the coming year. Perhaps that is no surprise because the government had given advance notice to the construction industry, as has been the practice, that, subject to the Legislative Assembly approval, which I think was clearly stated in the advertisement, certain projects would go ahead in my constituency and in many others in the coming year. Because last year was a planning year for a facility for young offenders in my community, it was also no secret that such a facility was being planned for construction in the coming year. I did reveal those plans to my constituents at that meeting, Mr. Chairman, without naming the amounts. I would like to emphasize that this was the first time I had ever discussed these projects publicly. That was just the week before this session occurred. I considered that it was not inappropriate because those projects either had been in the newspaper or were well-known in the community because of the planning process.

I do acknowledge, Mr. Chairman, that this is an area where there is uncertainty and confusion. I do not believe that Ministers should have different rules than other MLAs do as far as advance notice to their constituents of construction projects in the budget. I do agree with the Minister of Finance that there should be a kind of protocol worked out between the standing committee on finance and the government so that this kind of confusion and this kind of advance notice, which is not uncommon in my experience, would not happen again. I think there should be clarification of how we are going to deal with the realities of the planning process and the tight construction deadlines that are imposed on us. I take the Member's comments as being advice that this should be corrected well in advance of our next budget cycle. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Executive Council, general comments? Mr. Nerysoo. Excuse me, Mr. Nerysoo. I did not recognize that Mr. Ernerk was not finished. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: I give the floor through you, Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Nerysoo.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Nerysoo.

Decentralization And Economic Benefits

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask, in terms of the policy with regard to decentralization, is the issue of economic opportunities or benefits part of that consideration? And in terms of Mr. Wray's review of contractual arrangements, is that also an item that is going to be a part of the discussion relating to decentralization and new policy regarding that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would answer yes to the Member's question. Perhaps I could just add a little bit and say that in looking at our infrastructure requirements in new communities or in communities where new programs were to be established, the government was able, through its Department of Economic Development, to provide certain opportunities for the leasing of office space and housing to local entrepreneurs. I think it is going to be extremely important that in reviewing the effectiveness of our decentralization program we assess all impacts, including those kinds of economic impacts, and look at how we can profit from that experience so that as we refine our policy we can consider applying that experience in other regions where growth might occur. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I recommend to the Government Leader that he also consider that particular review in the context of economic benefits on a regional basis as well, in the regional centres, not only in smaller communities, but regionally? And that he review whether or not the rules are being applied equally and fairly to all those, either native development corporations or community corporations, that are located in the regions and whether or not they are being treated fairly and whether or not these organizations are also being informed of the various opportunities that might be made available to them; that the rules are not changing and that negotiations are not occurring without their having any knowledge that there are certain requirements on the part of government that can be contracted to them?



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I appreciate the Member's advice and I am quite sure we can follow it in reviewing this whole question of decentralization and our contracting policies. Thank you. It has been noted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Could I ask the Government Leader: Is the Government Leader going to be considering a process by which policies can be somehow introduced into the Assembly for debate? I am referring to public policy as opposed to administrative policies. Sometimes we have a tendency of getting the two mixed up. I am more concerned about the political direction of government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

Cabinet Document To Provide Broad Policy Direction

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must say that I am a little bit concerned that the front page story in the local newspaper this week suggests that there is a policy vacuum in the Government of the NWT. I would like to assure the Legislature that, as was stated in the Commissioner's Opening Address, our government will be tabling shortly a cabinet document which will provide just the kind of broad policy direction that I think the Member is referring to and perhaps the press would like to see. It is based on our Snare Rapids strategy session and will set out new directions which I trust will assure the House that there is a course that we are planning to set which will be a basis for comment and hopefully support from the Legislature.

The directions will also lay the basis for our cabinet in considering the status of departmental mandates, roles and objectives. Work to support that review is already under way. I might indicate to the Member that we are just waiting for translation of this document and I expect that a week from today it should be tabled in the House and provide something for the press and this Legislature to see which will indicate that there is a course and there is a plan and precisely what our priorities and policies will be in the next four years and beyond. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

Responsibilities Of Priorities And Planning Secretariat

MR. NERYSOO: I hope that does not preclude amendment or suggestion on the part of Members of this House with regard to that particular direction. You did not mention that; I just wanted to raise it. Further, Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Government Leader: Is there also going to be change in terms of the responsibilities of the priorities and planning secretariat? Is there consideration for that? Again I am raising that particular issue because there is some confusion as to what types of policies are being developed by that particular group. I have always assumed that one of the responsibilities is that it be political. It is an organization that is responsible for developing the political priorities and political policies of government and we have a tendency of getting involved in administrative type policies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to state clearly that the prime policy-making body in this government is the cabinet, which operates on direction from the Legislative Assembly. The priorities and planning secretariat is simply a tool for implementing cabinet direction. They are directed by cabinet to assess and revise policies and, on occasion, to develop policies. But I would like to make it very clear, Mr. Chairman, that the priorities and planning secretariat is a servant of the cabinet and they do not develop policies unless they are directed to do so by the cabinet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: I was not intending to suggest that they develop priorities or policies on their own; I just thought that in terms of the process there seemed to be some confusion sometimes as to what was being developed. I know that at one time each department had their own policy individuals

