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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1988

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 16th. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 9-88(1): Case Of Sibbeston Versus Attorney General Of Canada

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you will no doubt have followed with interest the challenge to the Meech Lake Accord which has been launched in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. On January 29th this year, the Court of Appeal of the Northwest Territories handed down a decision in the case of "Sibbeston versus the Attorney General of Canada" which resulted in the striking out of the petition upon which the case of the people and the Government of the Northwest Territories was based.

Mr. Speaker, I now wish to advise that the cabinet has decided to support an appeal of this case to the Supreme Court of Canada. We believe that the issues involved in this case are crucial to the constitutional and political development of the Northwest Territories for the foreseeable future. We are determined to pursue every legal avenue open to us to resolve this matter to our satisfaction.

Through political channels, we shall seek every chance to make Canadians aware of the unfair treatment of the NWT and the Yukon in the Meech Lake Accord signed by the First Ministers in the summer of 1987. Members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly will be appearing at public hearings on the Meech Lake Accord which are to be held in the provinces. Stephen Kakfwi and Ted Richard have travelled to Toronto this week to make a presentation to the Ontario committee on constitutional reform. We expect there will also be hearings in Manitoba, New Brunswick and possibly Newfoundland.

If we are to be successful in overturning those provisions of the Meech Lake Accord which are repugnant to the NWT, we must make our case forcefully in every forum available to us. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 10-88(1): Student Travel And Exchange Funds Allocated

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before this current school year is finished, student groups from across the NWT plan to travel to several destinations, to Russia and Great Britain and to the Winter Olympics in Calgary. The Department of Education's student travel and exchange fund is providing grants to assist students to make these trips.

Every student group that applied for funding will receive some assistance. In all, 16 territorial schools have been awarded grants through the program. Student groups from Hay River, Eskimo Point, Igloolik, Rankin Inlet, Pangnirtung, Snowdrift, Trout Lake, Iqaluit, Chesterfield Inlet and Fort Providence, along with four Yellowknife schools, have all received funding from the student travel and exchange fund.

Demand for the program is high and resources are limited. During this period of awards, prime consideration was given to student groups that did not receive funding last year. Along with considering whether groups had received support last year, applications are evaluated on the educational value of the proposed trip, the destination, the fund-raising efforts of students and their parents' contributions.

The ceiling on grants is \$3000 or 25 per cent of each application's total travel budget, whichever is less. In all, more than \$25,000 has been awarded to the 16 schools. Grants are allocated on a semi-annual basis. The current awards are for student travel planned for the first six months of 1988. Thank you.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Marketing Of Fur Products

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the fur issue, and especially the recent decision in Britain to require the labelling of all fur garments caught with steel leg-hold traps, I appreciate the GNWT's position but I wonder if enough is being done or the full extent of the problem is understood.

In Frankfurt I observed polar bear hides selling for as much as \$20,000 American; the hunter usually gets between \$500 to \$800 for a small skin; clear fur between \$2000 and \$3000, but not all bearskins are such good quality. According to European fur dealers, prices have been increasing despite the anti-fur movement. These higher prices have not reached hunters and trappers in the NWT, where the price for fox, for example, is still about \$20 for white fox at the Vancouver fur auction.

I know from discussions with many people in Europe that there is support for the native way of life and respect for all native traditions including hunting and trapping. What the hunters and trappers of the North clearly need at this time is assistance to a new approach for marketing their products. If the middleman of the business can be eliminated and the harvesters of furs can deal directly with European buyers, they will do much better than they are doing now. Thank you.

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

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

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I did not finish my statement yesterday because my two minutes were up, so I have one more paragraph to give you.

Although the Commissioner ably represented all residents of the NWT at the opening of the Olympic Games, the decision not to send a Member of the Executive Council to Calgary represented a continuing boycott by the government of this Olympic Games.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: A total distortion.

MR. LEWIS: My constituents resented this decision and do not believe the government has represented the wishes of the northern people in this matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Item 3, Members' statements. Point of privilege. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I just wish to rise on a point of privilege to inform the House that the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre in characterizing the question of whether or not the Government of the Northwest Territories is adequately represented at the opening of the Winter Olympics by the Head of State, the Commissioner, and his wife, as a boycott by this government of the Olympics is talking total balderdash and I would like to make it clear that the policy of this government is indeed not to boycott the Olympics. We support the Olympics. We supported the Member for Inuvik's motion...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, that is not a point of privilege. That is something you may raise in debate but it is not a point of your privileges as an MLA.

Item 3, Members' statements.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 054-88(1): Input From House On Fur Labelling Issue

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources and is further to my Member's statement earlier regarding the fur issue. The Minister has said that all decisions will be passed on to the Legislative Assembly and that we will be advised. Is this another way of saying that the ordinary Members have no input into decisions that are made? Does the Executive not wish to hear suggestions from the House? Are recommendations from ajauqtit going to have any value at all?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 054-88(1): Input From House On Fur Labelling Issue

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could assure the Minister of...

---Laughter

---Applause

...I can assure the honourable Member that the full Legislature will have full input on our initiatives to block this initiative by the British government. To date, I have instructed my deputy minister to go overseas to London to represent us to the British government and to meet with Mr. Alan Clark, who is a junior Minister who is putting this legislation forward in the House. When Mr. Jim Bourque goes over, he will be going with Mr. Georges Erasmus, chairman of Indigenous Survival International, and also the chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Canada. These gentlemen will meet the Trade Minister, Mr. Clark, in his office on Thursday afternoon. Also several hundred copies of my department's publication, "This Land is Our Life", will be taken to Britain for distribution to all interested parties, including members of the press. Mr. Speaker, a major press conference is planned for Friday morning in London and in that our Mr. Bourque will play a major role in bringing our message to the opposition in Britain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Ernerk.

Supplementary To Question 054-88(1): Input From House On Fur Labelling Issue

MR. ERNERK: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Are there any Inuit representatives being invited on this trip overseas?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 054-88(1): Input From House On Fur Labelling Issue

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, not at this point. This is a first step of sending our representatives to Britain. My information is that there is going to be an ongoing effort by not only NWT, but all the Canadian provinces and there might be a meeting put on by the federal government and all provincial legislatures that have an interest in this area. Also, my information is that the British government may be rethinking their position on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions, Item 5. Mr. Zoe.

Question 055-88(1): Literacy Education For Adults

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. If I recall rightly, Mr. Speaker, last year this issue was brought up by my colleague, Mr. Sam Gargan, the issue of low level academic upgrading for adults in the Territories. I would like to ask the Minister what the government has done so far in this area. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 055-88(1): Literacy Education For Adults

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, low level academic upgrading or literacy education has been funded by the federal government until last year, at which point funding ceased. CEIC will not provide training allowances for literacy education for adults anywhere in the country except for language training for immigrants. This has meant that for the first time literacy programs have been cancelled in the past year, even though we have the highest rate of English illiteracy in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I have taken some initiatives to try to deal with this problem. We have submitted a proposal to the Secretary of State to cost share a number of short-term initiatives including the establishment of a literacy council for the NWT, pilot projects to deliver literacy education courses through a non-government organization such as an LEA, and other proposals. We have also been working with CEIC and for the first time, this year they are prepared to target up to 15 communities for job entry. That would be indirect funding. These projects could include course work as 50 per cent of the projects but they would have to be related to job training. That could solve some of the problem that Members were concerned about last year.