developing policy and we tried to amalgamate them. But in fact I am encouraging the government to strengthen the role, the mandate of the Executive Council, in terms of political direction, and not get bogged down in administrative type policies. That is generally the reason I raised the issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Minister, are you going to comment on what Mr. Nerysoo just raised?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I accept the Member's advice and that indeed is the way we want to approach it. I think department policies should only be based on cabinet and ministerial direction. The Priorities and Planning Secretariat assists departments but it also provides independent assessment for the cabinet of departmental policies and their effectiveness and advises cabinet independently so that we can maintain political control over policy making at all levels of government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. General comments. If there are no further general comments, does the committee agree that we go into details of the budget?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Commissioner's Office Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We are dealing with the 1988-89 main estimates in your blue books. Page 2.10, Commissioner's Office, total O and M, \$284,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Commissioner is absent from his seat across the floor today, as he was on Friday, when I knew he was attending the opening of the Olympic Games for this House and for this Government. But I would like to have the Government Leader indicate what the new role of the Commissioner is. Under the Northwest Territories Act, as the Government Leader is so obviously aware, he has the responsibility for the administration of the Government of the NWT. I could find the specific reference if it were required, but I am sure the Leader knows the reference off by heart. I would like to know whether the Commissioner has now been assigned to making speeches and cutting ribbons.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that the principal responsibilities of the Commissioner are set out in the Northwest Territories Act and they are major responsibilities. Basically, the Commissioner is responsible for the administration of government, the convening of sessions of the Legislature, the exercise through Commissioner in Council -- that is, with the Legislature -- of legislative powers. He is responsible for laying the territorial accounts before the Legislature and there are other duties outlined in territorial legislation, including major responsibilities regarding elections, the administering of oaths to MLAs, etc.

Mr. Chairman, the legal status of the Commissioner has not changed, but I think it is important to note that, I think with the full co-operation of the Commissioner, he has gradually and, some might say, dramatically deferred to elected Members in exercising even those legal powers. I think that the recent step, taken under Mr. Sibbeston's administration and implemented just this past month, of having the Commissioner's office moved from the Executive floor of the Laing Building to a separate office in another building, is an indication of the distance that is developing between the elected Ministers in the cabinet and the Commissioner's Office. While the Commissioner is still legally responsible for the administration of government according to the Northwest Territories Act, I think with the full knowledge and concurrence of the Minister of Indian Affairs as well, as I mentioned, the Commissioner has, in the interests of developing responsible government, stepped back from that role.

I would like to point out that there still is very good communication between, for example, the Minister of Finance and the Commissioner on financial matters and between myself and the Commissioner on Executive decision making. But the relationship is becoming more the relationship that I think a prime minister would enjoy with a lieutenant-governor; that is, seeking advice and counsel and meeting regularly to provide information, but leaving the day-to-day administration of the government up to the elected officials.



Legislative Recognition Of Changes Considered

So, in my view, Mr. Chairman, even though the law has not yet been changed to reflect the new reality, de facto the Commissioner is moving toward a lieutenant-governor role. And I can tell the Members that the new cabinet has given consideration to formalizing those changes through legislation at the appropriate time and we are very cautiously and carefully considering how we might prepare for legislative recognition of changes that have evolved and emerged over the years.

I think ultimately consideration will have to be given to amending the Northwest Territories Act, just as we have amended a number of our territorial acts, to replace "Commissioner" with "Minister". We will eventually be considering appropriate amendments to the Northwest Territories Act. We do not want to rush into such changes. They are going to require very careful consultation with the federal government and, of course, with this Legislature. But I think it will become necessary, with the new de facto role, to eventually give it legal recognition. I hope that answers the Member's question. Thank you.