At the same time I am working on a long-term literacy strategy and I am considering options for improving literacy programs in the long term, but it is still at the development stage, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 055-88(1): Literacy Education For Adults

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Mr. Speaker, if I hear the Minister correctly, what is the government doing in the meantime, on a temporary basis? Although he mentioned they are in a development stage, what happens to the adults who are willing to upgrade themselves at this time? In his reply it did not seem that he covered my concern. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 055-88(1): Literacy Education For Adults

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are certainly ready to help adults who wish to upgrade themselves. We have 44 adult educators in communities in the NWT and those adult educators have been instructed to make themselves available and assist people who wish to obtain their assistance in obtaining academic upgrading. So there is quite an extensive network of services available to students in most of the larger communities in the NWT. I think there were some students who visited this Legislature yesterday, who are attending upgrading at the Tree of Peace in Yellowknife, which is funded by this department to the tune of \$185,000 per year for two instructors for precisely that purpose. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that these students will no

longer get the generous funding that used to be provided by CEIC for them to obtain this upgrading. The service is available, but some students are finding that the allowances provided through social assistance or otherwise are inadequate. There is no easy solution to that problem, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 056-88(1): Conflict Of Interest Guidelines For GNWT Employees

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader with regard to the conflict of interest guidelines, Tabled Document 4-88(1). This particular document relates to Members of the Legislative Assembly and also affects the Executive. Could I ask the Minister whether there are conflict of interest guidelines regarding government employees at the moment?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question 056-88(1): Conflict Of Interest Guidelines For GNWT Employees

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are guidelines respecting conflict of interest regarding employees of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 057-88(1): Review Of Allowances For Students

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, if I could ask a question of the Minister responsible for Social Services. In Mr. Patterson's reply he indicated that various agencies are contributing to the funding of adult upgrading programs. Regarding the allowance section of the upgrading, I would like to ask the Minister if she would undertake to review the concerns that were raised by various bodies of students in the Territories regarding the allowances that they received from her department. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question 057-88(1): Review Of Allowances For Students

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to assure the honourable Member that, as a result of our Snare Lake strategy, it was a decision of this government that the two departments work together in regard to addressing the identified problem the honourable Member has spoken about. At the same time I would like to assure him that the department does relate to individuals in need under the social assistance program identified by this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Gargan.

Question 058-88(1): Tabling Of Conflict Of Interest Guidelines

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government Leader if he might be able to provide me with the conflict of interest guidelines for government employees since I feel that an employee of this government is in conflict when he is the chairman of the local education authority. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question 058-88(1): Tabling Of Conflict Of Interest Guidelines

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will table the guidelines respecting conflict of interest as they apply to employees with this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.



Question 059-88(1): Transfer Of National Parks

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not too certain which Minister I should direct my question to. I had asked about national parks, in the November session and when the responsibility for these parks will be transferred to the territorial government. He was going to look into this. Perhaps he has more information up to now. If he can respond to my question I would appreciate it very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Which Minister would like to handle this? Mr. Sibbeston.

Return To Question 059-88(1): Transfer Of National Parks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I can tell the Member that the matter of national parks in Canada is one that the federal government is responsible for and it is a matter that they are very jealous about and I do not think it is a program that the federal government would ever transfer to our government. There are a number of national parks in the North, one is in Nahanni and one is in Baffin, and the federal government is very involved in the management and running of these parks. National parks is a matter that, as I said, the federal government has control over and I am not aware of any plans for them to transfer that program to our government and in the interim our government has not taken any initiatives or made any move to take them over.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Kilabuk.

Supplementary To Question 059-88(1): Transfer Of National Parks

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question. Now I have the response that this has not been pursued. Will you try and negotiate this, especially in Baffin Region? We have parks and I would want to see the territorial government gradually getting more responsibility for the parks since I feel that we can be responsible for the parks and these can create jobs for the Inuit. Perhaps sometime in the future you might consider trying to get the responsibility of the parks in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 059-88(1): Transfer Of National Parks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's advice in this regard. The national parks program is one that the federal government manages throughout all of Canada, through all the provinces. There are numerous parks. I would guess that there are over 100 national parks throughout Canada and the federal government manages and controls these parks in all of the provinces. I know it is a program that the federal government handles and considers its own jurisdiction and responsibility to handle and whereas I sympathize with the Member in his comments and suggestions that our government perhaps could do a better job with respect to training and jobs and so forth that come from these parks, I have to be very truthful and state to him that I do not think the federal government would even consider transferring the national parks to our government. But I appreciate the Member's comments and advice in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Kilabuk, is that a supplementary?

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, supplementary question. I know there are some responsibilities and programs being transferred to the territorial government, like energy, NCPC and health services, which are in the process of being transferred to territorial government. This issue that I am talking about, if it can be transferred, could create some jobs for the NWT residents. I would encourage the territorial government to get more responsibility for the parks.

MR. SPEAKER: ...question please, not debate.

The Chair would like to recognize in the gallery, Dave Nickerson, MP for the Western Arctic and former colleague in this House.

---Applause

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 060-88(1): Arctic Marine Conservation Strategy

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Could the Minister reindicate whether or not he will be making a statement with regard to the proposed federal government strategy for arctic marine conservation?

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker. I will take the question under advice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You have taken the question as notice. Item 5, oral questions. This would appear to conclude oral questions for the day. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W6-88(1): Input Into Strategy For Arctic Marine Conservation

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a supplementary question to my oral question, in written form to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Could the Minister outline the process for input into the proposed federal government strategy for arctic marine conservation? Would he also outline the role of the Department of Renewable Resources? Further, could the Minister indicate how ordinary Members of this Legislative Assembly will be consulted and involved in the development of the details of the strategy.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo, for that written question. Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, replies to Budget Address.

Item 10, petitions.

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents: Tabled Document 54-88(1), the news release dated January 15th, with regard to proposed strategy for arctic marine conservation; Tabled Document 55-88(1), document on discussion paper highlights on Canadian arctic marine conservation strategy; and Tabled Document 56-88(1), Arctic Marine Conservation Strategy, a discussion paper submitted by Tom Siddon.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Zoe. Point of privilege.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, after sitting here for a number of days now, I would like to rise on a point of privilege. Mr. Speaker, I feel that I am not able to carry out my responsibilities as a Member when I am unable to see the Ministers' faces or eyes when I am asking a question. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you could consider moving my chair so that I can see the Ministers' faces and eyes. Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. NERYSOO: I will tell you now, it is not a very good view.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe, for your point. I will take it into consideration. We are on Item 12, tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motion.

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

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion 3-88(1), Died On The Order Paper

Motion 3-88(1), Transfer of Northern Canada Power Commission. Mr. Lewis. Item 15, motions. This is the second calling of this motion. It will be dropped from the order paper.

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; Bill 1-88(1), Appropriation Act, 1988-89, with Mr. Gargan 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 1988-89 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-88(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1988-89

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order.

Department Of Personnel

We are on the Department of Personnel. Does the Minister wish to make opening remarks or bring in any witnesses?