Commissioner's Office, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Commissioner's Office, total O and M, \$284,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Ministers' Offices, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Ministers' Offices. Total O and M. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask the Minister, on the large increase on the O and M section of Ministers' Offices -- I believe that the large increase is due to the travel increase. If I am correct, can the Minister elaborate on the increase in the Ministers' Offices? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, although there are increases in the travel area to reflect very careful historical analysis of trends in this area, I would like to remind the Member that in fact we have identified these increases by reallocations and savings from within; that in fact the total Executive budget is decreasing. We have reallocated to avoid overspending in this area, because that has been the trend in the past three years. The Ministers' travel has been overspent consistently by amounts approaching or in excess of \$200,000. This is a pattern that I think is a reflection of the establishment of ministerial government and the increasing responsibilities of Ministers, both in the Territories and nationally. We decided that rather than continuing to budget less money than is actually spent, we should recognize historical trends and budget the proper amount. Of the \$300,000 that has been added to ministerial travel, \$250,000 is actually new money and \$50,000 has been reallocated from other activities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Ministers' Offices. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, could I ask through you to the Minister if he could table to this committee, the historical pattern that he is referring to on the travel for the Ministers' Offices, the trend that has been occurring in the last few years? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to provide that information. I did give it to the standing committee on finance but I would be happy to provide that information and I will circulate an analysis of the past three years' budgeted amounts and deficit expenditures immediately. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Ministers' Offices. Total O and M. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, did the Government Leader indicate that the matter of the Highway Transport and Public Utilities Boards would be dealt with by the Ministers concerned or could he take a question on those items?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the questions should be directed to the Ministers, but they should be asked now. Mrs. Marie-Jewell is prepared to answer questions on the Highway Transport Board, I am sure. Is it further down on the list? I am sorry she is not prepared to answer questions today on that. Pardon me. The Women's Secretariat, the Highway Transport Board and the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, although they come under the Executive budget, report to different Ministers. I believe they are prepared to respond according to the schedule that has been circulated. Pardon me. Thank you.

MR. BUTTERS: Then on a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that this budget item cannot be closed until the debate I referred to is concluded. We can return to this item and then conclude it after the questions I wish to ask on the Highway Transport Board and the Public Utilities Board have been put and answered.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Ministers' Offices, Total 0 And M, Deferred

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters, I understand that is the procedure and we will come back and deal with the Ministers' Offices later at the appropriate time. If you have any further questions under Ministers' Offices, now they can be asked. This item is deferred.

---Agreed

Executive Council Secretariat, Total 0 And M, Agreed

Executive Council Secretariat. Total 0 and M, \$2,163,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat is deferred until the appropriate time. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Audit Bureau, Total 0 and M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Audit bureau, total 0 and M, \$1,435,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I wonder whether the Government Leader is considering assigning the reporting relationship of this particular function to another Minister, particularly the Minister of Finance, and whether the advantages of such a move have been given consideration by the government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, this is a matter that has been identified as something that should be discussed as we consider the reorganization of government, which I indicated would be the priority of the cabinet following this session. To answer the Member's question, I do intend to review the reporting relationship of this bureau and one option clearly is to bring it under the authority of the Minister of Finance. I think there are some advantages to having it report to the Government Leader but I am open to a different relationship in the context of that review. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Audit bureau. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I realize Mr. Pollard is not here so I would like to raise a question on the audit bureau on behalf of Mr. Pollard. During our meetings of the standing committee on finance our committee had concern with the travel budget for the audit bureau. If the government



intends to reduce the travel then the audit bureau's ability to fulfil its mandate would be minimal. We felt that the Minister should reconsider cutting this particular program, but it does not reflect in the total expenditure of the audit bureau. Can the Minister elaborate a little on this for me? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am certainly open to constructive criticism of the kind provided by the standing committee on finance in their review of our main estimates in the Executive area. Since appearing before the standing committee, I have looked at the situation and although the 1988-89 internal audit work plan is not complete, it does appear, from our review of the likely call for travel and contract funds, that the reduction noted by the standing committee on finance could well result in some internal audits not being completed. There are chartered accountants now in place in communities like Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit and Inuvik which will reduce the travel requirement somewhat, but we still expect that there may well be a shortage of travel funds or contract funds. Therefore I have instructed my staff, and I will make this commitment, that once the audit work plan has been completed, an interactivity transfer submission to the FMB will be prepared. I will consider proposing that between \$20,000 and \$50,000, depending on the requirements of the work plan, be transferred from the Ministers' activity to the audit bureau to ensure that the activities of the bureau are not hamstrung by lack of funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Audit Bureau, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Audit bureau, total O and M, \$1,435,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Regional Operations, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Regional operations, total O and M, \$3,607,000. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, once again, during our standing committee on finance meeting, Members asked the Minister for an explanation of the new organizational structure and the Minister indicated that he will be providing us with a copy of the revised structure. Was that the Tabled Document 5-88(1) or 6-88(1) that you tabled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Zoe is referring to the Fort Smith reorganization, Tabled Documents 5-88(1) and 6-88(1) are the information provided to the standing committee on finance, yes.

Regional Operations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Regional operations, total O and M, \$3,607,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat, deferred. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Priorities And Planning Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Priorities and Planning Secretariat, total O and M, \$548,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, there has been much said by this government about the development of policies and the amendment of policies. Will the Priorities and Planning Secretariat, as presently constituted, be able to address the demand that has been identified by a number of Members?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, we expect that the secretariat will be able to meet the work requirement since they operate on direction from cabinet. We will be able to thereby control the workload and make sure that it is not greater than the resources that are available in that secretariat. I can tell you that they have worked extremely hard, since the new cabinet has been in office, on new directions which we will be tabling, but we are confident that once the new directions are laid out the ongoing work can be handled adequately by the secretariat. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Priorities and Planning Secretariat, total 0 and M, \$548,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Women's Secretariat is deferred. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Office Of Devolution, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Office of Devolution, total 0 and M, \$218,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Detail of grants and contributions. Executive Council Secretariat. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman. Could I request of this committee to defer the details of grants and contributions? The grants and contributions deals with the appropriate secretariat that we have not dealt with yet. Would the Chair defer this particular item?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Executive Council Secretariat, deferred. Agreed? Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I have no difficulty with deferring the grants and contributions of the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat and the Women's Secretariat, but could I ask that the vote for the Executive Council grants program be dealt with since I am responsible for that? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Executive Council Secretariat, total, \$399,000. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, although part of the total grants and contributions includes Executive Council Secretariat, would the committee agree that we defer the whole total grants and contributions at this time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): What is the committee's wish? Does the committee wish to defer Executive Council or deal with the Executive Council Secretariat only? Does this committee agree in dealing with Executive Council Secretariat?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed



Executive Council Secretariat, Total Grants, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Executive Council Secretariat, total grants, \$399,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): The rest of the items are deferred. Workers' Compensation Board, deferred. Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. What is the committee's wish? Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Deferred?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): That completes the O and M on the Executive. We are now going to the capital. Page 2.07. It appears that detail of capital is not translated so we will have a 15 minute break. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Members of ajauqtit could meet for a few minutes in the caucus room.

---SHORT RECESS

Executive Council Secretariat

Capital, Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We are dealing with the capital for the Executive department. Total buildings and works, headquarters, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Total department, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): That concludes the Executive department. We will return to the Executive once we have dealt with the other secretariats. I would like to thank the Government Leader and his witnesses. Thank you.

Department Of Personnel

The committee has the Department of Personnel next on the list. Does the Minister responsible for Personnel have any opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the O and M and capital estimates for the Department of Personnel. The department has been extremely busy in dealing with the basic needs of the people who transferred to us on April 1st, 1987, from the federal government. Specifically we had to ensure that all job offers that had been made to each of the individuals contained the equivalent salary and benefit package they enjoyed with the federal government. We made sure that their salaries were correct and they received the related benefits. We achieved that with existing staff and no additional resources.

The department has also spent a considerable amount of its energy and resources on the Northern Canada Power Commission takeover and in the Health transfer. Until the 11th Assembly approved our supplementary appropriation at the November 1987 session, the work was once again done with the existing staff and resources. Naturally such shifting of tasks within the department has been traded off for those things it should be doing normally.

Added to our activities with the transfers of programs and the crown agencies, the department commenced and successfully concluded two collective agreements with its two bargaining units, the Union of Northern Workers or the NWT Public Service Association and the NWT Teachers' Association. Given the task of reaching agreement during difficult times, namely a territorial election, etc., this is a tribute to those involved in the negotiating process. It is a process that demands a great deal of attention and effort to detail which was accomplished with the assigned staff and chief negotiator.

Aside from the administration of the benefits aspect of the collective agreements, the department's main functional areas are staffing, classification and labour relations. Staffing essentially is matching people with jobs for which they must be qualified. Classification is evaluating those jobs and placing them in appropriate categories for which we have agreed to pay them a relevant salary. During last year we staffed 1278 positions for which we received 15,239 applications. We interviewed 3366 people and 352 native people were appointed to the public service. Classification actions are symptomatic of changing organization. In that respect we carried out 816 and 1001 evaluations on existing positions and new positions respectively during 1987, for a total of 1817 evaluations. Given that the number of positions approximate 4458, this represents a 40.7 per cent change of all positions within the Government of the NWT.

Labour relations activities deal primarily with the interpretation and administration of the collective agreement. Within the agreements, dispute resolution plays a vital role and requires a considerable amount of our time to investigate and recommend appropriate solutions to the affected parties. In this regard there were 101 grievances at third level; seven cases were settled at third level, 81 cases advanced to arbitration and 13 are still outstanding. The reallocation of resources within the department is intended to further support the reorganization effort that took place last year. That effort mainly focussed on the segmentation of the operational aspects of the department with its program and policy development.

We are proposing to establish a section within the headquarters to address policy and planning activities. The work we have carried out on information systems of the department in conjunction with other departments will provide us with options to address our employee data base requirements all of which are crucial and fundamental to the effective long-term planning of our human resources.

#### Utilizing Northern Services

In light of the significance we have placed on every department doing its part to address economic issues of the North, the department is going to be revamping its financial information reports in a more effective way to monitor our efforts in utilizing northern services. For example, we will be providing information on the amount of funds we spend on advertising by region in the North and in the South. We will also be identifying on a regular basis the funds we expend on removals from the South to the North and vice versa.