HON. GORDON WRAY: I made my opening remarks yesterday, Mr. Chairman, if I could just proceed to bring in witnesses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister, you may bring in your witnesses. Mr. Ernerk, general comments.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, in light of the discussions that the Minister of Personnel and I had late yesterday afternoon with regard to this issue of bonuses for Inuktitut-speaking civil servants, at this time I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he would agree in principle that there must be a language bonus. Would he be willing to report back to this House with his recommendations for our consideration either by the spring session or the fall session? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An unequivocal "yes" to both those points, Mr. Chairman, and I would respectfully submit that it would be the fall as opposed to the spring. I will undertake to bring back a report for the committee in the fall.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): General comments. Department of Personnel. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to echo the report of the standing committee on finance in regard to the issues and concerns that they have raised. One of the concerns that was raised in that particular report was the Hay Plan. I wonder if the Minister could tell our committee here if they will do a thorough review of the Hay Plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we essentially agree with the committee's comments on the Hay Plan and the classification system and a major review is planned over the next few months on both of those issues.

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

Lack Of Trade Certification

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question regarding the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories. Exactly how are the northerners treated that have been working with the government for a long time? Do they usually quit at a certain year of their employment or is the government not happy with employing the native people? Although there are a lot of people from the Northwest Territories, the Department of Personnel or the GNWT usually bring people from the southern provinces to employ them in the GNWT in the Northwest Territories. Is it because the native people do not have the trades or certificates in order to be employed with the GNWT? I have seen a lot of people who do not have any trade or any certificate who work in the government and other agencies.

As you know, Mr. Minister, we made a water reservoir outside of Pangnirtung and there were not a lot of people who had a certificate or trade who worked on that water reservoir near Pangnirtung. I would like to tell you that when the inside of the reservoir had to be done, people from the South with trades came in to do the work for us but they did not do a good job. But it would have been done properly by the people of the North without any certificates or trades. The person that was trying to work on it was sick most of the time. I talked to you about this.

Mr. Minister, what are your thoughts about the people of the North, who do not have any trade or certificates, working for the Government of the NWT? Can you tell me whether you could only hire people or people could only work properly when they have a trade or certificate? I was asked by a GNWT employee why the people who are working as janitors in the school are not given a certificate for lengthy service in the GNWT, although they have been working for a long time. Why are they not given a certificate or some kind of a diploma according to the length of service they have worked in the GNWT? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Formal Qualifications Dwelt Upon

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of issues that Mr. Kilabuk has raised. I will try to address each one. I think that I would essentially agree that perhaps in the past there has been too much dwelling upon formal qualifications. In other words, you need a certificate or you need this or that. I think it really depends on the type of job that you are talking about. I think that there still is a requirement in jobs like nurses, engineers and architects, for formal qualifications. However, for the types of jobs that Mr. Kilabuk is referring to, jobs like plumbers, carpenters and heavy equipment operators, I have always felt that you did not particularly need to have a certificate to be proficient in those particular trades. I know many and have hired many people in my own business, who had no certificates but who were probably as good heavy equipment operators or mechanics as any that you would find.

But I do think there has been too much dwelling on formal qualifications. Because of this, in January of this year I directed the Department of Personnel that in future all job advertisements now put out by the department will contain the clause that relevant experience will be considered. If we do not put that in, then it is almost mandatory that you have these formal qualifications and I consider relevant experience as valuable, sometimes, as a university degree or formal qualifications. So, I would agree with him on that point.

Lack Of Higher Education A Problem

In terms of the numbers of native people in the civil service, the Member knows this government has been attempting to correct this serious deficiency over the last two or three years. One of the problems that we must admit to quite frankly is that the lack of education, particularly the higher education, university level and even grades 11 or 12, has caused us serious problems in attempting to recruit native people for the civil service. There are certain jobs that we can undertake to fill through affirmative action and through training programs but, quite frankly, you cannot hire a nurse or an engineer or an architect through an affirmative action program. You cannot take somebody who has a grade seven or a grade eight and turn them into an engineer. There is a requirement for higher education for a certain level of job within the civil service and until we can get people going into university or completing high school, I would say that our success rate

is going to be somewhat limited and tied very much to the graduation out of the high schools and the successful completion of post-secondary education. So, that is another whole problem. But I think the will is there, certainly the desire on behalf of the government, and I think, this Legislature, to do that.

In terms of long-term employees, people like school janitors or to any long-term employees, we do award certificates of service. They are called long service awards and certificates are presented to employees, I think it is for five years, 10 years, 15, 20 and 25 years of service. There usually is a little ceremony and these certificates are awarded to people. So we do have that kind of system in place. Thank you.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for giving us a brief report. I do not think you should consider just the janitors; you should also consider the other employees who have been working on the same job for a number of years. They should be given some kind of diploma or certificate. You should consider these, too. I just wanted to say this while you are at the table. Thank you very much.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: I apologize if I did not make myself clear, Mr. Chairman; I only used janitors in reference to Mr. Kilabuk's question but I should make it clear all employees of the government get these certificates, these long-service certificates. All employees are entitled to them.

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

#### Time Frame For Hiring Employees

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under general comments I want to raise an issue. I have a concern in regard to the manner in which Personnel recruits various members of the civil service. The time frame that they are hired in seems to be such a long time frame. If I recollect rightly I believe it takes in the neighbourhood of five to eight months to recruit a person. I am quite concerned with the problem that is occurring with the Department of Personnel, not only at the headquarters but also at the regional centres. I have a lot of concern, especially when my constituents are suffering from this problem because of the number of positions that have to be filled in my area and have not been filled. There is a lot of concern in general for the whole Territories. I understand that the other Members have this particular concern. Can I ask the Minister if he could elaborate a little on this particular problem? Thank you.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very difficult question to answer because it depends so much on an individual and a case-by-case basis. As a rule of thumb within the department, we try to fill all vacancies within a six to eight week period. But I will admit that there are times that it has stretched out to four and five months, depending upon the circumstances. For example, we may go to competition. We find that of the people applying, there is nobody really qualified to interview, so we will have to go back out to competition and then we get some names and have to organize interviews. They usually have jobs that they are going to resign from and we have to arrange for housing, we have to arrange for a whole bunch of things and it can take five to six months. But it really depends on the individual case. We try to do it, as I say, within a six to an eight week period, as a rule of thumb.

I think the Member should be aware that the resources that the department has available to it are extremely limited, particularly in Personnel. In southern Canada, among the provincial jurisdictions, the rule of thumb is usually about one personnel officer to 69 employees. In the Northwest Territories we are averaging one personnel officer to about 500 employees and so that has caused some fairly severe problems simply because of a lack of resources. Thank you.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could direct, first, one compliment to the department, in particular with regard to a successful program of affirmative action as it relates to native people. Without the commitment of the government I think it would be very difficult; so my compliments to your department and to the government for pursuing that direction.

#### Recruitment Of Northern Graduates From Post-Secondary Institutions

However, I do have a couple of concerns -- if I could direct my concern to the Minister of Education and to yourself -- with regard to the recruitment of students who graduate from post-secondary institutions. We have an excellent program of providing summer employment to students but where our failing comes is recruiting students who have pursued higher education and have graduated. They have a very difficult time finding employment in our government, very difficult.

I would ask that the government consider reviewing this particular issue with the intention of providing a better program for students from the North, native and non-native, who have been born and raised and have gone to school in the North, to be employed in our government, especially after they have completed their formal education. I do not necessarily say that we have been completely failing in that area but it seems that we just, at times, allow graduates to drift and do not really have any idea of whether or not this government has a policy that takes into consideration those individuals.