We are going to be expending a great deal of effort reviewing, analysing and developing action plans to address our classification and staffing systems. In light of the pressures being placed upon us by our employees, their representative associations and Canadian Human Rights legislation, we are strengthening our classification section by internal reallocation. In our staffing area, we are in the final stages of developing a policy on security checks of employees. The results of a contracted marketing strategy should be completed which will assist in recruitment of not only the right people but also concentrate on developing operational directives aimed at our residents in the smaller communities outside of the regional and headquarters centres.

The department has been expending much of its efforts on reviewing its human resource information system and are confident that we will have in place in the coming year an action plan to address this item. Career counselling and pathing, employee assistance and employee orientation programs are uppermost in the department's plans for the coming year.



The NWTTA has ratified their agreement for 1987-88 and we will be again negotiating with them in the very near future. The department in conjunction with other departments will participate in reviewing our staff housing policies and practices over the next year. In light of the known critical housing shortages in the majority of our communities this particular activity is very crucial and dear to our employees. Our department will also be preparing a decision paper on the feasibility of the management of its own pension plan. In other words, we are interested in repatriating the pension from the federal government to ourselves. The department will continue to monitor and support the delivery arm of its services which are our regional operations. We are continuing with our efforts to bring our newest operational office in Fort Simpson up to speed with the more established offices.

In summary, the proposed 1988-89 main estimates for the Department of Personnel, \$21.810 million represents an increase of .6 per cent over the 1987-88 revised budget. Person years increased by 4.5 from 84.2 to 88.7 or 5.3 per cent. One of the major items contributing to the increase was the transfer of funding from the federal government for the young offenders program. The department received a base adjustment of \$232,000 to cover personnel costs associated with the program takeover as well as one infrastructure person year. In response to Executive direction, a base reduction of \$490,000 was identified which will result in cutbacks in recruitment as well as other personnel services. Two new person years have been allocated to the department from assistant deputy minister and secretary positions to enhance a directive division. The proposed 1988-89 capital estimates of \$1.163 million represent a decrease of \$4.456 million from the 1987-88 budget of \$5.619 million. This decrease is a result of the decline of staff house construction, no new units are to be constructed in 1988-89. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lewis, as deputy chairman of the standing committee on finance, do you have any comments?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the standing committee on finance examined the Department of Personnel, the major concern we had was about having a Department of Personnel that was the responsibility of a politically appointed individual and the fact that we can no longer depend upon the independent judgment that used to exist when that responsibility rested with the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. So my first question is: What progress has been made about the development of a public service commission? I will be raising several questions like this as I proceed and maybe other Members will pick them up as we go along.

There was a time, some time ago, Mr. Chairman, when communities may not have been pleased about a particular appointment. I can recall, for example, one school principal getting off a plane on arriving in a small community. The chief looked at this new principal and said in his own language, "Put him back on the plane. We do not want him. He has no hair." What he really meant was "We do not want an old stager, we want some young guy," because the last guy who had been there had been very young and worked really, really hard and was very responsive to the community. So the chief thought maybe this person would be an old stager and perhaps would not be as responsive as this young man had been. So that is a concern that we have. In that particular instance, the chief eventually came to appreciate this man, that he was a good man. The first appearance was a bad impression and when that man had been there for six or seven months he was pleased with what had happened. Yet his first reaction was, "Chuck him back on the plane, we do not want him."

If we are going to have tremendous political impact upon the hiring of people because they are too tall or too short or they have the wrong kind of hair or the wrong sex or the wrong race or the wrong religion, then we are going to have problems within the public service to establish what the Minister has called "a permanent high calibre and representative public service". There has to be some better criteria than simply, "Well, I do not like that guy. I do not like the look of him; or I do not like the look of her; or he has been around too long; or he does not look right." So that is a concern that many people have about the growth of the public service. We discussed that at length in our committee.



### Lack Of Policies

The other concern we had was about the whole issue of policy. We had been aware that at one time the Department of Personnel had a book, so thick, which contained all the personnel policies of government. We wondered whether anybody really knew what was in it because there was so much in there, and nobody knew who had approved anything, who had agreed that these were good policies or not, or whether they just got added to every year so that by the time we got to 1988 we really do not know what the policies of this government really are as they relate to the personnel who work for us. Some of them may be just very small procedural things but there should be some overall policy that governs the staffing and the maintenance of a permanent high calibre and representative public service. It is the opinion of the committee that that does not exist. We just do not have a clear overall policy approved by our Executive Council.

As one example of that, and this occurred in many departments, everybody brings up from department to department the existence of an affirmative action program within the department which they pointed at proudly as an achievement. Yet when we pursued the Department of Personnel we were told that the government does not have an affirmative action policy; what it has is a native employment policy. Yet every department has somebody responsible for the implementation of a policy that does not exist. However, Mr. Wray did assure us that there was an affirmative action policy that was being worked on. So the concern we had is: How come we have all these programs and accountabilities for a policy which, although it is being worked on, still does not exist?

### Inconsistencies In Classifications

When we examined the whole issue of classification there were tremendous concerns both about the inconsistencies, the internal inconsistencies, within different classifications within the public service where there seemed to have been no real concern about how one related to the other. There were historical reasons for this but also concerns because some people who are called "senior" people and who are on our Hay Plan, in fact, make less money than people that they supervise and have responsibility for. The Hay Plan, as we looked at it, is something which was a good idea maybe 12 years ago, has developed over a period of time but has never really been implemented. In fact, I know that many, or most of the senior people in government really never knew on what basis anything was happening, as far as their compensation was concerned, because they were never told. They were just simply told one day, "Well, this is what is going to happen." But there was no system where everybody knew what the rules were or what the score was or what has to be done to make this better or that better. It was simply a fait accompli. At the end of the year you were just told this. That was a common concern among many of the staff. So, when we examined the whole business of classification, we felt there was a real need to look at the total classification of the government; not just the people within the contracts but also those people who are excluded from those contracts.

One of the issues that we also examined and had some concern about was the fact that within this department, which is responsible for hiring and retaining and getting good productivity out of staff through some kind of evaluation system, that there was such a system in place but it will be some time really before we can really examine the effectiveness of it. However, we noticed that within this department, there were 11 vacant positions. Now you recall this afternoon when we were kicking off the reply to the Budget Address, we noticed that even in our sample, and the standing committee did not look at all the vacant positions in government, even in our sample we found just 30 vacant positions that had been empty for six months or more, and within this one department, there were 11 vacant positions. So the question that came to the mind of the committee was, "Well, is this because we cannot keep people or is it because we cannot get people? Is it because we cannot attract the people to do the work that we want done or is it because we have got rid of people and that is the problem?" We saw that as a concern also within the Department of Personnel. But it has a mandate which is very unclear and it does not seem to be able to meet its commitments and its mandate through its own allocation of staff.

As far as housing was concerned, we noted last summer that many staff who had previously been in staff housing were concerned because there were changes in policy. Again it was unclear where these policy decisions were as far as the housing of territorial staff. There was some commitment made in November to, in fact, look at that staff housing policy, at least to review it and to maybe examine it in greater detail at a later date. Overall, that is an introduction to the SCOF review of the Department of Personnel but there are many, many questions which I am sure will come up during the next couple of days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the Minister wish to bring in a few witnesses before we get into general comments?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree to let the Minister's witnesses appear before us? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Minister, before you comment on the SCOF concerns, would you kindly introduce your witness?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I introduce Mr. Heron, I should indicate that you did catch us a little bit by surprise when you deferred so much of the Executive and some of my staff already took off. They will be here tomorrow but I do have Mr. Heron, the deputy minister of Personnel, with me. Tomorrow I will have somebody on the finance and administration side. So we will try to accommodate you for the next half hour.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister, am I correct, your staff does not work after 5:00 p.m.? General comments? Are there any general comments? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Does it mean that nobody is interested in talking about this very important issue? In light of so many empty seats, including the Government Leader, the Ministers and so on?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We have six more Ministers here.

---Laughter

Affirmative Action, Equal Employment And Bonuses For Inuktitut Speaking Employees

MR. ERNERK: Where are they? Hiding? Oh, I am sorry. I am apologizing for you. Mr. Chairman, first of all, it would really be nice to have a copy of the affirmative action plan for the GNWT, department by department, region by region, if there is such a policy with regard to that issue. It would also be good to see a copy of the equal employment directorate objectives before I really get into the discussion of these things because I would like to be able to touch upon various items, training being one of the big issues that I wish to talk about and term positions within the GNWT, as a recommendation to the GNWT.

The other issue within this department that I would really like to discuss is the introduction of these bonuses for Inuktitut-speaking employees within the GNWT and Government of Canada corporations such as CBC, NCPC and other corporations that are up here. I want to go beyond that issue and talk about other native languages that are in the NWT, where people speaking native languages receive bonuses as incentives. So I want to discuss those things from that point of view.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Ernerk, before you continue can I ask that with regard to all the requests that you have made so far, if the Minister could answer that portion of it before we get into the other issues. Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be more than pleased to have a discussion with the Member about the various issues. However, equal employment directorate is a separate activity from the Department of Personnel; it is not a part of the Department of Personnel. Equal employment directorate will be coming up later on in the budget debate, I believe. With regard to in-service training, that is the responsibility of the Department of Education, not the Department of Personnel. However, the issue of the bilingual employees is an issue for the Department of Personnel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister, if I am reading Mr. Ernerk correctly, I think he is just requesting that the objectives of the equal employment directorate be available because it relates to your department. I wonder if that particular request would be accommodated for my colleague, Mr. Ernerk?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, we have an affirmative action plan we can make available.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Are there comments? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I will wait until I get copies of those things. I am going to wait until I get my copies with regard to the issue of bonuses for civil servants speaking native languages. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Do you have anything further to add, Mr. Minister?