In terms of assessing the program, I would hope that our government could also consider tracking these students from the point where they enter the post-secondary institutions to the time they graduate. I will point to one particular profession and that is teaching. Many of the students who are now in education and will receive teachers' certificates will not have completed their formal education until the end of April, or for that matter possibly the end of June and maybe even into the summer. The reality is that the positions for teaching are now out for advertisement and by the end of this month or next month, those competitions may have been closed. So it does not give an opportunity for those students now in those programs to find employment in the North. A lot of it has to do with the fact that they have to be certified but I am without any doubt that they will be certified as soon as they show their graduating certificates. That is just one profession but it also applies to a number of other professions.

In Economic Development, where we have people who are in business administration, we have positions that are available but we do not seem to know whether or not we have individuals to fit those types of positions. That applies to a number of other areas. I know that there are many other problems that may restrict our ability to recruit these individuals, of which one is experience, but we cannot tell our students, the young people, that they should have experience when we do not give them that opportunity.

So I would ask our government if they could consider doing a review of the manner in which we recruit graduates of post-secondary institutions and, secondly, to consider a program of tracking students who are in southern institutions or in our Arctic College program, who might in fact be able to fit within the public service of the NWT. It is just a matter of recommendations but it is also an issue that I thought I should raise now despite the fact that it also deals with education and the teaching positions. I thought that we should become aware of that and deal with it very constructively as opposed to allowing it just to hang and students to hang in limbo and not know what our commitments are with regard to employment.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am always open to good advice and I think that I just received some. One comment I would make, I guess, in support of Mr. Nerysoo is that I think one of our failings is not only that we are not aggressive in pursuing students in post-secondary institutions but also, I think, that we have to back up and start students at the grade seven and grade eight levels because that is where it will be determined, depending on the courses they take, what type of academic education they are going to have and what type of courses they will be able to enter at university. So I think we have to do much more in terms of career orientation at an earlier level with our high school and junior high school students as well as pursuing and tracking the people in the post-secondary institutions. So I can certainly undertake to have a look at some of the recommendations that Mr. Nerysoo has given us. Thank you.

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

#### Requirement For Certificate Or Diploma

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think I fully understood Mr. Kilabuk's question. I do not think I really understood when he was talking about certificates or diplomas. I wonder if he was talking about the heavy equipment operators receiving certificates or any other long-term employees with the territorial government. Did you say that it is okay to work as a mechanic or heavy equipment operator without any certificate, that it is not necessary to have a certificate or diploma?

HON. GORDON WRAY: ...Mr. Kilabuk and I were discussing. One was the certificate that, as a government, we award employees based on their length of employment. They are called long-service awards. The other types of certificates that we were talking about were things like the heavy equipment operator's certificate or mechanic's ticket. What I am saying is that I agree that we should not be hung up on those people having certificates because, particularly in the Eastern Arctic, there are many mechanics, many heavy equipment operators who never went to school. They never got any ticket and they are as good a mechanic or heavy equipment operator as you will find. I do not think that we should eliminate people simply because they have no formal qualifications. We do now have a system in place through the Arctic College -- or at least we did, I am not quite sure if it is still there -- where, for example, unilingual mechanics in the Eastern Arctic who did not speak any English could verbally take exams. I know of many people who do not have those formal qualifications but yet are just as capable of doing the job as people with formal qualifications. So, I do not think it should be an absolute necessity in order to get a job.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a supplementary about the certificates or diplomas. I was just concerned and I would just like to thank you for mentioning that we should not just forget about those people who do not have heavy equipment certificates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. General comments. Mr. Lewis.

#### Affirmative Action Program

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister told us yesterday that we really do not have an affirmative action program although right throughout the government there are departments that continually refer to this affirmative action program. A concern I have is this: At the moment all we have is a native employment policy and if that policy were not part of a complete affirmative action policy of this government, it could be challenged legally, in my opinion and in the opinion of several people that know more about the law than I do.

So my question is this: When will the Minister look at the problem of a greater representation of women at the higher levels of the public service? And also, far more important than all that, again, in my opinion: When are we going to see some opportunities for those people who really do not seem to be able to get any work anywhere? I am talking about disabled people. They have the greatest problem being integrated into the work force. That is a big challenge for government and industry, to try to find a way of giving those people work, who have the least opportunity to work. I agree, and I think everybody agrees, that the native employment program is working and we should be continuing to encourage it. But it is only part of a much bigger issue.

I have a couple of suggestions for the Minister. The controversy about the placement of women in the public service could be guided, perhaps, by what we used to mean a long time ago by affirmative action. That was that when two people went for an interview and one was a man and one was a woman, then you would say, "Well, they are more or less equal in ability, in meeting the requirements for this job." Or maybe the man may be a little bit better, but you would give the advantage to the woman because they are so close. That would be one way of interpreting affirmative action, in order not to make it too confusing about all the different kinds of programs in government.

For disabled people, perhaps we have to be very imaginative so that people who have the biggest problems of getting work can find work. Maybe we can look at a whole bunch of jobs currently being done where, if we took a bit out of one job and a bit out of another one and a bit out of another one, that maybe that would be a job that would fit an individual who could do that work the way you have now described it. I know that it may be difficult to do but because the problems of disabled

people are so great -- and it is only within the last 20 years, I think, that we have really become aware of this big responsibility -- to make our affirmative action program a real affirmative action program, we should not just simply leave it at the native employment policy, important though that is.

We really have to include both these categories of people who have in the past lacked opportunity. And I would hope that the Minister would make some commitment to make a complete policy. It is my guess that what we have right now could be challenged and I would not want to see that happen. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Draft Policies Regarding Employment Of Women And Of Disabled Persons

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member and in fact, on my desk -- and with the Legislature on I have not had time to address it -- I have two draft policies addressing the issue of women in the territorial civil service and addressing the issue of disabled persons. So the draft policies have been formulated. I just have not had a chance to go over them and I hope to do so within the next few weeks and then take them forward to cabinet before spring.

With regard to the issue of women, I think the issue is not so much bringing women into the work force as it is about where in the work force we bring them in. I think, off the top of my head, the present statistics show that about 47 per cent of our work force is in fact women. The problem is that they are at the lower end of the scale. They are not in middle and upper management. So I think the issue of affirmative action for women is not so much getting them into the work force as it is where we bring them into the work force. A more specific policy is needed in terms of upper and middle management. I think that is the major issue with regard to women.

With regard to disabled people, I think again the Member's comments are very valid and hopefully, as I say, before spring we will have these two draft policies fleshed out and sent to cabinet committees and to cabinet itself. Then the three policies -- the native employment policy, the action plan on women and the action plan for disabled people -- will encompass, truly, an affirmative action program. The timing on that, as I say, I hope to have in place some time by spring. Thank you.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to raise a question on the disabled or the handicapped. It is great that people talk about the concept of providing an affirmative action program for these people and I compliment the Minister in terms of his department for pursuing it. But what I get concerned about is that people do not look beyond those areas in which the handicapped have access to buildings. How can one provide programs and services to the handicapped when they cannot get access to those programs and services? How can one provide employment to people when they cannot have access to those areas in which they are supposed to be employed?