HON. GORDON WRAY: I am a little bit confused. What information is being requested in terms of bonuses to native employees?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Ernerk, if you could elaborate on your request.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were some resolutions passed by various native organizations such as the Keewatin Inuit Association, such as the leadership summit that was held in Rankin Inlet two to three weeks ago, in which a resolution was passed by the leadership summit indicating that Inuktitut-speaking employees of the GNWT should receive bonuses. Not only the employees of the GNWT but that this should be extended to the other government agencies, to the Government of Canada corporations such as I mentioned earlier, CBC and NCPC, and so on and so on. A number of years ago, and I am not sure whether it is still in existence, the French-speaking people in the Government of Canada civil service used to receive bonuses for having the ability to speak French. This is the kind of thing that we were talking about during the summit, that it should be introduced to government employees and corporation employees, so that it is an incentive on the part of those native people to want to work with the GNWT, the Government of Canada, and various other government agencies. That is the purpose of the resolution that I brought with me from that leadership summit in Rankin Inlet and I wanted to wait until I get a copy of it. It is just out in the hallway there, or in the lounge, and copies should be distributed to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. It clearly states exactly what the leadership summit recommended to governments and corporations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

#### Positions Requiring A Native Language As A Condition Of Employment

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am familiar with the resolution that was passed just three weeks ago. I guess, unfortunately, the leadership convention were not aware this is something we have been working on for about five and a half months now. As it stands, and we cannot speak for the Government of Canada or private interests, they will have to make their own decisions, but as the GNWT, we do recognize both through a contractual arrangement and in terms of actual cash, the fact that when a native language is required for the purpose of employment, we will pay a bonus. And when I say we do it, we only do it for one sector of our public service at this point in time, which is the classroom assistants under the NWTTA agreement. We pay them a bonus for their use of Inuktitut in the classrooms. However, that is essentially because they have to utilize that language as part of their job. The issue is not so much one of paying people a bonus for speaking a native language but more one of paying people a bonus where, as a government, we require that native language as part of a condition of employment. When you put it in that context, the issue is vastly more complex than it may seem at first.

Since October, we have been undertaking a review of all 4900 positions on a position by position basis attempting to, first of all, figure out exactly what positions would require a bilingual person. This is not related solely to Inuktitut; we also have to take into account Dogrib, Slavey, Loucheux, Chip, whatever language is used in a particular area. That task alone of reviewing all 4900 positions is an extremely difficult one, given that we are also attempting to review our entire classification system as well as the whole issue of pay equity which is all related to the conditions of employment and all related to job description and all related to qualifications needed to perform a certain job. Once we do that, which will probably take the best part of at least another two years by the time we review close to 5000 positions, then we have to face the prospect of -- and unlike the federal civil service for example, who actually have centres where if you are required to be bilingual in a certain position, you can go to a language centre or a school and learn that language, whether it be English or whether it be French. As part of that whole process, there is an assessment done on your capability in speaking that language and your bonus is



according to your qualifications in that language. In other words, if you just speak the language, there is a certain bonus. If you can read and write the language in addition to that, there is another bonus. So the bonus is not all-inclusive. The bonus is entirely dependent on your comprehension of whatever language is required of you.

#### Bilingual Training Facilities

At present in the NWT, we do not have such facilities. If we say or designated, for example, that nurses' positions in the NWT should be bilingual; if, for example, at the end of a review of the 5000 positions we said that as part or a condition of the job, a nurse's position or a social worker's position or whatever position, should be bilingual, then obviously we are faced with an immediate problem inasmuch as people would say, "Well, if that is it, fine, then we want to go to school either to learn English or whatever native language is appropriate for that area." We do not have such facilities in place at this point in time in the NWT. So that is another issue that we have to deal with.

The third issue which is by no means a small issue, is the cost of such a program. Initial indications are that, for example, if we said out of at present about 4500 to 4600 positions, that approximately 2000 of those positions should be bilingual in some form or another and we were to pay a minimal bonus of \$1900 to \$2000 per employee, then you are looking at costs of between four or six million dollars right off the top. So that is another factor that will have to be taken into account.

However, the government is very serious about this issue and, as I say, quite a bit of work has been done over the last five and a half months to at least address or bring together all of the various options and problems that will be associated with implementing this type of regime within a civil service and then it will have to come to the cabinet. But if I were to say that it would happen tomorrow -- I could not say that. The way things are going with the various transfers and demands without any additional resources, it is going to take at least two to three years to figure it all out. What has to be understood is that when the government talks about paying a bonus for bilingual employees, the bonus is very much related to whether or not that language is used as a condition of employment -- not so much your ability to speak the language, but in fact do you have to use that language as part of your job and if so, should we be paying a bonus. So it is an issue we are very well aware of, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Ernerk.

#### Government Making The Idea Too Complex

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that is why I, in the last two to three years, have been fighting for the recognition of the Inuktitut language as the official language of the NWT; so you do not have all those problems that the Minister has just explained. It seems to me what seems to be a simple reason has come out to sound like a very complex, frustrating issue and I do not think it should be. I think when we talk about providing bonuses for Inuktitut-speaking employees of the government we simply mean those people who speak Inuktitut. Obviously, firstly, we are talking about the native people in both the Central and Eastern Arctic as well as the Western Arctic because there is a lot of Inuvialuit who speak and work in the government offices. I think it is a very simple issue. I think it is actually a very simple issue that is becoming or seems to be becoming a very complex matter. Every Inuk who works in the government civil service, whether it is the GNWT or Government of Canada or other corporations and government agencies such as the CBC in the Eastern Arctic, all speak Inuktitut. These are the kind of people that we are talking about, that we think should be receiving bonuses for having the ability to speak Inuktitut. Then you want to be able to extend that to other people, other kabloona or non-Inuit in the East. So, I feel strongly about this because I also understand what the Minister is indicating to us. They cannot tell the Government of Canada what to do, or other corporations, but if this government takes the initiative and I think it would take the lead, then I think the Government of Canada and other agencies would be able to follow suit.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Minister.



Fair And Equitable Treatment For All Government Employees

HON. GORDON WRAY: I guess this is where the basic disagreement comes. I disagree that we should be paying people simply because they have an ability to speak an official language of the NWT. The previous speaker to Mr. Ernerk talked about fair and equitable treatment to all government employees and what I am saying is that I think, yes, the government recognizes that people who have to use a language in the performance of their job should be paid a bonus but not simply paid a bonus just because they have an ability to speak a language. There are many native people in the civil service in Yellowknife, for example, who never deal with the public in any way, shape or form. Is the Member suggesting that because they have an ability to speak a native language that we should simply give them a bonus even though they are never going to use that language in the performance of their duties?

For us, the issue is a complex one because in order to be fair, in order to be equitable, what this government has to do is establish, once and for all, which positions within the government are bilingual or trilingual or whatever, but for which positions within this government, a native language or English indeed is required to perform their job. That is the issue. Once we have determined those positions then, in fact, it helps to enhance the employment of native people because obviously then native people at least have one advantage in securing a job and that is that they meet at least one of the essential qualifications of the jobs, which is the ability to speak a native language.

So I think the issue is a very complex one and is not as simple as it is made out to be, because not only is Inuktitut an official language but many of the Dene languages are also official languages and they have to be treated equally along with Inuktitut. So the issue is a complex one and I think the bottom line, where the Member and I can agree, is that there should be some form of compensation to people who have that extra ability, because I think that is as much a qualification as a university degree or whatever we require in the way of qualifications. I think the ability to speak a native language, particularly in a program where you are dealing with native people, is one of the top qualifications that we can ask for. But no, simply to pay people because they have the ability, to me, is not the way to go. We pay people to use that ability in the performance of their jobs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. General comments. Any further general comments? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess there is a major difference between the Minister and myself in terms of our thinking. A lot of the things I am trying to say to you, that are coming in my Inuit head, were agreed to with Inuit mayors and leaders in the Keewatin Region. I think that is where part of the problem is. You have introduced to me so many problems and I think it is very simple. I have introduced to you a simple thing, a simple recommendation which could be undertaken -- and I do not think it takes two to three years to discuss the matter -- where the Inuktitut language is used, mostly in the arctic coastal communities. If there has been some work done with regard to this matter, Mr. Chairman, is it fair to request possible terms of reference of what has been done in the past five months from the Minister, so that we know? He knows what I am talking about and I know what he is talking about.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Everything is fair in the South. Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. We can provide an update on what has taken place. On the other point, I hope that it is not being suggested, because it came out in the Keewatin, that it is a simple issue. I talked to the very same mayors who do not see it as a simple issue. What they are saying is that what the resolution was and what they meant were two different things, because the people I talked to -- and I am sure I have talked to as many people as Mr. Ernerk has in the Keewatin -- are saying that people who use a native language in their job should get a bonus. They are not saying that people should get a carte blanche bonus just because they can speak Inuktitut. What they are saying is that if they have to use it as part of their job, then they should be paid for that. That is what the issue is and I think that is what the real issue is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chair will now recognize the clock and report progress. I would like to thank the Minister and his witness for appearing before us. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come to order. Mr. Zoe.



ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON THE 1988-89 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-88(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1988-89

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on the 1988-89 Main Estimates and also Bill 1-88(1).

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Is there a seconder to that motion? Thank you, Mr. Butters. All those in favour of the motion? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a caucus meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. and a meeting of the ordinary Members' committee immediately after the caucus meeting.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 16th.

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

18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Report of Standing Committee on Finance on the 1988-89 Main Estimates; Bill 1-88(1)

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., February 16th.

---ADJOURNMENT



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