It seems strange, Mr. Chairman, that we should be talking about this idea of affirmative action when we have not even dealt with the issue of trying to provide these individuals with proper facilities and proper access to the appropriate programs we now have in existence. We can talk about it, and Mr. Lewis can talk about it, in the context of Yellowknife, and so be it because Yellowknife has elevators and they have all the access. But I just hope that the policy that Mr. Wray is talking about includes those other factors and that it includes the ability of our government to respond to the needs of these individuals and the communities where at present they do not even have access to the programs and services we are supposed to be providing them. I think that that is very fundamental and I hope that the government reviews that and considers that in developing its affirmative action program for those who are handicapped or disabled.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Access For The Handicapped Mandatory In All New Government Buildings

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could just for a moment put on my Public Works hat. As a matter of fact, I think for the last two years, it has been mandatory on all new construction, all new buildings or all buildings that we lease -- I think it is under the national building code, but I could be wrong -- that handicapped access is mandatory. There is no discretion. It is mandatory.



I think perhaps where we are deficient is in some of our older buildings and what I have been doing to address that is that when major renovations are scheduled for those buildings, we are adding the requirement that handicapped access be also provided. But it has been mandatory, at least for the last 24 months, on all new buildings being constructed by this government.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. Maybe if I could give you an example then, Mr. Chairman. I do not want in any way to go into anyone else's constituency but Inuvik, for instance, is the regional headquarters for my constituency. It is the one that serves my region. All the social programs, or for that matter, the economic programs such as Economic Development, Social Services, and Education are on the second floor of a building to which there is no access for any disabled person, even elderly people, to take advantage of those types of programs. It makes no sense for us to provide them access to the first floor of a building when the actual programs that they may be interested in -- and in fact that also applies to Personnel, which is on the second floor of a building to which you have no access except the stairs. I just wanted you to be aware of that because I think if you are going to develop a program of affirmative action for those who are handicapped, either in wheelchairs or whatever, they should have the opportunity and right to have that access to those programs. We should not be restricting them. I just wanted you to be aware of that because I think it means that we are going to have to do a better job if we are going to have a program such as this.

One other point that I wanted to make in terms of affirmative action and which Mr. Wray raised, applies to the women. That is that there is a serious need to improve the programs available to the women in the public service to improve their qualifications or their ability to take on positions in middle or higher management. I think that we can do a better job despite the fact that there may be arguments in terms of what type of program and who it applies to. I am not totally convinced yet that there should not be some types of restrictions, and maybe the Women's Secretariat or the Advisory Council on the Status of Women have a different view of programs, but I am always personally inclined to provide those programs to those people who have been resident longer in the North than those who are short term who have come into the North very recently. It is an item that requires considerable thought and I assume that many people, including yourself, will be reviewing it.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Just one other comment, Mr. Chairman. I do not know how many of you were watching television last night, ITV in particular. They had a program in which an individual from CNIB was being interviewed. That lady indicated that the NWT had one of the best programs available to blind people, and service in terms of education, in all of Canada. So I just wanted to make the government aware of that, that we were receiving compliments from an individual who is living in Edmonton. I just wanted you to be aware of that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Kilabuk.

#### Job Advertisements Reaching Communities

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, when you are advertising a job, there are people in the communities who should be told right away of a job advertisement because sometimes we only hear about these jobs in newspapers, especially in Baffin Island, whereas there is a place in Iqaluit where the job advertisements are placed. A lot of us do not hear about job advertisements for a long, long time, about jobs available anywhere in the North or in Yellowknife. Perhaps when you are going to advertise a job, think about the people in the communities and whether there is any way to get the job advertisement into the communities sooner. Thank you.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Chairman, I hate to say it but just recently I was bothered by this issue because what happens, in my experience, is that the government will send out to the communities information on what jobs are available and it will go to the government liaison officer or the field services officer's office or some government office in the community and it will go on a file and be pinned up on the wall of the government office. Unless you happen to go to the government office and unless you happen to read through this particular announcement on the wall, you would not know that the job was advertised. So what I intend to do is get from Culture and Communications a listing of all the community radio stations that we have in the North and we are

going to undertake to send job competitions from the regional office out directly to those radio stations so that the community radio stations could announce those jobs over the radio. That is probably the best way to get them into the community directly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I was trying to say we have a government liaison officer in our community who is Inuk and when there is a job advertisement here, he always mentions it on the radio. I was talking about the person who is in a government office. I think if you have any job advertisement they give it to this Inuk GLO.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: (No English translation)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I did not hear the translation; could he repeat his statement, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: We already do send all job adverts to GLOs. That is standard practice in every community. What I am saying is that we have had some complaints that even sending them to the GLOs is not good enough because some GLOs will go on the radio and some will not, so we are thinking of sending them direct to radio stations as well.

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

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise me why the jobs of electrical inspector and safety officer have been vacant in the Inuvik office for six months or more?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I can tell the Member tomorrow. I cannot tell him right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, could you tell me how your civil servants get evaluated within your department? Do they do their own evaluation or do you have someone there to evaluate them?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I can answer Mr. Butters' question on the two jobs after I answer Mr. Morin's question. I think I will have Mr. Heron explain the job evaluation process. It is not done by the employee; it is done by his immediate supervisor or manager but the employee is consulted in the process. Perhaps Mr. Heron could explain the process that takes place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Heron.

#### Job Evaluation Process

MR. HERON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The performance planning and review process is established for every category of job in the government and we annually send out notices to the various supervisors or deputy ministers in the department of certain people, whose performance, if you wish, is up for review on a specific date. It is then incumbent on the department to conduct this performance planning and review process, that is already all set out. We then follow up with them if we find that the documents are not coming forward. There are several elements to it, one of which is the training component which we feel is necessary for the employees to perform their jobs better. There is identification of that on the form and it is sent to us and placed on the employee's file. It is done every year by supervisors. Whatever techniques some people may choose to enhance the process by inviting employees to make a self-evaluation, it really is the responsibility of the supervisor of the employee concerned to complete that form.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Heron. General comments. Are there any further general comments? Does the committee agree we go to the details of the main estimates?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We are on page 8.10, directorate. Total 0 and M, \$718,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Finance And Administration, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Finance and administration, total 0 and M, \$243,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staffing And Classification, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Staffing and classification, total 0 and M, \$778,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Human Resource Planning, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Human resource planning, total 0 and M, \$267,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Staff relations, total 0 and M, \$2,446,000. Agreed? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, if I can ask the Minister, on staff relations, in regard to the pay scale of the various unions that we have. I understand that the civil servants of the government have a pay scale but I believe that the NWT teachers who have bargaining with us do not have a certain, particular scale. I understand that they negotiate year to year and they do not seem to have a system in place. Would the Minister elaborate on this area, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: The Minister cannot but the deputy minister, hopefully, can.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Heron.

Two Systems Of Compensation

MR. HERON: I will try to explain it. They both have a system of compensation, if you wish. One is based on salary range with various steps in between. Comparably, the teachers have a pay grid which basically is based on their formalized education as well as the number of years of experience, these being the two critical factors for assessing their pay. If we hired an individual, let us just say we hired an economic development officer who is qualified, we will not necessarily recognize their number of years of experience but pay them on the first step of pay

level 27. Conversely, a teacher who has a master's degree with 10 years teaching experience will be placed on the grid related to that particular type of experience and academic qualifications. That, essentially, is the basic difference between the two compensations, between the two different unions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Heron. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, the reason I wanted this particular information was that it seems to me that the negotiated amount between the NWT teachers and the government seems to be escalating higher and higher and higher. It seems to me there is no limit to the amount of money; there is no ceiling. I am quite concerned. In a time of restraint, Mr. Chairman, I am sure the government could come up with some type of system so that we can have a ceiling and be more equitable to all the other civil servants.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I will accept the Member's comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I realize the position I have put the Minister in but through you, can I ask the Minister if he would communicate this particular problem to his cabinet and do a thorough review of this particular issue that I have raised? I am quite concerned and as I mentioned, it seems there is no ceiling to the amount that particular union can negotiate. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will bring the Member's concerns to the attention of the cabinet. We are very soon entering into negotiations with several of the unions and the negotiating team will be receiving a mandate from the Executive Council. So I will bring the Member's concerns to cabinet.

With regard to a ceiling, there is a ceiling that the Executive Council sets in terms of percentage increases and says that we have essentially set this percentage increase as our ball park figure. So there are ceilings established. There is no unlimited money, as I am sure the Member is aware, particularly when looking at our budget.

Staff Relations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Staff relations, total O and M, \$2,446,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Regional Operations, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Regional operations, total O and M, \$17,358,000. Agreed? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could just explain to me and the House the exact relationship between the regional manager or regional personnel and the equal employment officer. I can never understand the exact relationship between the two offices and basically what the duties of these equal employment officers are.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I never could quite figure out the relationship myself at times. It was supposed to be a day-to-day working relationship. However, the Member should be aware that I have issued instructions, with the support of my cabinet colleagues, to amalgamate the equal employment directorate into the Department of Personnel, so that it becomes a Personnel function.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the Minister on the rationale they have on this particular page, page 8.15, for the increase of two person years in the area office in Fort Simpson. Can the Minister elaborate on this particular area? Is Personnel going to have an area Personnel office in all the area service offices across the Territories? Is that the intention of the government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Area Personnel Office In Fort Simpson

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, it is indeed true. Under the direction of cabinet, we are establishing a Personnel function, albeit a very small one, but a Personnel function in Fort Simpson with the area office. In terms of the other areas, that may be considered. No decision has been made yet in terms of the Department of Personnel as to whether we are going to put Personnel people in all of the areas.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Minister give us the rationale as to why this particular community was selected and the other area service offices within this particular region were not considered?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: The primary reason is the number of civil servants we have in that particular region. That is the basic reason behind the Personnel function. It just relates to the number of civil servants.

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

MR. ZOE: If I can ask, what relationship would the Rae-Edzo service office have with this Personnel office in Fort Simpson? I believe we also have a regional Personnel office in Fort Smith. Can he explain the different relationship?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I think, as the Government Leader mentioned yesterday, because of the economies of scale, it was decided that Rae would be serviced out of here, Yellowknife, simply because we have people here already. The Fort Smith operation has been downgraded to an area.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, if I understand the Minister correctly here, is he saying that all the Personnel issues that are raised within the Rae-Edzo area office, are dealt with out of headquarters and not from the Fort Smith regional office?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: At present the Rae area is serviced out of Fort Smith and then on April 1st the plan is to convert it and do it out of regional operations in Yellowknife.

Regional Operations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Regional operations, total O and M, \$17,358,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The last three pages, pages 16 to 18, are information items. Are there any questions relating to those?

Total O And M, Agreed

Then can we go back to page 8.09, program summary, Department of Personnel. Total O and M, \$21,810,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will go now to capital estimates. Page 5.07, Department of Personnel. Staff relations, buildings and works, headquarters. Total headquarters, one million dollars. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Fort Smith. Total Fort Smith, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total Kitikmeot, \$140,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total buildings and works, \$1,160,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Equipment acquisition, headquarters. Total headquarters, \$3000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total staff relations, \$1,163,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The last two pages, pages 5.09 and 5.10 are information items.

Total Capital, Agreed

We will go back to page 5.05, Department of Personnel, program summary. Capital expenditures. Total capital expenditures, \$1,163,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Department of Personnel is now concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I would like to thank the Minister and his witness. Mahsi cho. We will turn now to Government Services. Is that the same department? Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister responsible for Government Services is in Ontario appearing in front of a select committee of the Ontario Legislature. If we could proceed to Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister will be here within seconds, I am sure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Does the committee agree then that we go to Energy, Mines and Resources and defer Government Services? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, could I ask our committee if we can take a short recess so our ajauqtit committee could have five minutes to ourselves? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I believe you are aware that, in view of the fact that Government Services has been deferred, a number of the Members met to discuss the newly scheduled department. I have communicated to the House Leader that the Members would request that the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat be deferred along with the Public Utilities Board until a later date, and that the Members would wish to examine the Legislative Assembly, if that would be possible at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that we defer Energy, Mines and Resources and the Public Utilities Board to a later date? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Butters is right. We were prepared to proceed with Energy, Mines and Resources, but as always we will respect the wishes of the honourable Members. We have no problem with proceeding to the Legislative Assembly and, if it is the will of the House, follow that with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that we proceed with the Legislative Assembly?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Legislative Assembly

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Speaker, would you like to make any opening remarks?

Speaker's Opening Remarks

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is indeed a pleasure to speak from a seat such as this again. I am pleased to present the budget for the Legislative Assembly. The budget before you is \$5,554,000 in O and M and \$70,000 in capital. The Legislative Assembly budget...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Laughter

HON. RED PEDERSEN: ...falls under my authority as Speaker and, with the approval of the Management and Services Board, provides for all activities of the Legislative Assembly and administrative and financial support services required by the Members of the Assembly.

The Offices of the Legislative Assembly provide for Members' indemnities, allowances, salaries, constituency office rent, constituency assistants, the cost of holding sessions, standing and special committees, and other functions approved by the Legislature. Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have of your budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are there any general comments on the main estimates? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I believe it is practice, with respect, that the chairman of the standing committee on finance has an opportunity to speak to the departments that are under examination.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I am sorry, Mr. Butters. You are correct. Mr. Pollard.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the Legislative Assembly, it derives its mandate from caucus and the Assembly. Its primary mandate is "to provide the service to individual Members to a level that meets the objectives and to carry out the functions that must be carried out according to the Legislative Assembly Act." There are no new programs, Mr. Chairman, and there is no specific measurement system. Performance is measured according to the observations of the Speaker and the number of complaints raised by Members.

---Laughter

I do not know if they are directly proportional. There is a decrease of .4 person years and at the time the standing committee on finance reviewed the documents there were two vacant positions. Travel was discussed only as part of the constituency assistance.

Highlights. There is a 14 per cent increase in the budget estimates. The majority of this increase is due to increases in Members' salaries and allowances. I expected to get jeers at that stage, Mr. Chairman, but obviously nobody dissents. And 79 per cent of the budget represents direct costs to Members.

There were some issues and concerns with regard to researchers. A question was raised regarding the distribution of the researcher's time amongst Members of the Legislative Assembly. Assurances were given that Members have access to the researcher on a first-come, first-served basis. The committee was also concerned with constituency assistants and requested that the MSB review the entire constituency fund.

Sessional travel was discussed and it is not included in the budget. If the Assembly decides to travel during one of the sessions, funds to cover the cost of the travel will be presented as a supplement to the budget.

The committee was concerned with the salary increase under Members' expenditures and the Speaker gave a good account of himself and explained the reasons behind the increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Ernerk.

Salary For Constituency Assistants Under Review

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I could ask the chairman of the standing committee on finance, with respect to the constituency assistants' salary, have there been any recommendations made to the committee with regard to increase of this salary for constituency assistants' positions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the committee were concerned about the remuneration for constituency assistants, and the Speaker can correct me if I am wrong, but I believe the matter is under review at the present time by MSB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the matter of allowances for constituency assistants is under review right now. We have circulated a letter requesting input from all Members. I believe we have had five or six returns so far and I certainly hope that by the end of this session we will have returns from all Members with suggestions for modifications and suggestions for constituency assistants.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Legislative Assembly, general comments. Mr. Butters.

Questions About Management And Services Board

MR. BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I gave notice to the Speaker this morning of this question, so he knows I am going to be raising this particular matter. I would pose to him the following questions: What is the Management and Services Board? From whence does it obtain its mandate? How is it comprised or what is its composition? To whom is it responsible? How does it function?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Speaker.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to thank the Member for advising me of this. If I miss any of the questions, pose them again, please. The Management and Services Board derives its powers and duties from the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. It derives its make-up from the same act; it states that it should consist of the Speaker, two Ministers, the chairperson of the standing committee on finance and one other Member. There are some restrictions on who that other Member can be; it cannot be a Minister, the Deputy Speaker, a deputy chairperson of committee of the whole, or the chairperson of the standing committee on public accounts.

The powers and duties of the Management and Services Board is laid out from subsection 35(1) to 37(4) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. The board deals with matters stipulated in the act, which are fairly extensive -- I can read them out to the Member if he so wishes -- and in addition with any other matter that is brought to it by individual Members.

The nature of the items that the Management and Services Board deals with is at times very routine, as in housekeeping things. They are all referred to the MSB either by caucus or by individual Members. There are times when items brought to MSB by individual Members are of a personal and confidential nature.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, the MSB is the only body of the Legislative Assembly with its make-up and its duties set out in legislation. It is a body corporate, which sets it apart from other bodies set up by the Legislature inasmuch as it does have the power to enter into contract, etc. If I have missed any points, perhaps Mr. Butters could repeat.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I did not hear the Speaker address the question, "To whom is the MSB responsible?" Once I know that, then I will know whether I have another question along that line. I would just for a moment relate to the fact that it is a body corporate. I believe as a body

corporate it operates with all the restrictions of such a body in that the discussions and decisions and activities that go on within that body corporate are not made available or made known to Members of the House who do not sit on that board. I wonder if the Speaker might answer my question with regard to responsibility and if his answer deals with the House as a whole, I would like to know, presuming on that answer, how it could be responsible to the House as a whole if it is a body corporate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Speaker.

Management And Services Board Responsible To Legislative Assembly

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct. The MSB like any other body set up by this Legislative Assembly is ultimately responsible to the Legislative Assembly, both sitting here as an Assembly and in caucus. Because of the nature of the board, there will be certain items that have been discussed at the board level which cannot be publicly released to all Members. We certainly would not be asked to deal with them by individual Members if we released them publicly. I might just point out in this that regarding the rules governing the operation of the board, subsection 37(3) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act does say the MSB may establish its own rules and procedures, which is no different from any other committee. The Members' handbook does state that meetings of the board are held in camera and that Members wishing to raise issues with the board should approach the Speaker or the Clerk of the House, who acts as the secretary to the board.

Summary Of MSB Discussions To Be Distributed To Members

At the last meeting of the board it was agreed, and I have been instructed, to prepare a summary account of the discussions of board meetings for distribution to Members, omitting those points only that are of personal concern to individual Members which they would not wish to share with others.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Butters, general comments.

MR. BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two final questions, one of which I have already put to the Speaker. What would you do as chairman of that board were I to present myself at your next meeting, enter the room and take a seat at your table as an ordinary Member of this House. What would you do? What would you do to me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Speaker.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, as the rules of the MSB stand at this moment, I would feel that I would have no choice but to ask the Member to leave unless it was for discussion of an item that he himself had put on the agenda of the MSB.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I was aware of the answer to that question and I really find that reprehensible in view of the fact that as an ordinary Member of this House I can participate in any other standing committee. I can walk into any of the standing committees to which I am not assigned. I can sit in a chair and I can participate -- maybe not on votes, but I can participate in the meetings. I feel the MSB, as constituted under the act, is shortsighted and excludes participation by the Members it is supposed to serve. I would ask the Speaker with respect, Mr. Chairman, if he and his select group of Members would look at and examine the effectiveness of that board under the legislation which comprises it and gives it life and determine whether or not it is doing the job it should do. A yes or no answer is all that is required.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Speaker.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. But, if I may add to it, I think that it would be like judging yourselves, for the effectiveness of the board really should be assessed by Members. Yes, I will undertake the review and study which the Member requests.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Office of the Legislative Assembly. General comments. Does the committee agree that we will go through the details of the budget? Are there any further general comments? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, obviously this budget, or the input to this budget, was in the main received from the previous Assembly. The sitting Assembly obviously has new directions, objectives and initiatives, one of those being the special committee on the northern economy. I am just wondering how the costs of that committee will be borne in the year ahead as it goes about its business. Is it reflected in this particular budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Speaker.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it is not reflected in this budget, Mr. Chairman. As soon as the special committee on the economy brings its budget requirements into the House, I will be pleased to present it at the immediately upcoming session after that as a supplementary estimate so that the committee can have the funding that they themselves identify as being necessary to carry out their functions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. General comments. Are there any further general comments? Does the committee agree that we go to the details on the main estimates?

#### Total O And M, Agreed

Page 1.08, Legislative Assembly. Legislative Assembly, main estimates. Total O and M, \$5,554,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$5,554,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Capital, page 1.07. Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total capital, \$70,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: The current facilities are very well appointed and obviously serve admirably the current needs of the Legislative Assembly. However, there has been some consideration in the past that proper Legislative Assembly buildings at some time should be constructed in the NWT. That initiative was delayed with the anticipation that division might occur with the result that there would be two Legislative Assembly buildings erected in the future at whichever capital centres were so designated. I am just wondering where the capital planning for this initiative now rests and whether there remains funding to proceed with the preparation necessary to establish such facilities.

I would remind Members who have been fortunate enough to see the Yukon building, which incorporates both the legislative chamber and the support services space to that chamber and, as well, the functions of government. They were able to put their legislature building together some time ago, before budget restraint. I am just wondering what is being planned in this regard, at the present time, by our Speaker and his staff?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Speaker.

#### Future Legislative Assembly Building

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the moment there are no plans. I would just like to state that the project for the Legislative Assembly building is under the Department of the Executive, not under the Legislative Assembly, for some reason.

A site was obtained immediately beyond the present Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, up on the hill. Some soil testing was carried out a few years ago and the project was then postponed indefinitely. The cost estimates, I have been told, to the proposal that was originally being talked about, which was prior to my time, I believe is \$35 million. Indeed a very sizeable amount of money, which it would probably be difficult to justify to the population of the NWT to expend.

I, too, have travelled to the Yukon Legislature and I am very much impressed and always envious when I go to other jurisdictions' legislatures and see the fine permanent buildings they operate in.

A possibility exists that private enterprise in Yellowknife would be willing to construct a building that may be more suitable to our present and particular future needs than the present facility. If plans are presented to us for that, I intend to circulate it to Members for comments. There may be other possibilities. One body that has been mentioned is the Workers' Compensation Board, that if they needed an investment for their money, they might construct a Legislative Assembly building.

This would not set a precedent. There are other legislatures that operate out of rented quarters. We normally do not realize that, but the Ontario Legislature, in fact, is not owned by the Legislature; it is owned by the University of Toronto. So they have a dollar a year rental arrangement, which I am sure we would not be able to obtain.

I would like to assure you that I have given thought to it. I certainly do not have a solution to the problem yet. I think it is something we would all love to see but it is perhaps not realistic at this stage.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Butters.

#### Expense Will Increase

MR. BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that although the Speaker and his supporters may propose, it is the Executive Council that disposes in this particular instance, but I am very pleased to see that it is still receiving active consideration by the Speaker. I think that it would be remiss of us if we did not look into the future to the House in which many of us will not be seated, and did not plan for that House in this day. The longer you leave it, the more expensive it is going to be. The Yukon Legislature, as I recollect, built some eight or nine years ago, cost about \$12.75 million. So here we are talking about a figure three times that amount, already being looked at. But I thank the Speaker for his answer and I can assure him of my support in this very worthwhile objective and initiative. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this discussion of a permanent facility, I am in favour of the Legislative Assembly establishing a permanent home. If ever there is division, obviously the same would have to be done in the Eastern Arctic. I think we should pursue it now, but I have always been opposed to the idea of having a Legislative Assembly away from the core of the city, in the area where the museum presently is. I would rather see something downtown, in conjunction with some other government buildings which we might want to build. The Legislative Assembly in Halifax, for example, is on a city centre block, right downtown in the business district. It makes for easy access for the general public to the debates. So I prefer to see us do something in conjunction with accommodation for other government departments, so they could cost share the capital infrastructure of the services and heating system, etc.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It so happens that we have a big dome in Rankin Inlet...

---Laughter

...that Commissioner John Parker and former Commissioner Hodgson and I used to talk about for a number of years, as to what to do with it. It is a really big one...

---Laughter

...it has the ability to accommodate at least one to 25 Members of the Legislative Assembly. It is about the size of this building.

---Laughter

I think we have to really think about this one. I have been away from this discussion for over 10 years, but I think we really have to think it out because the Nunavut issue sort of wants to come out of my mind all the time. It is something that is in my heart and I know it is in the hearts of many, many people in the Eastern Arctic. When we are planning a Legislative Assembly building for the present Legislative Assembly, or we want to plan a Legislative Assembly building once the Nunavut issue has been completed, to me it could go one of two ways when we have this plebiscite. We could say yes to it, we could say no to it. So I think before we really get down to the business of a building for the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, what we have to do is to do some kind of a study as to what should be involved in the legislative building in Yellowknife. If we divide the NWT, we will need a much smaller building for a Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

#### Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Do we have any further general comments on the details of capital? Detail of capital, equipment acquisition, headquarters. Total headquarters, \$70,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that the Office of the Legislative Assembly is now concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that we go into Economic Development and Tourism? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Would the Minister like to make his opening remarks? Mr. Sibbeston.

#### Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to present the budget of Economic Development and Tourism. I would like to just begin with a brief outline of our department's budget. For the O and M, our proposed budget is \$28.087 million and consists of 131.9 person years. There is a net increase of \$1.6 million and five person years. This represents a six per cent increase in dollars and less than a one per cent growth in person years. In terms of overall increases and decreases relative to the last year's budget, there are proposed reductions totalling \$3.416 million and five person years, due to base adjustments, sunset programs and reductions. There are increases totalling \$2.04 million and three person years due to growth, reallocations and amendments to targets. In terms of ministerial initiatives, there are proposed increases totalling \$634,000 and seven person years. These figures balance to the total proposed budget of \$28.087 million and 131.9 person years which are contained in the budget.

I would like to indicate that there are three areas which have received priority in the budgeting process. First, there is a proposed increase of \$890,000 directed toward improving the department's capability to meet the needs of the small business community; second, there is a proposed increase in funding of \$477,000 to enhance the development of the renewable resource

sector; third, there is a proposed increase of \$346,000 to support the establishment of an economic planning unit. I would like to add that the proposed O and M budget was affected by the Fort Smith regional reorganization and the reorganization of the business development division in headquarters.

On the capital side, the proposed budget is \$3.062 million. This is a decrease of \$860,000, which represents a 2.2 per cent reduction. One of the major factors influencing this overall reduction was the rescheduling of \$500,000 of renewable resource capital assistance program funding. While this represents a decrease to this budget, we are proposing to spread total program funding over a longer period of time and we anticipate that overall funding will increase by \$500,000. The other major reduction to the capital budget results from an FMB accounting policy change with respect to the distinction between capital and O and M expenditures. This resulted in a decrease of \$165,000.

In light of the recent priority of cabinet and the special committee on the northern economy, and given the difficulties we face in developing our economy, the department's future activities will have to be prioritized and expenditures focussed. This prioritization is necessary in order for the department to respond effectively to the demands placed upon it.

Mr. Chairman, I can say too, that as a result of the Snare Lake strategy meeting, my department has had the responsibility of dealing with 13 tasks which are under way. We are at various stages of completion of the tasks. Some are nearing completion and a small number have been completed. As these tasks are finished and dealt with by cabinet, they will surface and become government initiatives and will eventually be made public and made available to the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, I have attempted in this brief presentation to illustrate the main factors behind the development of this budget and to provide Members of the committee with an appreciation of the context within which the department operates. I would be very pleased to answer detailed questions and I would like authorization to have Mr. Braden and our finance officer, Mr. Kennedy, present as witnesses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Several Members are not prepared at this stage because the department has been moved up so fast due to procedures that Members want to follow. We would like to wait until Thursday, Mr. Government House Leader. The Members would like to have the clock recognized today so that we can come back to this department later.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Are you making a motion to recognize the clock at this time?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I move to recognize the clock.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): A motion to recognize the clock has been presented. There is no debate over the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? This motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and recognize the clock. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea, you have a point of order?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, point of order. A schedule has been handed out to all the Members in regard to the hospital tour on February 19th. It has 2:00 a.m. and it should be 2:00 p.m.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. You probably would not have had a great following anyhow.

---Laughter

The House will come to order. Mr. Gargan.

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. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering the report of the standing committee on finance on the 1988-89 main estimates and 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. Gargan. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Butters. To the motion. All those in favour? Thank you. Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Zoe, you have a point of order.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, if I can request unanimous consent to return to Item 3, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is requested to return to Item 3. Any nays? Mr. Zoe, you have unanimous consent.

REVERT TO ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Correction Of Number Of Person Years Transferred

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a correction where I was quoted yesterday. It was my error in quoting the number of positions that were being transferred over the two year period to Fort Simpson. To make my corrections, within the two year period, 1987-88, 1988-89, the PYs that are being transferred to Fort Simpson total 22.5 PYs, with a total of three PYs going to the Rae area service office. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, all the Members were looking directly at Mr. Zoe and he never even looked at us once.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne, that is indeed your privilege to look at Mr. Zoe.

---Laughter

Orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the ordinary Members' committee tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. and a meeting of the special committee on the northern economy at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 17, 1988.

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, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 17th, 1988, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT



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